

NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

TEN DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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SUMMARY

During the first dekad of February 2007, the observed normal to above normal rainfall over southern Afar, eastern and southern Oromia, southern Amhara and central parts of eastern Ethiopia and the exhibited below normal rainfall over eastern Tigray would have a positive contribution for the ongoing Belg season agricultural activities. Moreover, it would have positive impact in areas like southern Amhara, highlands of SNNPR, where Belg activities like land preparation and sowing activities of short and medium cycle crops starts earlier. Besides, the observed wet moisture condition over the aforementioned areas decreases the extreme minimum temperature from frost prone areas. Regarding heavy fall, Weliso, Ginka and Kofelle reported heavy fall 30.1, 32.7 and 59.0 respectively in one rainy day. With regard to air temperature, there was a significant improvement of extreme minimum temperature i.e. rise in amount in most parts of frost prone areas. No station reported extreme minimum temperature below 5⁰C. Thus this situation would have positive impact for normal growth and development of plants.

During the second dekad of February 2007, the observed normal to above normal rainfall over most parts of northeastern Amhara, southeastern Tigray, few areas of central Oromia as well as pocket areas of northern Somali could have a positive contribution for Belg agricultural activities like land preparation, sowing activities, and crops which are at early vegetative stage over the aforementioned areas. Moreover, it could also have a positive impact for the availability of pasture and drinking water over some areas of northeastern pastoral areas. Besides, central (Kulumsa, Mehal Meda, Shewa Robit), western (Shambu), northeastern (Sirinka and Cheffa) recorded heavy fall ranging from 25-50.9 mm in one rainy day. This situation would have a positive contribution for the ongoing Belg agricultural activities

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig. 1)

Only pocket area of northwestern SNNPR, pocket areas of western and central Oromia, and pocket areas of eastern Amhara received 50-100mm rainfall. Western and pocket area of central Oromia, northern SNNPR and pocket areas of eastern Amahra experienced 25-50mm rainfall. Western and southern Oromia, western and northern SNNPR, eastern Gambela, eastern Benshangul-Gumuz, eastern and southern Amahra, tip of southern Tigray and northern Somali received 5-25mm rainfall. The rest parts of the country exhibited little or no rainfall.

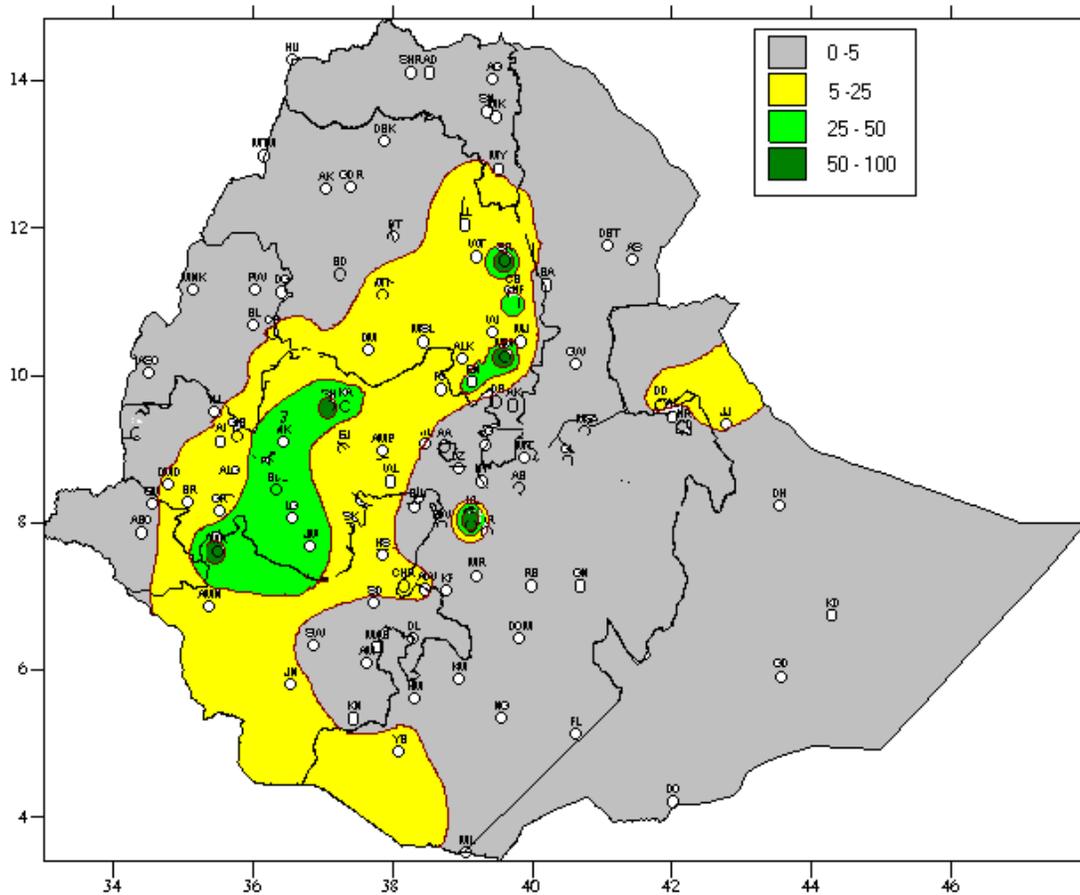


Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (11-20 February, 2007)

1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Most parts of central and western Oromia, western and northeastern SNNPR, all parts of Gambela, eastern and southern Amahra, eastern Benshngul-Gumuz, eastern Tigray, western Afar and northern Somali received normal to above normal rainfall. The rest parts of the country exhibited below normal to much below normal rainfall.

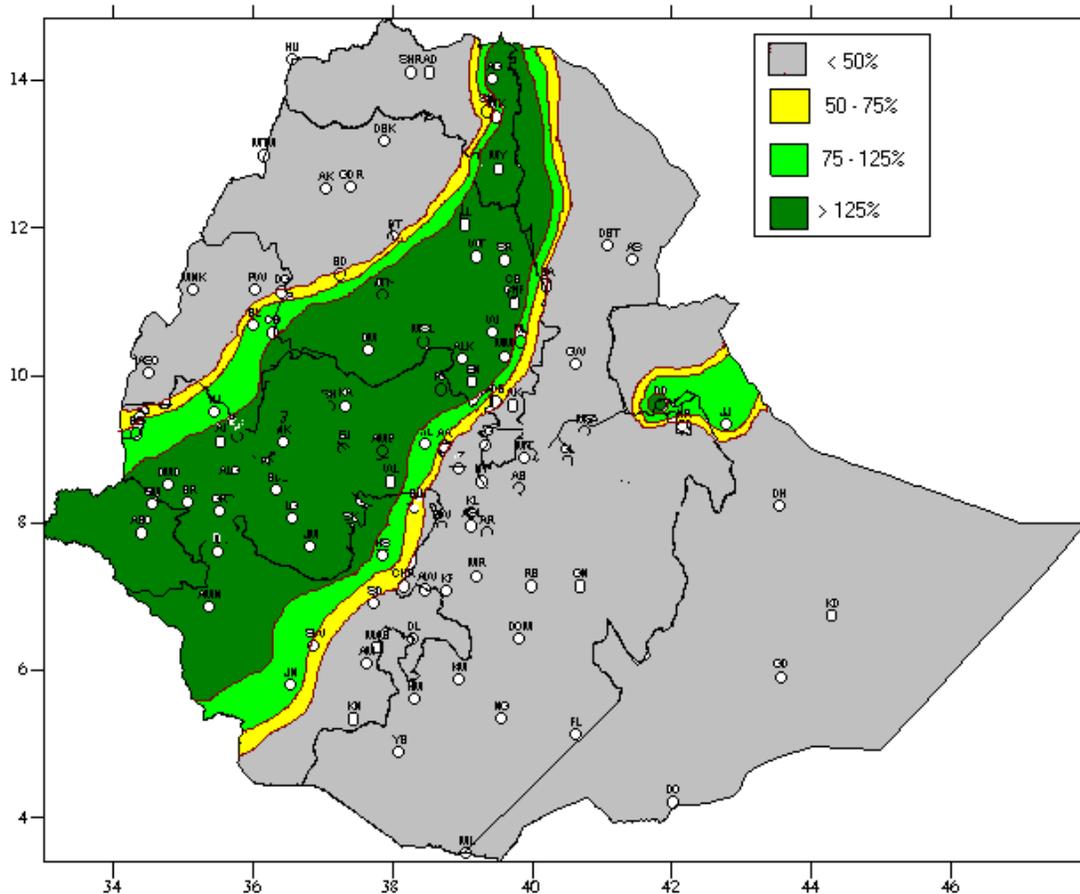


Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (11-20 February, 2007)

Explanatory notes for the legend:

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

1.3 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

Gambela, Metema, Dubti, Methara, Semera and Assayta recorded extreme maximum temperature as high as 41.5, 40.0, 36.5, 36.1, 35.7 and 35.2°C respectively.

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE THIRD DEKAD OF FEBRUARY 2007

In the coming ten days, Oromia and SNNPR will comparatively get rain showers while eastern Amhara and highland of eastern Ethiopia are expected to receive light rain. Moreover, the major Belg growing areas, south and southeastern Ethiopia will not have normal rainfall pattern.

Generally, eastern Oromia, western half of SNNPR, eastern Tigray and eastern Amhara will receive normal rain with a probable condition of below normal rain at some places. Like wise, central, eastern and southern Oromia as well as eastern SNNPR are expected to have below normal rainfall although those regions infrequently receive rain showers. On the other hand, southeastern, northeastern, western and northwestern lowland will be dominated by dry and sunny 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 northeastern Amhara, southeastern Tigray, few areas of central Oromia as well as pocket areas of northern Somali could have a positive contribution for Belg agricultural activities like land preparation, sowing activities, and crops which are at early vegetative stage over the aforementioned areas. Moreover, it could also have a positive impact for the availability of pasture and drinking water over some areas of northeastern pastoral areas. Besides, central (Kulumsa, Mehal Meda, Shewa Robit), western (Shambu), northeastern (Sirinka and Cheffa) recorded heavy fall ranging from 25-50.9 mm in one rainy day. This situation would have a positive contribution for the ongoing Belg agricultural activities

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

The anticipated near normal rainfall over western Oromia and western half of SNNPR would have a positive impact for Belg agricultural activities like land preparation and sowing activities over the aforementioned Belg growing areas. Moreover it would have a positive contribution for normal growth and development of perennial crops like Chat, Coffee etc. Besides, below normal rainfall are expected over most parts of eastern Amhara and Tigray and eastern and southern Oromia due to the weakening of rain-bearing system. Thus farmers should give attention for proper water harvesting techniques in order to minimize the negative effect due to the expected deficient moisture stress.