

SUMMARY

During the first dekad of January 2012 dry, windy and sunny Bega weather condition was prevailed over most parts of the country. The situation might have favored harvest and post harvest activities. Moreover, Bega cool weather condition was dominated over some portion of northern, southern, central and eastern high lands of the country. Besides Alemaya Debre Brehan, Debre Zite, Koffele, and Jimma reported a minimum temperature as low as -3.0, -2.8, -1.0, -3.0 and 0.6°C respectively. The situation would have a negative impact on perennial plants and livestock. On the other hand moist air was prevailed over western Oromia and pocket areas of western portion of SNNPR benefiting 2-7mm of rainfall. The situation might have favored availability of water for perennial plants and pasture and drinking water for pastoral and agro pastoral areas.

During the second dekad of January 2012, due to strengthening of rain bearing meteorological phenomenon few rains were observed over northeastern central and southwestern parts of the country .The situation might have favored perennial plants and land preparation for early starting Belg agricultural activity over aforementioned areas. On the other hand, Bega dry and sunny weather condition over most parts of the country favored Meher post harvest activates. Moreover Night and early morning Bega cool weather condition was decreased compared with the previous dekads. The situation was positive contribution for normal status of perennial plants and livestock's.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

11-20 January 2012

1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig.1)

Pocket area of southeastern Amhara and it's adjoining areas, pocket areas of southwestern Oromia experienced 25-50 mm of rainfall. Pocket areas of southern Tigray, southeastern Amhara and pocket areas of southern, western and central Oromia and northern portions of SNNPR received 5-25 mm rainfall, while the rest parts of the country exhibited little or no rainfall.

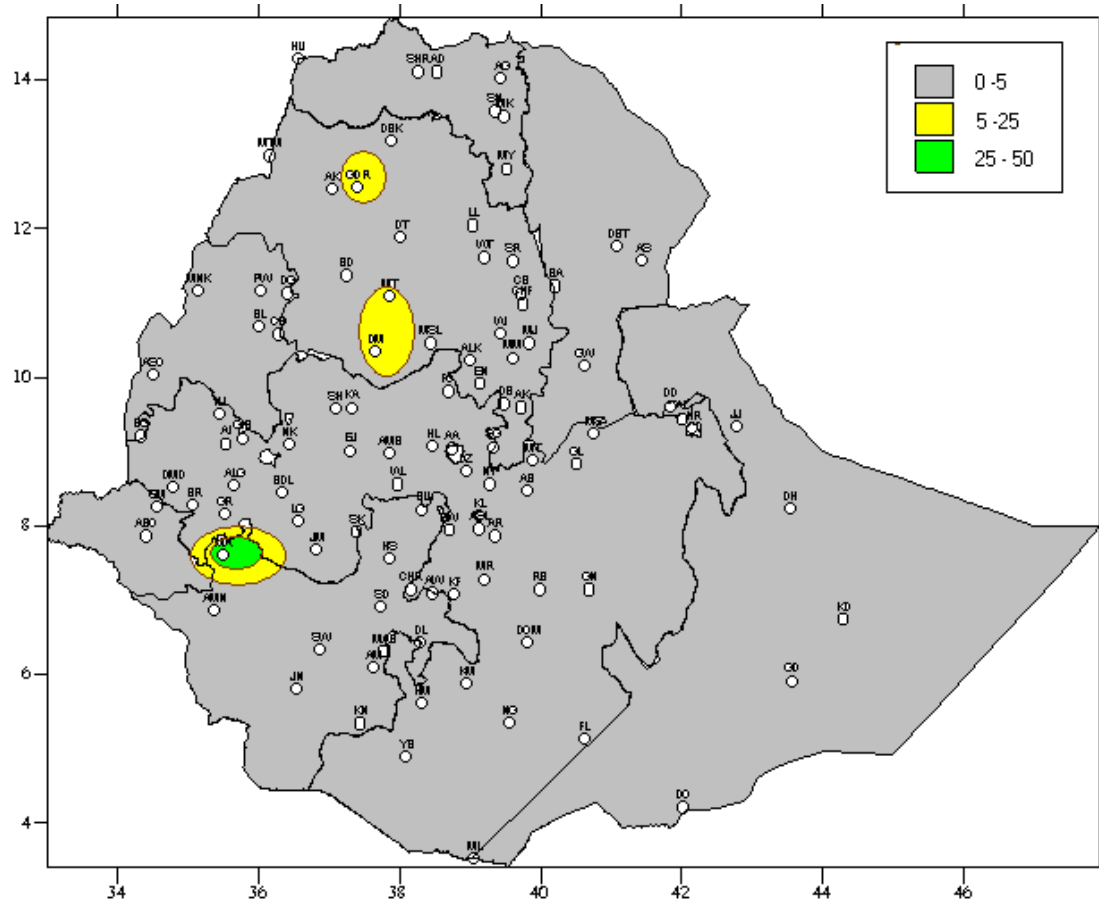


Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (11-20 January 2012)

1.2. RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Pocket areas of southern Tigray, much of eastern and southern Amhara and adjoining areas of southwestern Afar, central, southwestern Oromia and northern portions of SNNPR experienced normal to above normal rainfall. The rest parts of the country experienced below normal to much below normal rainfall.

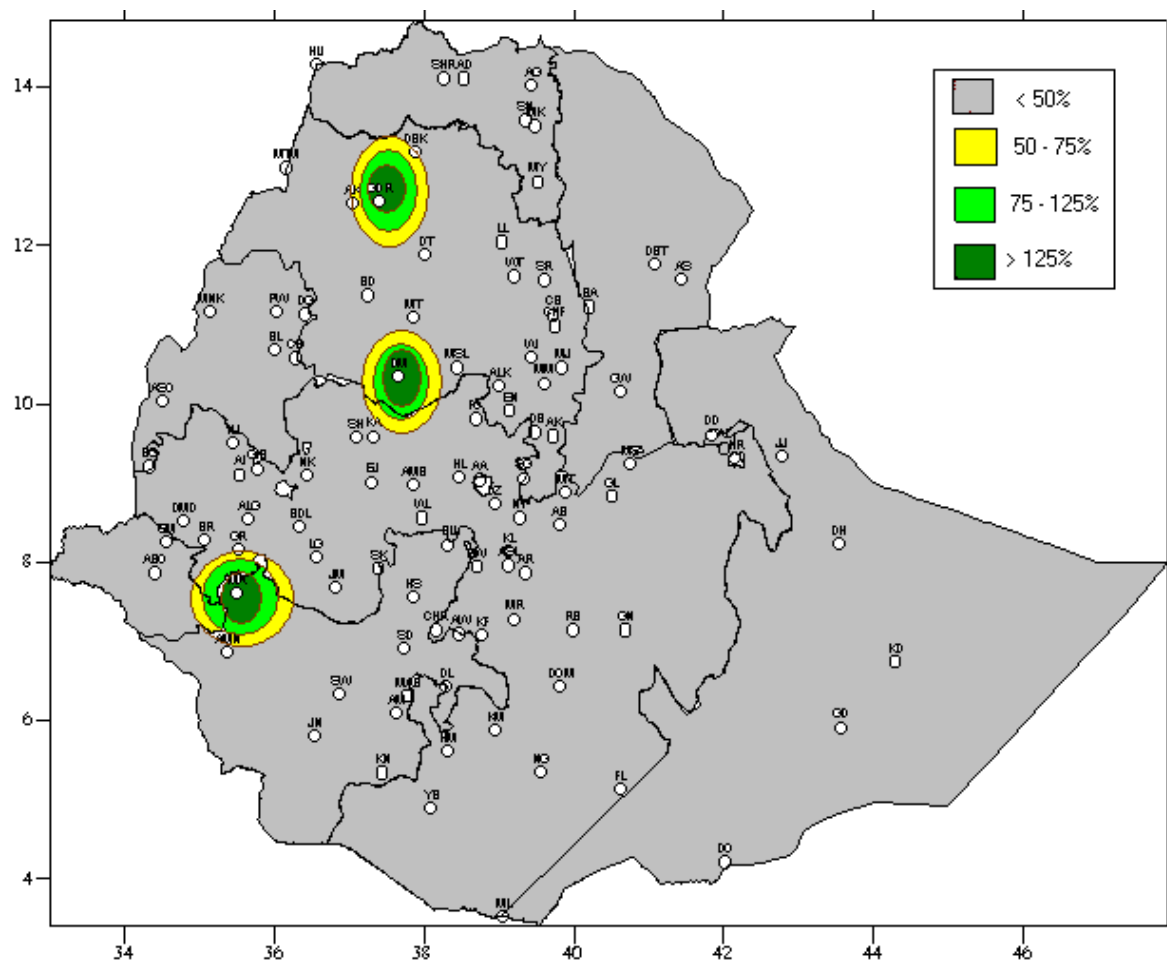


Fig2. Percent of normal rainfall distribution (10-21 January 2011)

Explanatory notes for the legend:

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

1.3. TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

Some stations reported extreme maximum temperature greater than 35 °C. Among the reporting station: Gambela, Gewan, Gode and Sirba Abaya recorded 35.2 - 39.5 °C, for 2 to 8 consecutive days. Some highlands of northeastern, eastern, central and southern parts of the country reported daily minimum temperature as low as 5°C. Among the reporting stations: Bahir Dar, Robe, Alemaya, Debre Brihan, Jijiga, Koffel, Mehal Meda, Meiso, Nejo and Dangla recorded 0.3 to 4.8°C for 2 to 10 consecutive days. The situation might have a slight negative impact on the normal growth and development of plants and livestock.

2. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

2.1. VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

Due to strengthening of rain bearing meteorological phenomenon few rains were observed over northeastern central and southwestern parts of the country .The situation might have favored perennial plants and land preparation for early starting Belg agricultural activity over aforementioned areas. On the other hand, Bega dry and sunny weather condition over most parts of the country favored Meher post harvest activates. Moreover Night and early morning Bega cool weather condition was decreased compared with the previous dekads. The situation was positive contribution for normal status of perennial plants and livestock's.

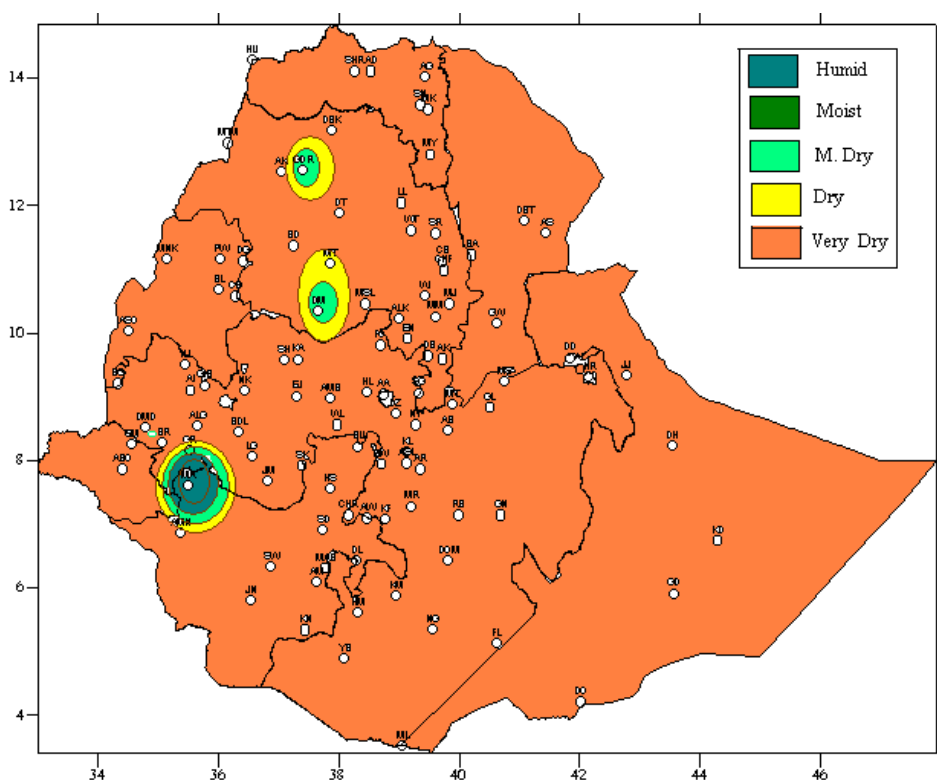


Fig.3 Moisture Status for (11-20 January 2012)

As indicated on moisture map above, Pocket area of northern and southwestern Amhar, north western tip of SNNPR and few part of western Oromia received moderately dry to humid moisture status that might have favored for perennial plants. The rest parts of the country exhibited dry and very dry situation this condition might have positive impact on harvest and post harvest agricultural activities.

2.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

On the coming ten days normally post harvest activities will takes place over most Meher growing areas of the country. The expected rainfall over in few places of southwestern Oromia, SNNPR, northeastern Amhara and south Afar will favor the perennial plants, availability of pasture and drinking water availability and land preparation for the areas which is earlier starting Belg agricultural activities like SNNPR and eastern Amhara. On the other hand, the expected Bega dry and sunny weather condition over most parts of the country will favor on the ongoing Meher post harvest activates.