

NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AGENCY

TEN DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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SUMMARY

During the first dekad of December the observed dry Bega weather condition over most parts of the country could have significant contribution on the ongoing harvest and post harvest activities. Regarding crop phenological report, harvest activities over western and central Oromya, northern parts of SNNPR, much of Amhara and post harvest activities in most parts of Meher growing areas were underway. On the other hand, some areas of southwestern highland like (Kibre Mengist, Ayra, Nedgo) Wheat, Barely, Teff, Sorghum was at early maturity stage. Regarding air temperature, from central like (Addis Ababa, Debre Zeit, Bui, Fitche, Kulumsa and Mehal Meda) from western like (Jimma, and Nedgo) from northeastern like (Kombolcha) from northern like (Adigrat and Michew) as well as northwestern like (Dangla, Mota and Debre Markos) experienced minimum temperature below 5⁰C. Moreover, Debre Brehan exhibited minimum temperature below 0⁰C lowering up to -2⁰C. Thus this condition could have negative impact on the major crops.

During the second dekad of December 2005 the observed dry and windy weather condition over most parts of the country could create favorable condition in the areas where harvest and post harvest activities are under question. As a result harvest and post harvest activities were under way in most parts of the country. The observed below normal rainfall condition over most parts of the country could exacerbate the prolonged dry situation which persisted particularly over the lowlands of pastoral and agro pastoral areas there by negatively affecting the availability of pasture and drinking water in the areas. With regard to air temperature, with the exception some areas of central (Debre Zeit and Kulmsa), western (Jima) and eastern (Alemaya) a rise in minimum temperature has been observed in most parts of the country relatively as compared to that of the preceding dekad. Among the reporting stations some areas like Debre Zeit, Fithce, Kulumsa, Cheffa, Dangla, Adigrat, Michew, Kofelle Nedjo Robe, Hagre Mariam, and Jijiga, recorded extreme minimum temperature less than 5⁰C for 2-9 consecutive days. Besides, some areas like Wegel Tena, Debre Brehan, Jimma, Alemaya and Mehal Meda recorded -0.1, -0.8, -1.0, -3.2, and -3.2 extreme minimum temperature respectively. Thus this condition could have negative impact on the normal growth and development of existing plants.

1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Below to much below normal rainfall has been observed through out the country.

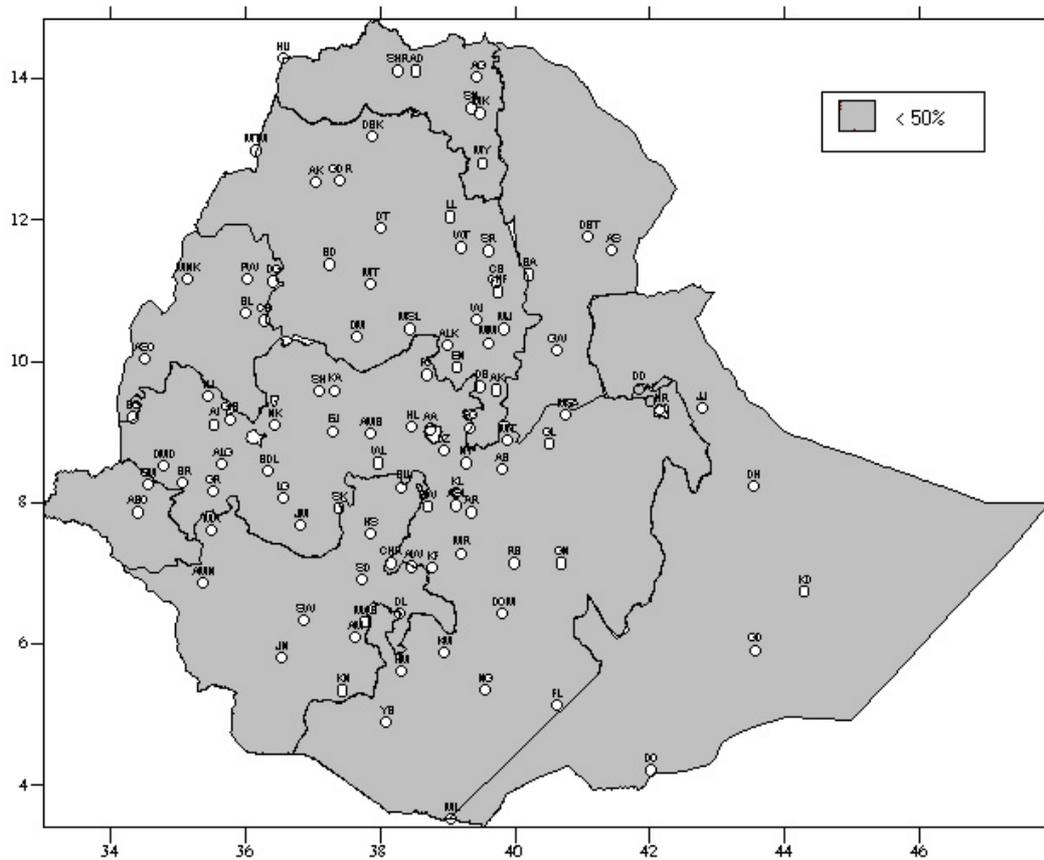


Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (11 – 20 December 2005)

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 like Debre Zeit, Fithce, Kulumsa, Cheffa, Dangla, Adigrat, Michew, Kofelle Nedjo Robe, Hagre Mariam, and Jijiga, recorded extreme minimum temperature less than 5 °C for 2-9 consecutive days. Besides, some areas like Wegel Tena, Debre Brehan, Jimma, Alemaya and Mehal Meda recorded -0.1, -0.8, -1.0, -3.2, and -3.2 extreme minimum temperature respectively.

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE THIRD DEKAD OF DECEMBER 2005

In the first half of the coming dekad dry, windy and sunny weather condition will continue across the major portion of the country. Consequently, many places that confined to the highlands and the low-lying regions are likely to undergo dry days and cool night. On the contrary, moist air is expected to influx towards the various portion of the country towards the end of the forecast period. Hence, there will be light rains at localized places of western and southwestern Ethiopia while an increase in cloud coverage will be the rule over northwest, central and east Ethiopia.

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

The observed dry and windy weather condition over most parts of the country could create favorable condition in the areas where harvest and post harvest activities are under question. As a result harvest and post harvest activities were under way in most parts of the country. The observed below normal rainfall condition over most parts of the country could exacerbate the prolonged dry situation which persisted particularly over the lowlands of pastoral and agro pastoral areas there by negatively affecting the availability of pasture and drinking water in the areas. With regard to air temperature, with the exception of some areas of central (Debre Zeit and Kulmsa), western (Jima) and eastern (Alemaya) a rise in minimum temperature has been observed in most parts of the country relatively as compared to that of the preceding dekad. Among the reporting stations some areas like Debre Zeit, Fithce, Kulumsa, Cheffa, Dangla, Adigrat, Michew, Kofelle Nedjo Robe, Hagre Mariam, and Jijiga, recorded extreme minimum temperature less than 5 °C for 2-9 consecutive days. Besides, some areas like Wegel Tena, Debre Brehan, Jimma, Alemaya and Mehal Meda recorded -0.1, -0.8, -1.0, -3.2, and -3.2 extreme minimum temperature respectively. Thus this condition could have negative impact on the normal growth and development of existing plants. In accordance with the crop phenological report crops are still in the field. For instance sorghum was at ripeness stage in some areas of southwestern Benshngul – Gumuz (Assosa), Millet was at flowering and Nug was at green ripeness stage in some areas of western Amhara (Chagni), Maize was at tassling stage and teff was at ripeness stage in some areas of midlands of southern Oromiya (Dolo Mena), Teff was at ripeness stage in some areas of central Oromiya (Fitcha). Assosa reported slight damage due to birds on sorghum and Dolo Mena reported slight wilting and bad field condition on maize crop during the dekad under review.

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

The anticipated dry Bega weather condition would have a positive contribution for the ongoing harvest and post harvest activities. The expected little rainfall over some western parts of the country would have a positive contribution on the perennial crops to some extent. The expected rise in minimum temperature in relation to increasing moisture condition over northeastern central and eastern highlands would ease the stress condition due to frost occurrence, which were persisted during the preceding dekades in some areas. Thus this condition would have better positive impact for the normal growth and development of the plants. On the other hand the expected rise in maximum temperature over lowland areas of the county would facilitate the danger or occurrence and spread of fire which would be appear in relation to the illegal production of charcoal in the areas. Thus proper attention and precaution should be given in order to minimize the possible risk. In addition to this proper precaution should be practiced at the time of using fire near the dried harvested crops and the crops which are ready to harvest including around the barn to avoid the risk of occurrences and spread of fire due to the favorable condition for that situation.