

NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

TEN DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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SUMMARY

During the third dekad of February 2006, the observed normal to above normal rainfall over most parts of southern half of the country could have a significant contribution for land preparation and sowing activities in the areas. On the other hand, the observed deficient falls persisted over northern half of the country particularly over Belg growing areas of southern and eastern Amhara, and South Tigray, in areas where Belg agricultural activities start earlier than the normal on-set of the season and this could have a negative impact on Belg crops. With regard to air temperature, Gode, Assayta, Dubti, Gambela, Mankush, Metema, Pawe and Semera recoded extreme maximum temperature ranging from 35.2 – 43.0 °C.

During the first dekad of March 2006, there was shortage of moisture over most parts of Belg growing areas of the country, while central Tigray, northeastern SNNPR and parts of southeastern Oromiya received normal to above normal rainfall. The observed moisture particularly over central Tigray could ease the dry situation that persisted during the preceding dekads. Besides it could have positive impact for land preparation for long cycle crops like maize sorghum and millet. Moreover the observed better moisture condition over some areas of southern Oromiya could minimize the stress condition due to shortage of moisture together with high temperature to some extent. With regard to extreme maximum temperature Meisso, Dire Dawa, Methehara, Semera, Limu Genet, Assayita, Gode, Pawe, Dubti, Mankush, Metema and Gambela recorded extreme maximum temperature ranging from 35.2°C – 42.3°C.

1.1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Normal to above normal rainfall distribution was observed over most parts of eastern SNNPR, some areas of central and eastern Tigray, some areas of western and southeastern Oromiya and southern tip of Somali. The rest parts of the country exhibited below to much below normal rainfall.

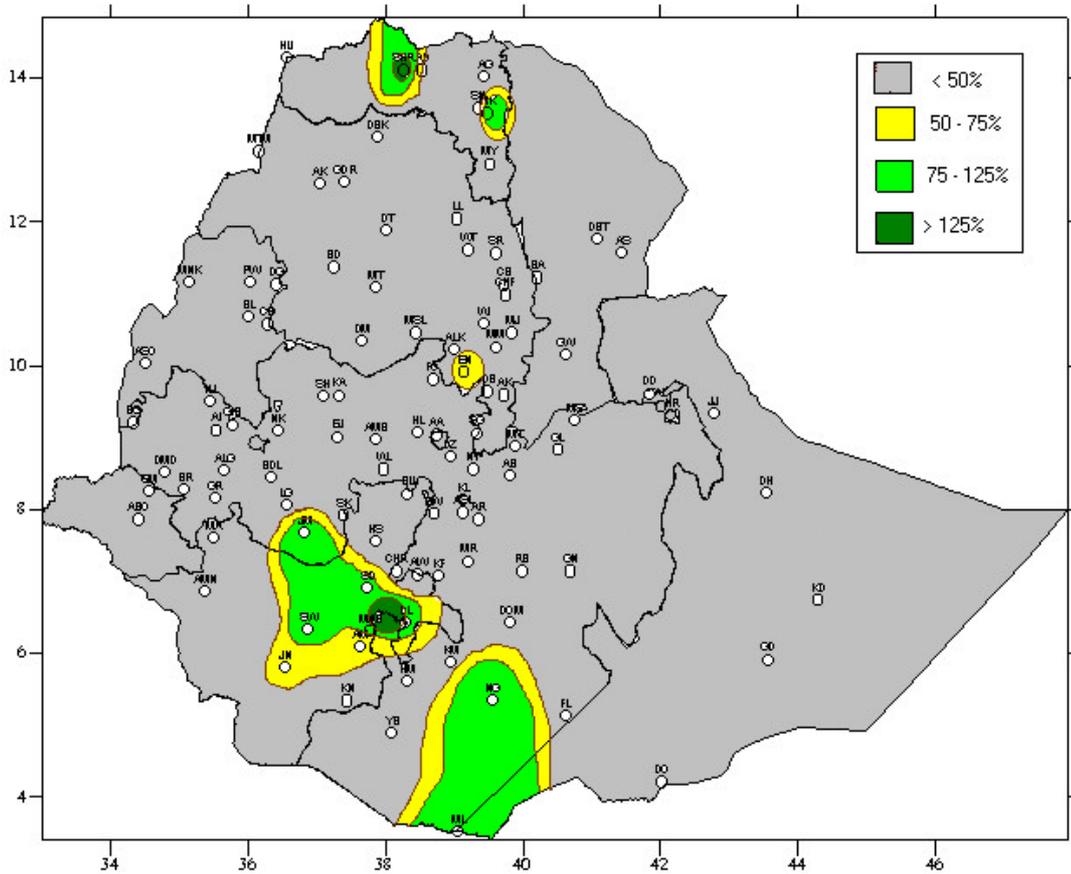


Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (1-10 March, 2006)

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

1.1 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

Dire Dawa, Gode, Methehara, Assayita, Dubti, Gambela, Limu Genet, Mankush, Meisso, Metema, Pawe and Semera recorded extreme maximum temperature ranging from 35.2⁰C – 42.3⁰C.

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE SECOND DEKAD OF MARCH 2006

For the coming ten days, Tigray and Amhara Belg rain benefiting areas and eastern Oromiya and adjoining areas are likely to get near normal rainfall. Borana including Guji and Bale localities, as well as SNNPR regions are expected to get normal rainfall, in some area the rainfall will be close to above normal. Where as, southern half of Somali, gradually will get the seasonal rainfall however, the amount is expected to be below normal. More over, central Ethiopia, western Oromiya and adjoining areas of SNNP regions, Gambela and Benishangul - Gumuz are anticipated to receive scattered rain showers at places the amount will be close to normal rainfall.

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

There was shortage of moisture over most parts of Belg growing areas of the country, while central Tigray, northeastern SNNPR and parts of southeastern Oromiya received normal to above normal rainfall. The observed moisture particularly over central Tigray could ease the dry situation that persisted during the preceding dekads. Besides it could have positive impact for land preparation for long cycle crops like maize sorghum and millet. Moreover the observed better moisture condition over some areas of southern Oromiya could minimize the stress condition due to shortage of moisture together with high temperature to some extent. With regard to extreme maximum temperature Meisso, Dire Dawa, Methehara, Semera, Limu Genet, Assayita, Gode, Pawe, Dubti, Mankush, Metema and Gambela recorded extreme maximum temperature ranging from 35.2⁰C – 42.3⁰C.

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

The anticipated near normal rainfall over Belg growing areas of Tigray, Amhara and eastern Oromiya including neighboring areas would improve the dry situation persisted during the preceding decades. Besides the expected wet condition would also create conducive situation for cereals like wheat and barley including pulses like soybean in some areas like Sirinka and Gelemso but mainly it would create favorable atmosphere to start land preparation of long cycle crops in some areas. The expected normal rainfall over southern Oromiya and SNNPR would have a positive impact specially in southern Oromiya for land preparation of Gena season growing crops and it would also have a positive contribution for Belg agricultural activity in Belg growing areas of SNNPR. Even though some amount of rainfall is expected over southern Somali there would be deficient fall in most cases. Thus, attention should be given for proper water harvesting techniques in order to minimize the risk due to the expected deficient moisture condition. The expected increased moisture status over western Oromiya and adjoining areas of SNNPR including central Ethiopia would have a positive contribution to start land preparation for long cycle crops in the aforementioned areas. Thus, the concerned professionals should undertake appropriate measures to avail this opportunity.