

1-10 February 2010 Vol.20 , No.5 Date of issue Feb,15 2010

SUMMARY

During the third dekad of January, 2010 dry, sunny and windy Bega weather condition was dominated over much parts of the country. This situation had positive impact on harvest and post harvest of meher crops agricultural activities. On the other hand, due to strength of the rain bearing system of meteorological phenomena in some parts central and eastern Amahara, southern and western Oromia, SNNPR and central and eastern parts of the country received rain. This situation would have a positive impact on the availability of pasture and drinking water over pastoral and agro pastoral area of the country as well as land preparation of Belg growing areas. Besides these, it also useful for land preparation for long cycle meher crops growing areas of the country. On the contrary to these, it might have certain negative impact on lately sown Meher crops harvest and post harvest activities over some parts of the country. On the other hand the dominant dry and windy weather condition over most parts of the country might have positive impact for meher crops harvest and post harvest activities.

During the first dekad of February, 2010 due to strengthening of rain bearing weather phenomenon, there was extended and heavy falls over Rift Valley areas, north eastern, eastern and southern parts of the country. As a result of this, north and southern Amhara, much parts of Oromia, southern Afar, eastern half of SNNPR and northern Somali. To mention some of them Bofa, Bui, Jijiga, Addis Abeba, Degan, Bilo Gorigis, Abomsa and Ziway 97.5, 76.8, 74.0, 54.4, 47.5, 42.3, 37.4 and 35.2mm respectively. This situation indicates normal on set of Belg season which would have positive impact on land preparation for Belg crops, long cycle meher crops, availability of pasture and water particularly for pastoralist and agro pastoralist areas of the country. Besides these, much of the rest parts of the country were dominated by partially cloudy condition. This situation also reduce water demand of perennial plants to certain extent

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 1-10 Feb, 2010

1.1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig.1)

Central parts of the country, pocket area of eastern Amhara, northern parts of SNNPR and northern Somali received 50-100 mm of rainfall. Some parts of eastern, central and southern Oromia and northern parts of SNNPR received 25- 50 mm of rainfall. Eastern Amhara, some parts of western, southern and eastern Oromia and some parts of SNNPR Received 5-25 mm. The rest parts of the country exhibited little or no rainfall.

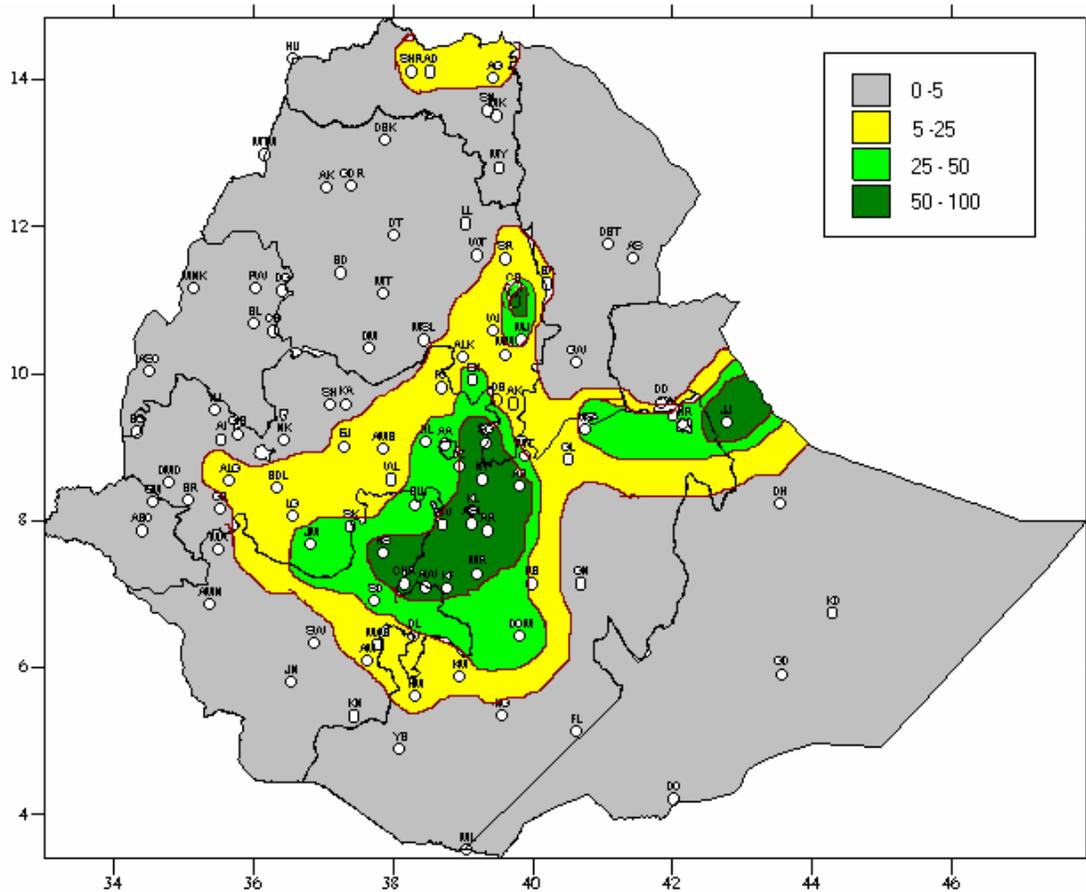


Fig 1 Rainfall distribution in mm (1-10 Feb, 2010)

1.1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Eastern Amhara, northern parts of SNNPR, some parts of eastern and southern and pocket area of western Oromia and central parts of the country received normal to above normal rainfall. The rest parts of the country exhibited below normal to much below normal rainfall.

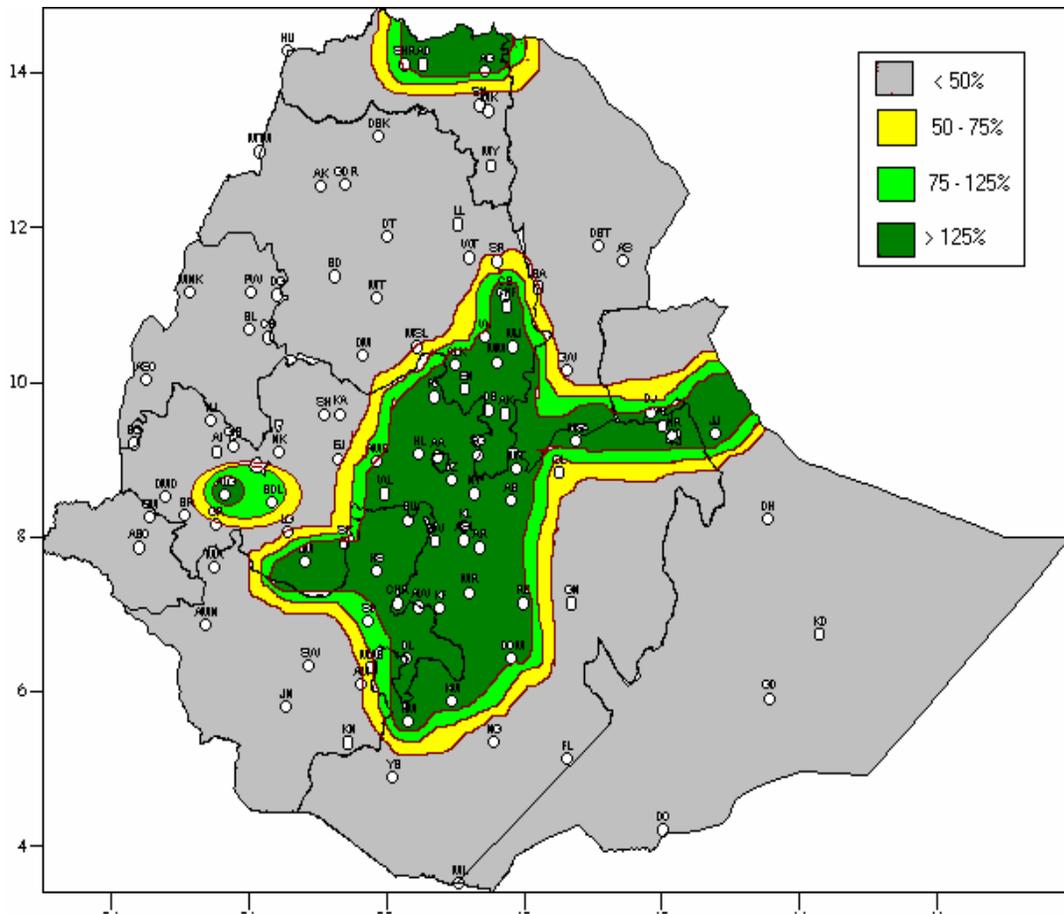


Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (1-10 Feb, 2010)

Explanatory notes for the legend:

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

1.1.3 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

Some stations in the low lands of the country recorded extreme maximum temperature greater than 35 °C. Gambella, Humera, Mankush, Sirba Abaya, Pawe, Shire and Metahara reported 43.5, 43, 40, 39.5, 38, 38 and 37.4 °C, respectively, while, some stations of high land areas reported minimum temperature below 5 °C to mention some of them Alamaya, Koffele, Debra Tabor and JiJiga, with magnitude of 1.0, 3.9, 4.4 and 4.5 °C, respectively. This extreme maximum and minimum temperature condition would show a negative impact on perennial crops and animals on the above mentioned areas.

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

Due to strengthening of rain bearing weather phenomenon, there was extended and heavy falls over Rift Valley areas, north eastern, eastern and southern parts of the country. As a result of this, north and southern Amhara much parts of Oromia, southern Afar, eastern half of SNNPR and northern Somali. To mention some of them Bofa, Bui, Jijiga, Addis Abeba, Degan, Bilo Gorigis, Abomsa and Ziway 97.5, 76.8, 74.0, 54.4, 47.5, 42.3, 37.4 and 35.2mm respectively. This situation indicates normal on set of Belg season which would have positive impact on land preparation for Belg crops, long cycle meher crops, availability of pasture and water particularly for pastoralist and agro pastoralist areas of the country. Besides these, much of the rest parts of the country were dominated by partially cloudy condition. This situation also reduce water demand of perennial plants to certain extent

As indicated on fig. 3 below, most parts of central and southeastern Oromia, and north eastern and southern Amhara exhibited humid to moist condition, while pocket areas of southern and eastern Oromia southern and eastern Amhara, and adjoining areas of Afar and southern SNNPR received moderately dry condition. The situation might have favored Belg agricultural activities, perennial crops as well as availability of drinking water and pasture over pastoral and agro pastoral areas of the country, while the rest parts of the country dominated by dry to very dry condition which might have negative impacts on Belg agricultural activities and availability of drinking water and pasture.

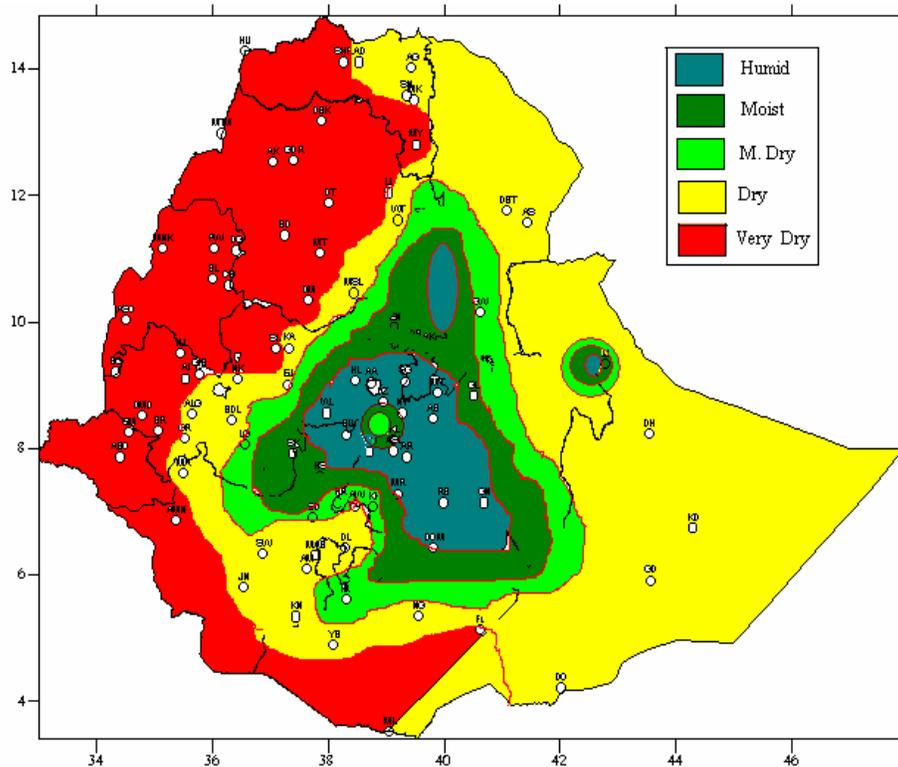


Fig.3 Moisture Status for (1-10 Feb, 2010)

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

In the coming ten days, rain bearing meteorological phenomenon will be expect to strengthening and continue. As a result, eastern Amahara, southern Afar, central Ethiopia, north Somali, western, eastern and southern Oromia and eastern half of SNNPR will expected to receive normal to above normal rainfall. This situation will have positive impact on Belg crops agricultural activities such as land preparation, pasture and water supply for pastoral and agro pastoral areas of the country. In addition to this, western half of SNNPR Gambela, eastern and southern Tigray and half of Somali will expect to receive near normal rainfall. This situation will also favor general agricultural activities and pasture and drinking water availabilities over pastoral and agro-pastoral areas to certain extent. On the other hand, this will might have a negative impact on lately sown Meher crops harvest and post harvest activities of aforementioned areas. More over, this situation is very conducive for land preparation of long cycle meher crops in areas like western and some other parts of the country. However some parts of the country like western Tigray and Amahara, Benishangul Gumuz north Afar will prevail partially cloudy dominated by sunny weather condition which will expect to favor late Meher crops harvest and post harvest activities.