

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

P.BOX 1090 ADDIS ABABA TEL 512299 FAX 517066 E-mail [nmsa@ethionet.et](mailto:nmsa@ethionet.et)

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**SUMMARY**

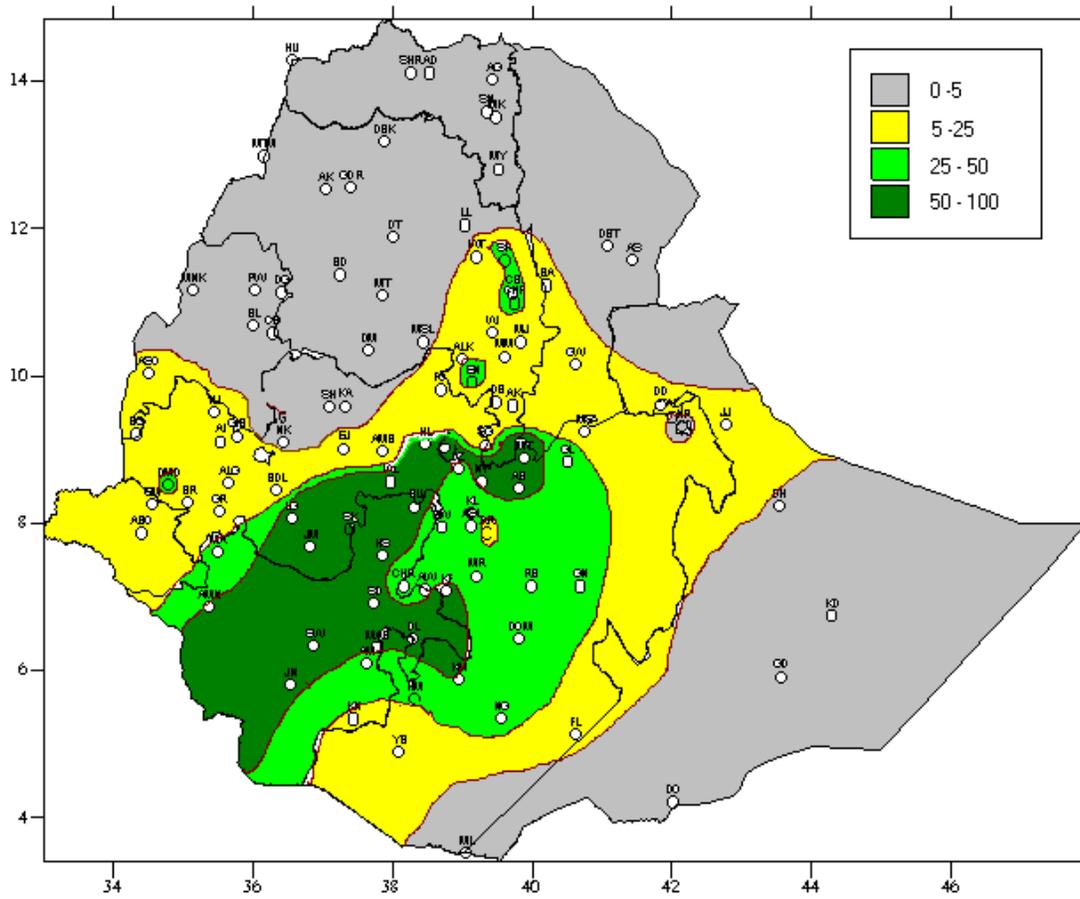
During the first dekad of March 2007, dry, sunny and below normal rainfall condition has been observed over most parts of the country during the dekad under review. This condition could have a negative impact on land preparation and sowing activities particularly over those Belg growing areas, which starts their activities at the beginning of this month. Moreover, it has a negative impact on the water requirement of the crops, which are found at early vegetative stage in some areas where sowing activity was performed during the month of January and the first half of the month of February.

During the second dekad of March 2007, normal to above normal rainfall condition has been observed over much of Oromia, SNNPR, southern Amhara, and pocket areas of Gambela. In addition to that, some areas exhibited heavy fall ranging from (31-55) mm. According to the reporting stations, Gelemso, Cheffa, Mirab Abiya, Limu Genet, Sawla, Bui, Hosaina, Abomsa and Kofelle 32.4, 33.7, 34.6, 35.7, 37.6, 44.0, 47.8, 52.7 and 55.6 mm reported heavy fall in one rainy days respectively. This situation could have a positive contribution over those Belg growing areas, which start their sowing activities at the month of March like some areas of western (Limu Genet, Sekoru Tepi), central (Bui, Abomsa), southern SNNPR (Kibre Mengist, Mega Hosaina), eastern (Gelemso, Alemya, Meiso) southwestern (Mirab Abaya, Sawla). Moreover, it could have a positive impact in areas like Yabelo, Moyale, and Robe where their land preparation is during the dekad under review under normal circumstance. Besides, it could favor crops that are found at different phenological stages.

**1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT**

**1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig. 1)**

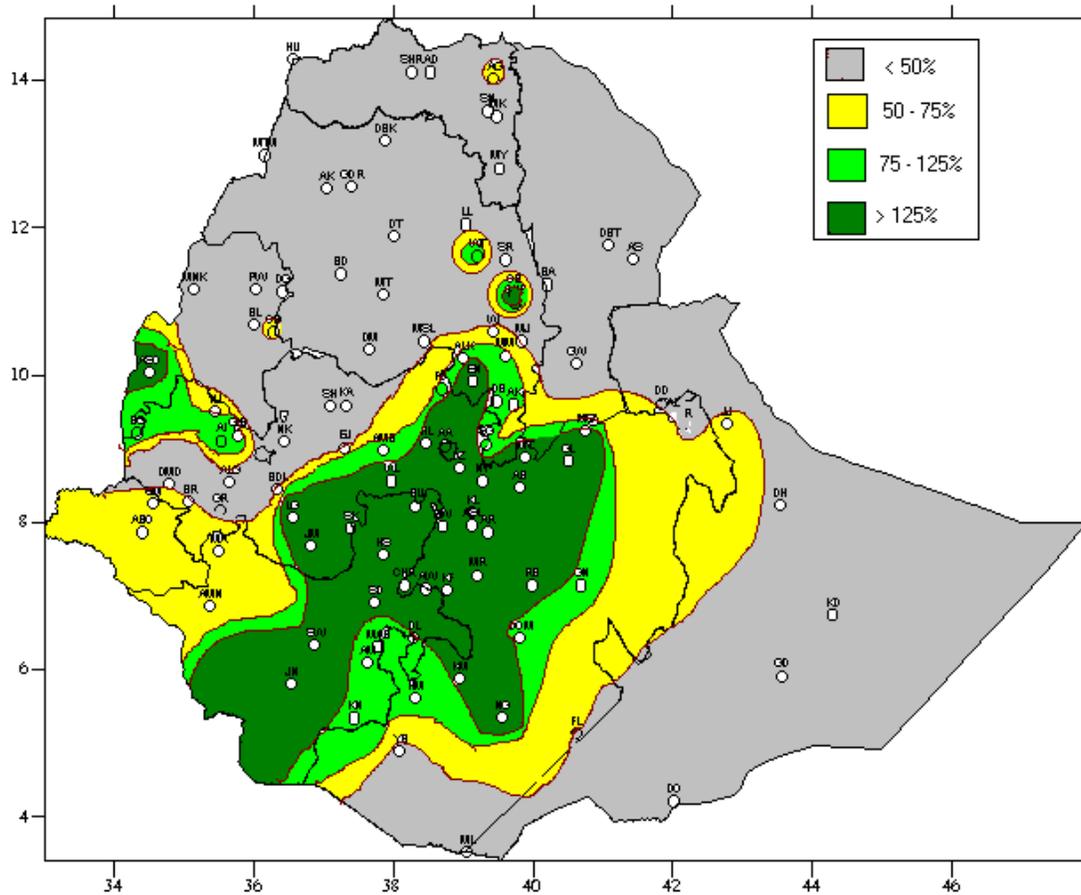
Most parts of northern, western, eastern and southern SNNPR and some areas of central, western and southern Oromia received 50-100mm rainfall. Few areas of western and southern SNNPR, pocket areas of eastern and southern Amhara and western, central and southern Oromia exhibited 25-50mm rainfall. Western, eastern, northern and southern Oromia, much of Gambela, some areas of southern Benshangul- Gumuz, some areas southeastern Amhara southwestern Afar and northwestern Somali experienced 5-25mm rainfall. The rest parts of the country recorded little or no rainfall.



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

### **1.1 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)**

Most parts of northern, eastern, southern and southwestern SNNPR, western, northern, central, eastern and southern Oromia, southwestern Benshalgul-Gumuz and pocket areas of eastern and southern Amhara received normal to above normal rainfall. The rest parts of the country exhibited below to much below normal rainfall.



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

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 recorded extreme maximum temperature ranging from 35-41.5 °C for 2-10 consecutive days. Among the reporting stations Arba Minch, Bilate, Dire Dawa, Eli Dar, Gode, Metehara, Assayta, Dubti and Gambela recorded 35.5, 36.0, 37.0, 38.5, 39.0, 39.7, 40.2, 40.5 and 41.5 °C extreme maximum temperature respectively during the dekad under review.

## **2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE THIRD DEKAD OF MARCH 2007**

For the coming ten days, the seasonal rain-bearing systems are expected to continue in similar manner as previous five days across the Belg rain benefiting areas. As a result, SNNPR, central and southern Oromia including Bale and Arsi zones, eastern Amhara, eastern Tigray will get normal rainfall. It might be above normal at some places. Besides, Gambela, western and eastern Oromia, northern Somali, will have near normal rainfall. On the other hand, the remaining portions of the country will be under dry weather condition.

## **3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE**

### **3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE**

Normal to above normal rainfall condition has been observed over much of Oromia, SNNPR, southern Amhara, and pocket areas of Gambela. In addition to that, some areas exhibited heavy fall ranging from (31-55) mm. According to the reporting stations, Gelemso, Cheffa, Mirab Abiya, Limu Genet, Sawla, Bui, Hosaina, Abomsa and Kofelle 32.4, 33.7, 34.6, 35.7, 37.6, 44.0, 47.8, 52.7 and 55.6 mm reported heavy fall in one rainy days respectively. This situation could have a positive contribution over those Belg growing areas, which start their sowing activities at the month of March like some areas of western (Limu Genet, Sekoru Tepi), central (Bui, Abomsa), southern SNNPR (Kibre Mengist, Mega Hosaina), eastern (Gelemso, Alemya, Meiso) southwestern (Mirab Abaya, Sawla). Moreover, it could have a positive impact in areas like Yabelo, Moyale, and Robe where their land preparation is during the dekad under review under normal circumstance. Besides, it could favor crops that are found at different phenological stages.

### **3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD**

The anticipated above normal rainfall over SNNPR, central, southern Oromia, Arsi and Bale zone, eastern Amhara and Tigray and the expected near normal rainfall over Gambela, western and eastern Oromia and northern Somali would have a positive contribution for the season's agricultural activities. Besides it would favor crops, which are found at different phenological stages, and perennial crops as well. Moreover, it would have a positive impact for the availability of pasture and drinking water for pastoral and agropastoral areas of south Oromia.