

NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY
TEN DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN
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SUMMARY

During the first dekad of November 2006, the observed normal to above normal rainfall over southern and south eastern Somali, western and southern Oromia, southern and western Benshangul- Gumuz and some pocket areas of western and eastern Amhara could favor for the availability of pasture and drinking water particularly over southern Oromia, southern and south eastern Somali which is rainy season at this time of the year. Besides this normal to above normal rainfall condition could have a positive contribution for crops, which are found at different phenological stage. Nevertheless some areas reported heavy fall greater than 30 mm. For instance Moyale and Hagere Mariam recorded 35.4 and 38.9 mm of rainfall in one rainy day respectively.

During the second dekad of November 2006, most part of SNNPR, half of southeastern and western Oromia, most part of Benshangul-Gumuze and parts of northeastern and central Amhara experienced normal to above normal rainfall. Besides Bedelle, Chira, H/Mariam, Konso and M/Abaya recorded heavy fall ranging from 30-46mm in one rainy day. Due to this condition, some areas like Bedelle and Wegel Tena reported crop damage, which was found in early vegetative and ripeness stage. Besides, Shambu and Assosa reported weed infestation over crop field and slight bird damage on Sorghum crop respectively. Generally the observed good weather condition over most part of the country favored crops, which are found over the areas. Besides the observed dry and sunny condition over northern half of the country could have a positive contribution for harvest and post harvest activities. Moreover the observed moist condition over southeastern and southern half of the country could have a significant contribution for the availability of pasture and drinking water and the growth and development of the crops over the areas.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig. 1)

Pocket areas of southern Oromia and eastern SNNPR received 100-200mm of rainfall .Some parts of western Oromia, most parts of eastern half of SNNPR, southern Oromia and some parts of south western Somali, exhibited 50-100mm of rainfall. Parts of western Oromia, western SNNPR, eastern Oromia and southwestern Somali experienced 25-50mm of rainfall. Some parts of eastern Amhara, western Oromia southeastern Bensahngul-Gumuz eastern Gambela, western SNNPR southern and eastern Oromia and most parts of eastern half of Somali exhibited 5-25 mm of rainfall. There was little or no rainfall for the rest parts of the country.

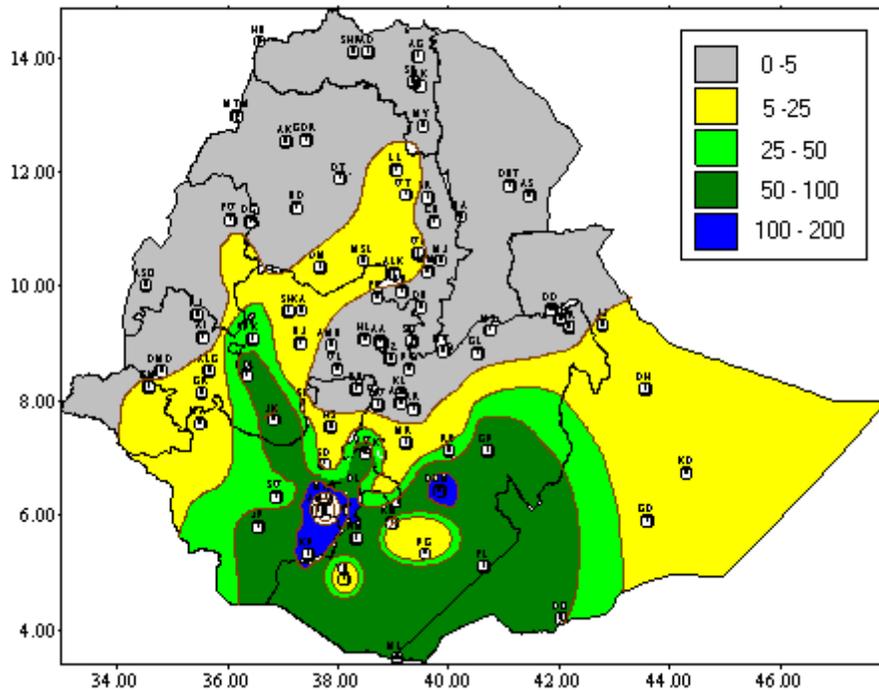


Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (11-20 November, 2006)

1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Pocket areas of eastern Amhara, parts of southeastern Bensahgul-Gumuz, western, central and southern Oromia and much of SNNPR exhibited normal to above normal rainfall. Below normal to much below normal rainfall has been observed over the rest parts of the country

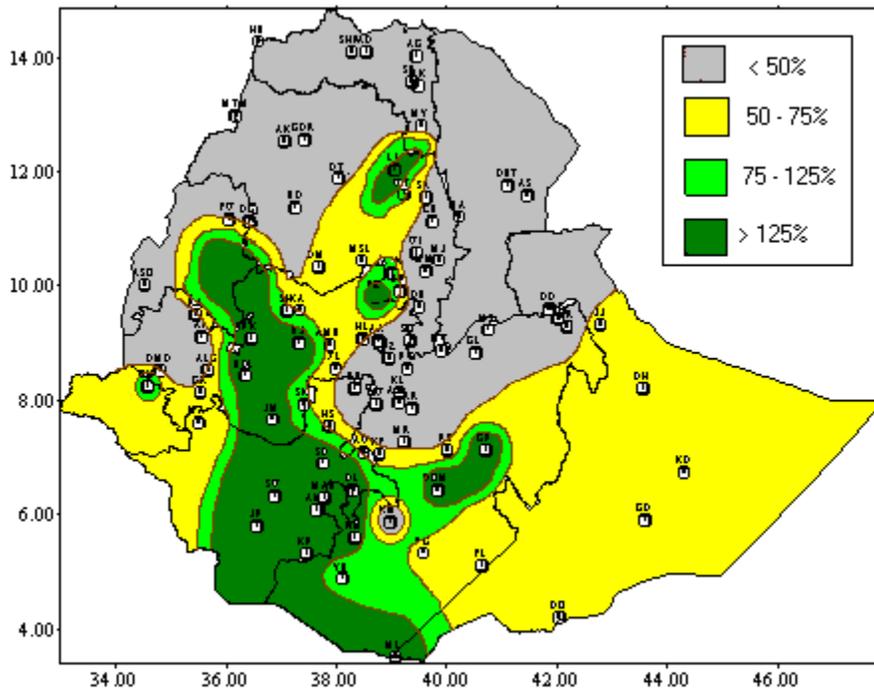


Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (11-20 November, 2006)

Explanatory notes for the legend:

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

1.3 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

Some areas like Alemaya, Koffele and Wegel Tena exhibited extreme minimum temperature less than 5⁰C.

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE THIRD DEKAD OF NOVEMBER 2006

During the next ten days, the moisture intrusion to wards the country and the rain- producing systems are likely to continue in similar manner over southwestern, southern, southeastern, central and some parts of northeastern Ethiopia.

In general, western and southern Oromia, Gambela, SNNPR and southern Somli will get normal rainfall. Besides, central Ethiopia, eastern Oromia, eastern Amhara and Tigray will receive close to normal rainfall from their cloud coverage. The remaining portions of the nation will be under Begas dry weather conditions. However, occasionally they will have light rain showers over few places, it become below normal.

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

Most part of SNNPR, half of southeastern and western Oromia, most part of Benshangul-Gumuz and parts of northeastern and central Amhara experienced normal to above normal rainfall. Besides Bedelle, Chira, H/Mariam, Konso and M/Abaya recorded heavy fall ranging from 30-46mm in one rainy day. Due to this condition some areas like Bedelle and Wegel Tena reported crop damage, which was found in early vegetative and ripeness stage. Besides, Shambu and Assosa reported weed infestation over crop field and slight bird damage on Sorghum crop respectively. Generally the observed good weather condition over most part of the country favored crops, which are found over the areas. Besides the observed dry and sunny condition over northern half of the country could have a positive contribution for harvest and post harvest activities. Moreover the observed moist condition over southeastern and southern half of the country could have a significant contribution for the availability of pasture and drinking water and the growth and development of the crops over the areas. Pursuant to crop phenological report Teff was at flowering stage in some areas of central Oromia (Arsi Robe) while it was at full ripeness stage in some areas of western Benching Gumuz (Assosa), western Oromia (Chira, Limu Genet, Sekoru), eastern Oromia (Gelemso), southern Amhara (Alem ketema, Enewary), northern Oromia (Fitcha), western Amhara (Mota). Maize was at tasseling and full ripeness stage in some areas of southern Oromia (Dolomena) and eastern Benshangul-Gumuz (Dangla) respectively. Wheat was at shooting stage in some areas of central Oromia (Arsi Robe), while it was at earing stage in some areas of eastern Amhara (Wegel Tena). It was at flowering stage in some areas of southern Amhara (Enewary, Shola Gebeya). More over, it was at wax and full ripeness stage in some areas of western Oromia (Gimbi), northern Oromia (Fitcha). Sorghum was at ripeness stage in some areas of western Benshangul Gumuz (Assosa), western Oromia (Aira, Nedjo). Millet was at flowering stage in some areas of western Oromia (Nedjo, Limu Genet), eastern Benshangul Gumuz (Chagni). Beans was at ripeness stage in some areas of western Oromia (Chira), southern Amhara (Shola Gebeya). Nug was at yellow ripeness stage in some areas of western Benshangul- Gumuz(Assosa), eastern Benshangul- Gumuz (Bullen), southern Amhara (Alem Ketema). Sesame was at flowering and Flax was at budding stage in some areas of southern Oromia (Dollo Mena).

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

Due to moist weather condition coming to our country, some areas like southwestern, southern, southeastern, central and northeastern part of the country will expect to have rainfall. As a result this rainfall condition would have a positive contribution for crops like wheat, sesame, flax and millet, which have not completed their growing stage over some areas like Dollo Mena, Arsi Robe, Enewary, Limu Genet, Shola Gebeya and Chagni. On the other hand, during this time harvest and post harvest activities are under way in most Meher benefiting areas, therefore farmers should have harvest-matured crops on time. Besides after harvesting, the harvested crops must be placed in proper way in order to minimize post harvest losses. Moreover the grains should have appropriate moisture before being placed in storage areas. On the other hand, the dry and windy weather condition might favour the spread of fire, there fore wise, use of fire is necessary over the areas particularly near harvested and storage areas.