

NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AGENCY

TEN-DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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SUMMARY

During the first dekad of November, 2004 Gambella, western, central and parts of eastern Tigray, northern Amhara, southern half of SNNPR, southern Oromiya, southern Somali as well as pocket areas of southern Oromiya and eastern Benishangul-Gumuz exhibited normal to above normal rainfall while the rest portions of the country received below normal rainfall. Regarding rainfall amount, Dolo Mena, Sawla, Negelle, Arba Minch, Masha, Mirab Abaya, Kibre Mengist, Hagera Mariam, Gambella, Yabello and Moyalle recorded 99.1, 98.3, 93.8, 66.8, 52.3, 52, 51.6, 45.2, 45, 34.9 and 30.5mm of rainfall, respectively. This better rainfall condition had positive impact on the enhancement of the availability of pasture and drinking water over southern Ormiya, southern SNNPR and southern Somali. Besides, it favored the ongoing agricultural activities over the above Agro pastoral areas.

During the second dekad of November 2004, southern Oromiya, southeastern SNNPR, parts of western Oromiya and pocket areas of western SNNPR as well as pocket areas of southern Somali experienced normal to above normal rainfall distribution while the rest parts of the country were under below normal fall. In general, The pronounced dry weather condition over much of Meher growing areas of the country had indispensable contribution to the on going harvest and post harvest activities of long and medium cycle crops. Besides, the anticipated normal to above normal rainfall distribution over southern Oromiya including the lowland of Borena, eastern and southeastern SNNPR as well as pocket areas of southern Somali had positive impact on the availability of pasture and drinking water and the existing crops over Negelle, HagerMariam, KibreMengist, DoloMena and Yabello. Regarding crop phenological reports harvest and post harvest activities of Meher crops are being carried out over much of Meher growing areas of the country. Maize was at full ripeness stage over western Oromiya and western Amhara and at wax ripeness stage over northwestern Amhara while at flowering stage southeastern and some areas of western Oromiya. Sorghum was at ripeness stage over western Oromiya, eastern Amhara, northern SNNPR and southwestern Benishangul-Gumuz while at flowering stage over Parts of western Oromiya and some areas of eastern Amhara. Millet was at flowering stage over western Oromiya and western Amhara. Teff was at ripeness stage over western and central Oromiya, eastern Amhara, southwestern Benishangul-Gumuz as well as northern SNNPR while at flowering stage over southeastern Benishangul-Gumuz. Wheat was at ripeness stage over central and western Oromiya as well as northeastern Amhara while at flowering stage over some areas of western Oromiya. Nug was at yellow ripeness stage over central Oromiya and southwestern Benishangul-Gumuz while at green ripeness over some areas of western Oromiya.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig. 1)

During the dekad under review, the rainfall covered over southern Oromiya, southeastern SNNPR and parts of western Oromiya. For instance, Limu Genet, Negelle, Gore, Moyale, Hager Mariam, Gimbi, Arba Minch, Masha, Dembi Dollo, Yabello and Kibre Mengist received 16.6, 18.7, 22.7, 22.9, 28.9, 39.4, 42.5, 64.1, 90, 81.3 and 100.7 mm of rainfall, respectively.

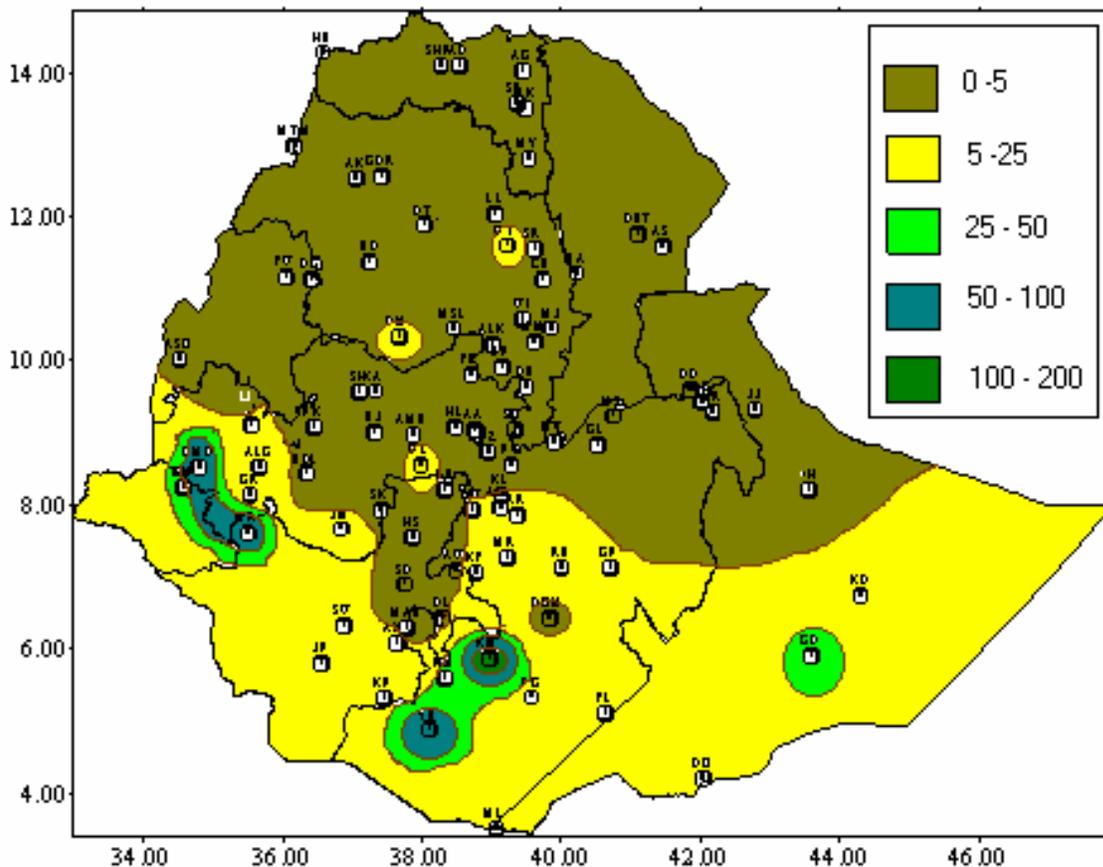


Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (11-20, November 2004)

1.1 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Southern Oromiya, southeastern SNNPR, parts of western Oromiya and pocket areas of western SNNPR as well as pocket areas of southern Somali experienced normal to above normal rainfall distribution while the rest parts of the country were under below normal fall.

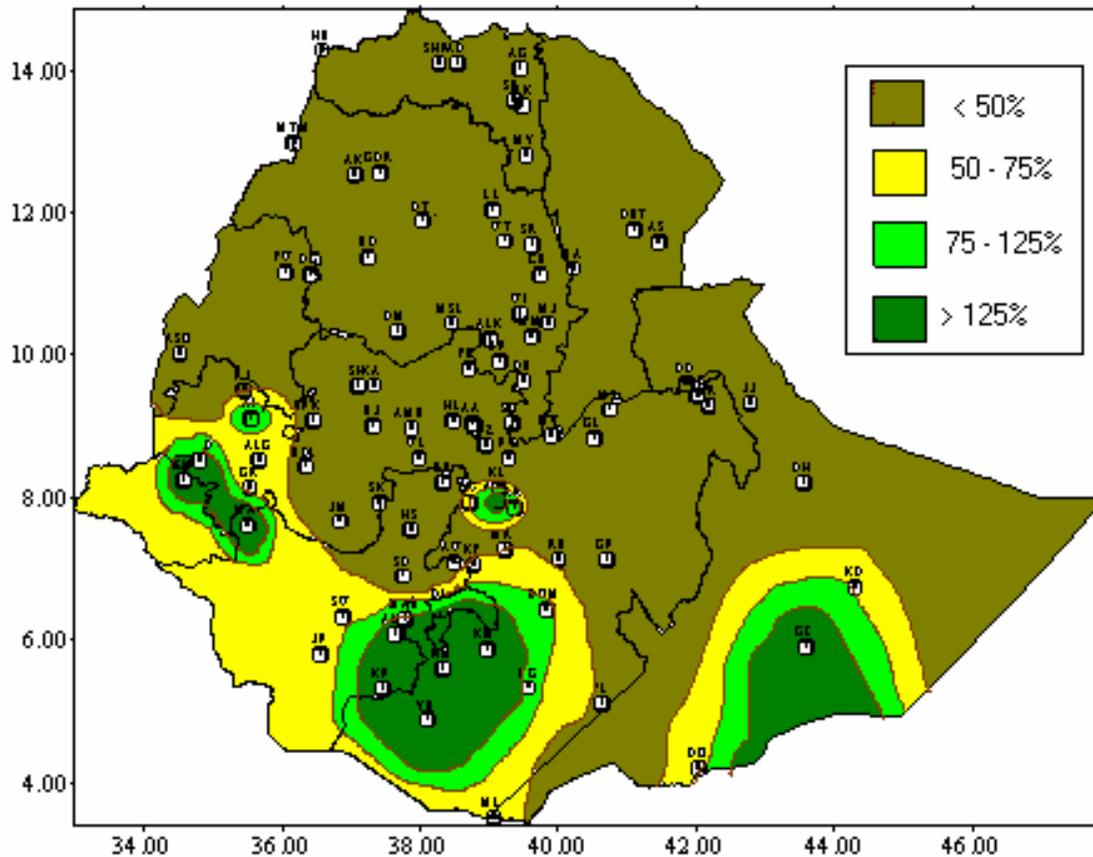


Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (11-20, November 2004)

Explanatory notes for the legend:

- <50 -- Much below normal
- 50—75% -- below normal
- 75—125% --- Normal
- > 125% ---- Above normal

1.2 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

Some areas of central and northeastern highlands experienced extreme air temperature below 5°C for two to nine consecutive days. For instance, Debre Zeit, Meraro, Arsi Robe, Wegel Tena and Debre Birhan registered for two, two, three, eight and nine consecutive days, respectively.

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE THIRD DEKAD OF NOVEMBER 2004

In the coming ten day, the rain-giving system will persist for the first five days and weaken for the last days of the forecast time. In association with this, for the first five days the southern half of the country will continue getting rain, while the northern region will experience unseasonable rain. But, the last five days of the forecast time will be dominated by dry weather almost all over the country. Therefore, in the coming ten days most of Somali, Gambel, west and east Oromiya, Benishangul-Gumuz, and west Amhara will get normal to above normal rain, while southern Oromiya and most of SNNPR will have close to normal rain. In addition to this, east and central Amhara, Afar and central Ethiopia will experience unseasonable rainfall.

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

The pronounced dry weather condition over much of Meher growing areas of the country had an indispensable contribution to the on going harvest and post harvest activities of long and medium cycle crops. Besides, the anticipated normal to above normal rainfall distribution over southern Oromiya including the lowland of Borena, eastern and southeastern SNNPR as well as pocket areas of southern Somali had positive impact on the availability of pasture and drinking water and the existing crops over Negelle, HagerMariam, KibreMengist, DoloMena and Yabello. Regarding crop phenological reports harvest and post harvest activities of Meher crops are being carried out over much of Meher growing areas of the country. Maize was at full ripeness stage over western Oromiya and western Amhara and at wax ripeness stage over north western Amhara while at southeastern and some areas of western Oromiya. Sorghum was at ripeness stage over western Oromiya, eastern Amhara, northern SNNPR and southwestern Benishangul-Gumuz while at flowering stage over Parts of western Oromiya and some areas of eastern Amhara. Millet was at flowering stage over western Oromiya and western Amhara. Teff was at ripeness stage over western and central Oromiya, eastern Amhara, southwestern Benishangul-Gumuz as well as northern SNNPR while at flowering stage over southeastern Benishangul-Gumuz. Wheat was at ripeness stage over central and western Oromiya as well as northeastern Amhara while at flowering stage over some areas of western Oromiya. Nug was at yellow ripeness stage over central Oromiya and southwestern Benishangul-Gumuz while at green ripeness over some areas of western Oromiya.

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DAKAD

The anticipated normal to above normal rainfall condition, particularly over western and eastern Oromiya, Benishangul-Gumuz, western Amhara; the expected unseasonal rain over central, northeastern and western Ethiopia would have negative impact on the ongoing harvest and post harvest activities that are being performed and it would also create a conducive atmosphere for the outbreaks of disease over the aforementioned areas. Thus, the concerned personnel should undertake proper precaution to minimize the adverse effect due to occasional falls. Regarding air temperature, the expected a fall in minimum air temperature over frost prone areas of central and eastern highlands of the country may have negative impact on the existing crops.