

NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AGENCY

TEN DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

P.BOX 1090 ADDIS ABABA TEL 512299 FAX 517066 E-mail nmsa@ethionet.et

11-20 May 2007 Vol. 17 No.14

Date of issue May 24, 2007

SUMMARY

During the first dekad of May 2007, the observed normal to above normal rainfall over western Tigray, western Amhara, Benshangul-Gumuz, western Oromia, eastern parts of SNNPR, southern Oromia and Bale high lands could favor Belg growing areas particularly crops which are sown in eastern parts of SNNPR and Bale highland areas for the up coming growing stage. Besides it could have also favor for areas, which start Meher agricultural activities like most parts of western half of the country for their land preparation and sowing time. In addition to this long cycle crops (Maize, Sorghum) of the areas had benefited. Moreover it could have significant contribution for the availability of pasture and drinking water for pastoral and agro pastoral areas of southern Oromia. Nevertheless some areas reported heavy fall greater than 30mm. Among the reporting station Arsi Robe, Chera, Arjo, Bullen, Magete and Nedjo recorded 62.2, 44.4, 40.0, 39.7, 39.2, 33.7 and 32.3mm of heavy fall in one rainy day. As a result of this some areas like Chera and Aykel reported crop damage on Sorghum, tress and crop damage due to hail formation in crop fields respectively. Regarding extreme maximum air temperature Meiso, Cheffa, Shewa Robit, Gode, DireDawa, Myshemary, Pawe, Mankush Metehara, Metema, Gambela, Assaita, Dubti and Semera exhibited extreme maximum air temperature ranging from 35-43 °C .

During the second dekad of May 2007 the observed rain fall for several days over eastern Tigray, much part of Amhara, Benshangul-Gumuz, much of Oromia, SNNPR, Central and eastern Ethiopia could favor for Belg growing areas like western part of SNNPR, eastern Amhara, most parts of south and eastern Oromia, central and eastern parts of the country. More over, it could favor starting land preparation for Meher agricultural activities for sowing activity and also for long cycle growing crop like maize and sorghum. Nevertheless some areas reported heavy falls grater than 30mm. Among the reported station Jimma, Alge, Arjo, Ayu, Bedle, Blate, Bura, Chageni, Kulumusa, Layber, Merabe Abya, Nejo, Sawla and Konso recorded. 59.1, 36.0, 33.5, 31.7, 30.0, 31.5, 37.0, 49.8, 34.4, 30.1, 49.2, 58.0, 34.5, 30.4, and 34.0 mm respectively as the result heavily rain fall in Konso causes damage on crops.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 May 11-20, 2007

1.1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig.1)

Only pocket areas of southern and eastern SNNPR exhibited 100-200mm rainfall.

Most parts of western and some parts of central and southern Oromia, most parts of SNNPR, some parts of southern Amhara; southern and eastern Beshangul-Gumuz received 50-100mm rainfall. Some parts of central, eastern, southern and tip of western Oromia, some parts of southern and pocket area of eastern Amhara, all parts of Gambela and some parts of southern and eastern Beshangul-Gumuz exhibited 25-50mm rainfall. All parts of Tigray, most parts of Amhara, merge of north-southern Afar, some parts of northern, eastern and southwestern Beshangul-Gumuz, some parts of eastern and southern oromia, northern, northwestern and western Somali and pocket area of southern SNNPR experienced 5-25mm rainfall. The rest parts of the country received little or no rainfall.

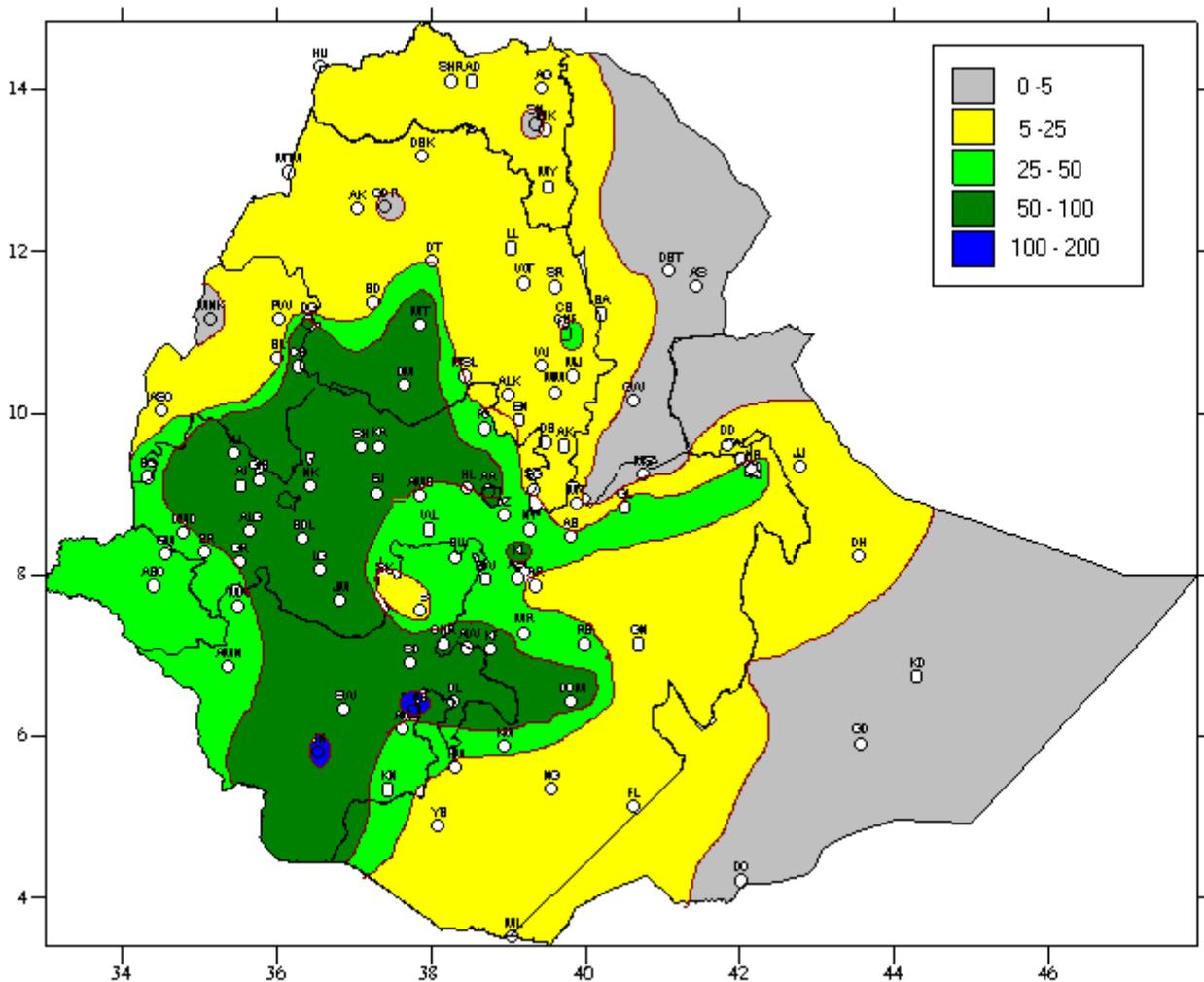


Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (11-20 May, 2007)

1.1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Most part of western, some parts of central and southern Oromia, most parts of SNNPR, some parts of southern and eastern Beshangul-Gumuz, some parts of southern and pocket area of eastern Amhara, tip of southern Gambela, pocket area of eastern tigray and northern Somali received normal to above normal rainfall. The rest parts of the country exhibited below normal to much below normal rainfall.

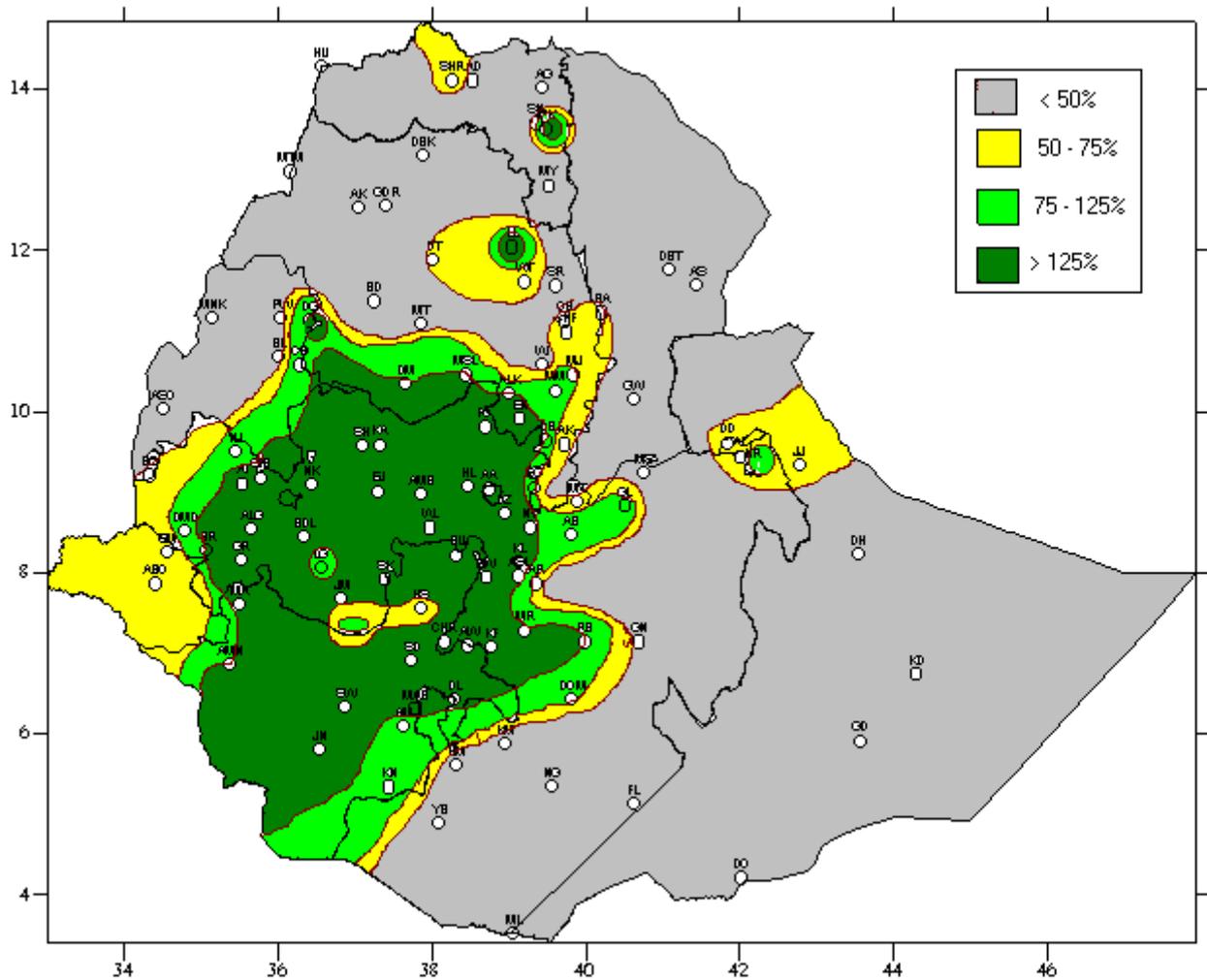


Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (11-20 May 2007)

Explanatory notes for the legend:

<50 -- Much below normal

50—75% -- below normal

75—125% --- Normal

> 125% ---- Above normal

1.1 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

Some areas like Dire Dawa, Gode, Metehara, Assayita, Cheffa, Dubeti, Gambela, Mankush, Metema, Mytsemeri, Pawe, Semera and shewarbite are exhibited 38,37,39.7,42.2,35.9,44.5,39,39.4,41.5,38.8,37.5,44.1 and 37.7 °C temperature respectively.

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE THIRD DEKAD OF MAY 2007

For the coming ten days the rain producing systems are expected to expand to western half of the country with the beginning of kiremt rain. Moreover, the existing wet weather activity is anticipated to favor central, southern and eastern highlands.

In general, much of SNNPR, Gambela, Benishangul -Gumuz, western Amhara and western Oromiya will get normal to above normal rainfall in addition, southern tip of SNNPR, southern and eastern Oromia, western half of Tigray as well as central Ethiopia will receive close to normal rainfall. However, some places will be below normal. In contrast, eastern Amhara and Tigray, Afar, Somali Dire Dawa and Harrari are likely to dominate dry weather condition. In line with this, the daily maximum temperature is expected to increase over low lands of the country.

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

The observed rain fall for several days over eastern Tigray, much part of Amhara, Benshangule Gumuze, much of Oromia, SNNPR, Central and eastern Ethiopia could favor for Belg growing areas like western part of SNNPR, eastern Amhara, most parts of south and eastern Oromia, central and eastern parts of the country. Moreover, it could favor starting land preparation for Meher agricultural activities for sowing activity and also for long cycle growing crop like maize and sorghum. Nevertheless some areas reported heavy falls greater than 30mm. Among the reported station Jimma, Alge, Arjo, Ayu, Bedle, Bata, Bura, Chageni, Kulumusa, Layber, Merabe Abya, Nejo, Sawla and Konso recorded. 59.1, 36.0, 33.5, 31.7, 30.0, 31.5, 37.0, 49.8, 34.4, 30.1, 49.2, 58.0, 34.5, 30.4, and 34.0 mm respectively as the result heavy rain fall in Konso causes damage on crops.

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

In the coming ten day may 21-31/2007 in the eastern half and southern areas of the country the expected dry weather condition could favor condition for Belg harvesting crop and for their maturity. The expected better rainfall in SNNPR, Gambela, Benshangule Gumuze, Western Amhara and Oromia is favorable for Meher agricultural activity for starting sowing activity like Gambela, Benshangule Gumuze, Western Amhara and Oromia Southern SNNPR, Southern and Eastern Oromia.