

**NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AGENCY
TEN DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN**

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SUMMARY

During the first dekad of June 2005 below normal rainfall has observed over Tigray, most parts of Amara parts of central and eastern Oromiya including southern Oromiya, most parts of SNNP and northern Benishangul-Gumuz. On the contrary, some areas of western Ethiopia exhibited heavy falls repeatedly (2 -5 days). For instance, Gimbi recorded 38.1, 32.7, 44.2, 56.8 and 52.1 mm of rainfall and Aira recorded 42.6, 68.2 and 33.5 mm of rainfall in the ten days period. As a result, Aira reported fruit crop like banana and field crops damage due to heavy fall on June 03, 2005. Among the reporting stations Chagni, Dembi Dolo, Gimbi, Limu Genet, Masha, Nedjo, Nekemte, Aira, Bedelle, Begi, Bullen and Chira experienced 30-68.2 mm in a rainy day.

During the second dekad of June 2005 the observed normal to above normal rainfall over most parts of western half and highlands of southern and eastern Ethiopia favoured the on going season's agricultural activities. Nevertheless, some areas like Gimbi and Debre Tabor reported crop damage due to heavy falls. On the other hand, there was deficient falls over most parts of Tigray, northern Somali, eastern Amhara and parts of central Oromiya including few areas of eastern Oromiya and northeastern SNNPR. Pursuant to the crop phenological report (11-20 June 2005), harvesting of pulse crops and maize was under way in some areas of northeastern SNNPR and eastern Amhara. Sowing of cereal and pulse crops was under take in some areas of northwestern and eastern Amhara. Maize was at wax ripeness stage over northern SNNPR like Sodo and mid lands of Oromiya like Dolo Mena. It was at teaselling and ninth leaves stages in some areas of central Oromiya like Ziawy, eastern Oromiya like Gelemso and western Oromiya(Alge, Gimbi, Bedelle and Aira) while at flowering stage over northern SNNPR like Hosaina, western Oromiya Bedele and eastern Amhara (Sirinka). Sorghum was at early vegetative stage in northwestern Benishangul-Gumuz (Mankush) and western Oromiya (Gimbi and Alge). Millet was at early vegetative stage in some areas of western (Limu Genet) and eastern Oromiya like Gelemso. Barley was at flowering stage in some areas of eastern Amhara (Sirinka). Sesame was at ripeness stage in some midland areas of Oromiya like Dolo Mena.

1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Most parts of western half and highlands of southern and eastern Ethiopia experienced normal to above normal rainfall.

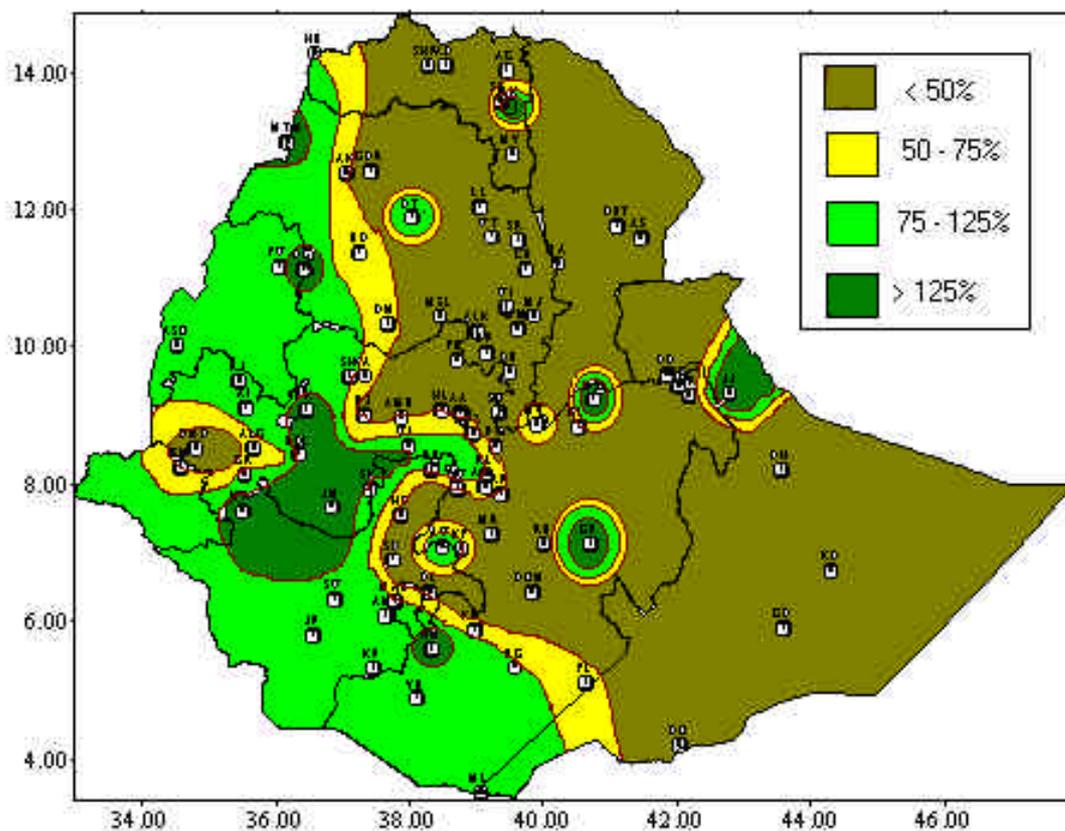


Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (11-20 June, 2005)

Explanatory notes for the legend:
<50 -- Much below normal
50—75% -- below normal
75—125% --- Normal
> 125% ---- Above normal

1.3 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

No significant air temperature anomaly has been observed over the lowlands during the dekad under review.

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE THIRD DEKAD OF JUNE 2005

For the coming ten days, the Kirmet –rain-bearing systems are expected to strengthen further especially over central Ethiopia and western half of the country. In general, scattered to fairly –wide spread rains with heavy falls that can cause flash flooding are anticipated over Gambela, western and central Oromiya, northern half of SNNPR, Benishangul-Gumuz, central and western Amhara as well as western Tigray. Besides, eastern and southern Oromiya, southern SNNPR, northern Somali, Afar, eastern portions of Tigray and Amhara will have below normal rains. Some places of the aforementioned areas, however, will have near normal rains. Southern portions of Somali will experience dry weather condition.

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

The observed normal to above normal rainfall over most parts of western half and highlands of southern and eastern Ethiopia favoured the on going season's agricultural activities. Nevertheless, some areas like Gimbi and Debre Tabor reported crop damage due to heavy falls. On the other hand, there was deficient falls over most parts of Tigray, northern Somali, eastern Amhara and parts of central Oromiya including few areas of eastern Oromiya and northeastern SNNPR. Pursuant to the crop phenological report (11-20 June 2005), harvesting of pulse crops and maize was under way in some areas of northeastern SNNPR and eastern Amhara. Sowing of cereal and pulse crops was under take in some areas of northwestern and eastern Amhara. Maize was at wax ripeness stage over northern SNNPR like Sodo and mid lands of Oromiya like Dolo Mena. It was at teaselling and ninth leaves stages in some areas of central Oromiya like Ziawy, eastern Oromiya like Gelemso and western Oromiya(Alge, Gimbi, Bedelle and Aira) while at flowering stage over northern SNNPR like Hosaina, western Oromiya Bedele and eastern Amhara (Sirinka). Sorghum was at early vegetative stage in northwestern Benishangul-Gumuz (Mankush) and western Oromiya (Gimbi and Alge). Millet was at early vegetative stage in some areas of western (Limu Genet) and eastern Oromiya like Gelemso. Barley was at flowering stage in some areas of eastern Amhara (Sirinka). Sesame was at ripeness stage in some midland areas of Oromiya like Dolo Mena.

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

The anticipated normal to above normal rainfall over Gambela, western and central Oromiya, northern half of SNNPR, Benishangul-Gumuz, central and western Amhara would have considerable contribution for season's agricultural activities. Nevertheless, the expected heavy falls in some pocket areas of the aforementioned areas would result in crops damage particularly over in crops field found in low-lying areas and near riverbanks. Thus, proper percussion should under take ahead of time in order to minimize the risk due to the excess moisture. The expected better rainfall over western Tigray would ease the deficient condition persisted during the preceding dekads. Besides, it would favour the on going agricultural activities in the areas. On the contrary, the expected below normal rainfall over northern Somali, eastern parts of Tigray and Amhara would exacerbate the persisted stress condition observed during the preceding dekad. Thus, proper water harvesting techniques is advisable in order to exploit the expected little moisture over some places of the aforementioned areas.