

SUMMARY

During the third decade of June 2014, rain bearing meteorological phenomena farther strengthened over much of kiremt rain benefiting areas of the country. As a result, much of Amhara, Tigray, Gambella, Benshangul-gumz, Oromia and SNNPR received normal to above normal rainfall. Some station like Chewaka, Sahura, Arjo, Chagni, Gimbi, Ejaji, Kachise, Bullen, Gore, Shanbu, Bedelle, Alage, Nekemt and Masha exhibited heavy falls ranging from 33.1-46.4 mm in one rainy day. Thus, the situation might have favored Meher agricultural activities such as land preparation and sowing of short cycle Meher crops which of these activities normal or predominantly done during this time, water requirement of long cycle crops found at different growing phases, perennial plants, improvement of pasture and drinking water availability over pastoral and agro pastoral areas of the country.

During the first ten days of July 2014, gradually strengthen of rain bearing meteorological phenomena, received rainfall widely cover most of kiremt rain benefiting areas of the country. In line with this, Tigray, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, much of Oromia, SNNPR, Harari, DireDawa, southern Afar and northern Somali received light to heavy rainfall. As a result of this, Mankush, Negelle, Gida Ayana, Kachise, Masha, Bahir Dar, Arjo, Debra Markos, Limugent, Jimma, Adama, Nekemte, Gimbi, Algae, Chewaka and Adewa received heavy falls ranging from 32 to 59.3 mm in one rainy day. Moreover, rainfall following normal trend was expanded over refit valley and eastern parts of Kiremt rain benefiting areas. In general, Tigray, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, eastern Gambella central, western and including pocket areas southern high lands of Oromia, SNNPR and few place of eastern parts of the country received normal to above normal rainfall, while, the rest parts of the country, experienced below normal rainfall. The situation favored long cycle, meher crops perennial plant, land preparation, sowing of cereals (Teff, wheat and barley etc.), pulse (beans, peas and haricot beans) and oil crops (linseed and Niger seed etc.), improve pasture and drinking water availability in postural agro pastoral areas of the country. On the other hand, below normal rainfall experienced over some kiremt rain benefiting areas, might have negative impact on seasonal agricultural activities.

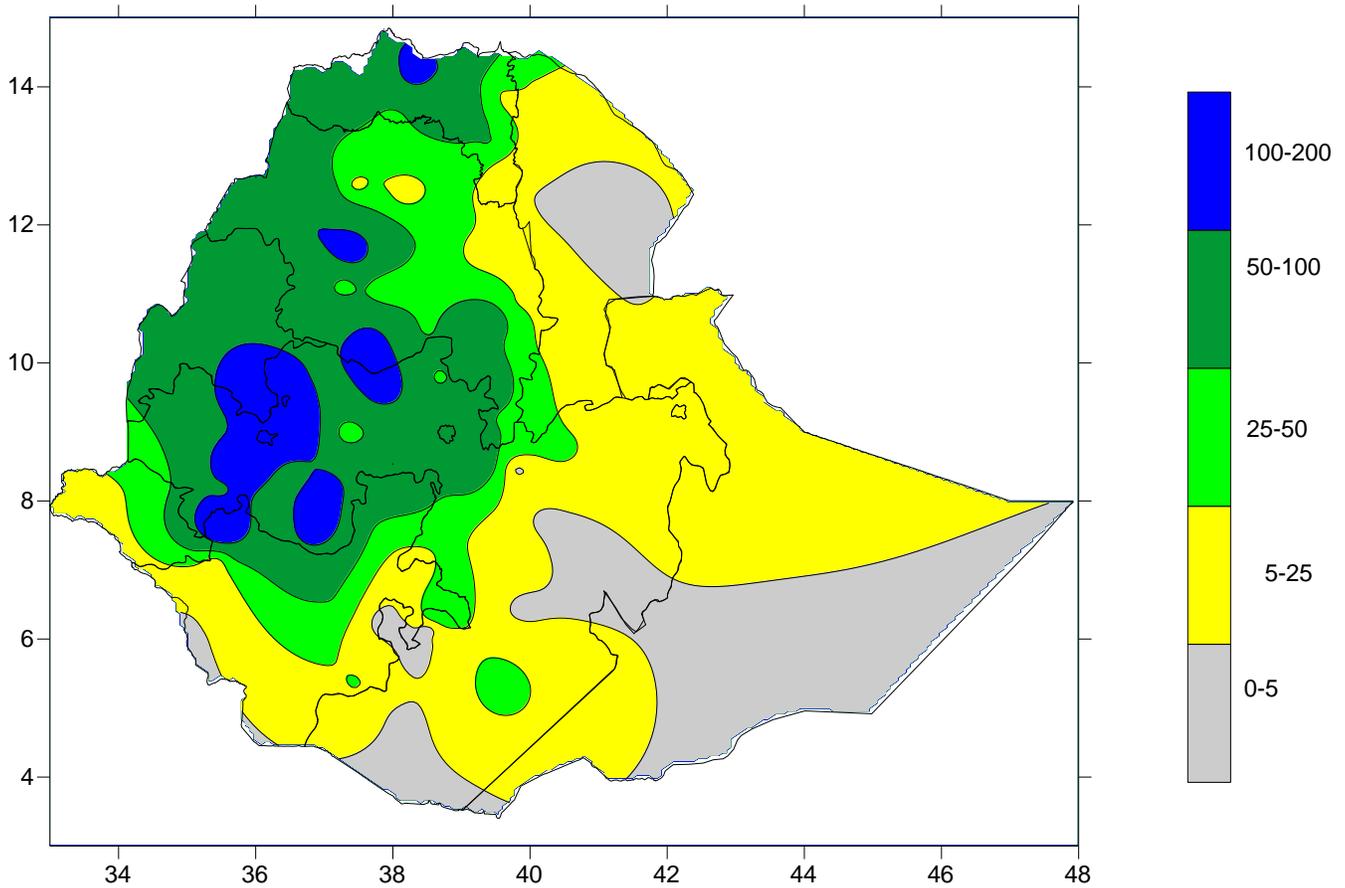


Fig. 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (1-10 July 2014)

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig.1)

Parts of western Oromia, southeastern Benshangul-Gumuze, pocket areas of southwestern Amhara and northern tip of Tigray received 100-200 mm of rainfall. Most parts of western Oromia and Benshangul-Gumuze, northern and northwestern margin of SNNPR, southwest and western Amhara and most parts of Tigray received 50-100 mm of rainfall. Eastern half of Gambela, parts of central, eastern and southern Amhara, eastern Tigray and parts of central and southern Oromia received 25-50 mm of rainfall. Eastern and pocket area of central Amhara, parts of southern Tigray, most parts of Afar and northern half of Somali, southern central and eastern Oromia, eastern and southern half of SNNPR and western half of Gambela received 5-25 mm of rainfall. The rest parts of the country experienced little or no rainfall.

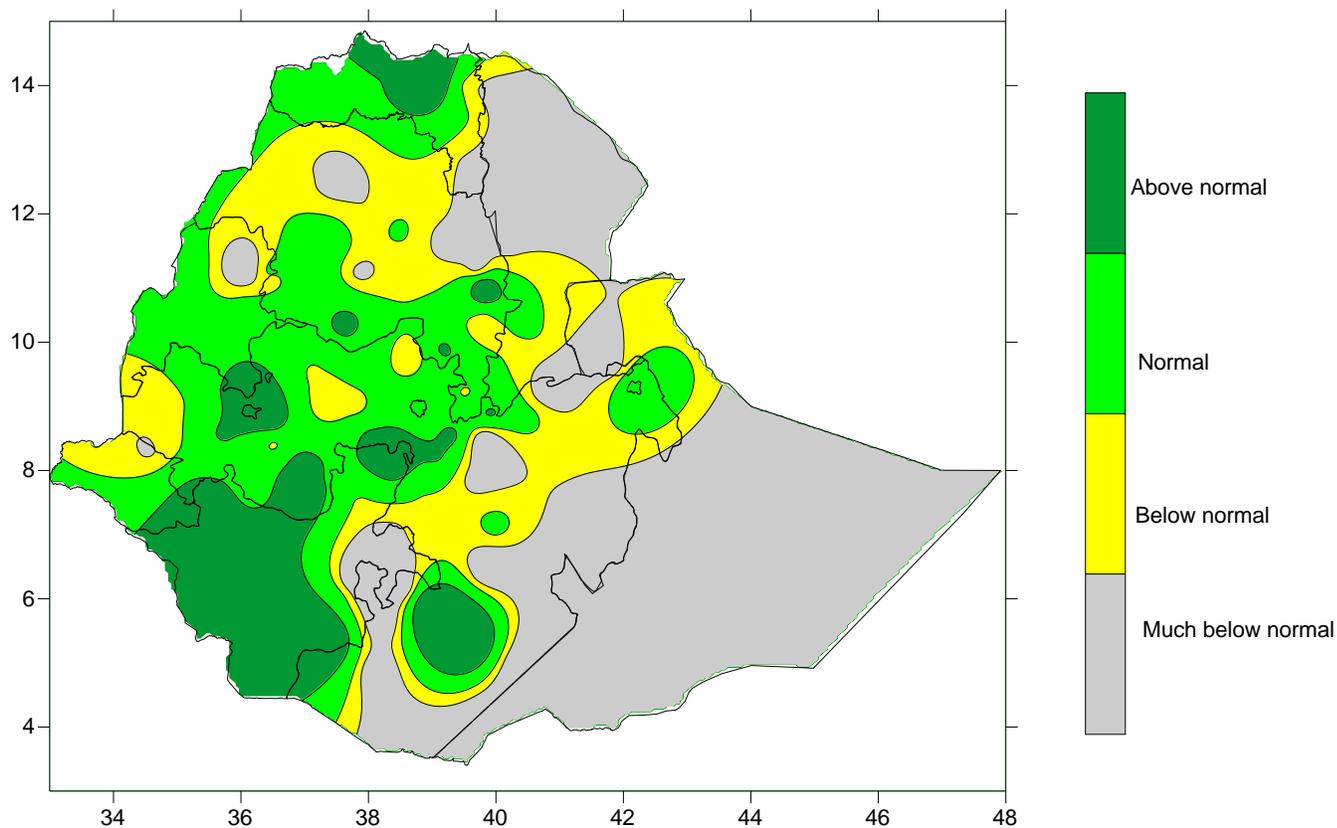


Fig2. Percent of normal rainfall distribution (1-10 July 2014)

Explanatory notes for the legend:

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

1.2 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig.2)

SNNPR, parts of western central and southern and eastern tip of Oromia, most parts of Benshangul-Gumuze and Tigray, southern, southwestern, western and northern margin of Amhara exhibited normal to above normal rainfall. The rest parts of the country experienced below normal to much below normal rainfall.

1.3. TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

Some stations in the low lands of the country reported extreme maximum temperature greater than 35°C. Among the reporting stations: Dire Dawa, Awash Arba, Elidar, Gewane, Majete, Meiso, Bati, Metehara, Cheffa, Gambella, Qaura, Semera and Tsitsika recorded 37.0, 41.0, 45.0, 42.8, 36.0, 36.0, 35.5, 40.0, 38.0, 36.5, 35.5, 44.6, and 37.5 °C respectively, while only Debere Berehen and Hagaré mariam reported extreme minimum temperature 5 and below of 5 and 4.6 °C consequently. The situation might have a negative impact on the normal growth and development of plants and caused heat stress that reduce feed intake and yield of livestock products.

2. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

2.1. VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

Under dekade view of the first ten days of July, kiremt 2014, gradually strengthen of rain bearing meteorological phenomena, received rainfall widely cover most of kiremt rain benefiting areas of the country. In line with this, Tigray, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, much of Oromia, SNNPR, Harari, DireDawa, southern Afar and northern Somali received light to heavy rainfall. As a result of this, Mankush, Negelle, Gida Ayana, Kachise, Masha, Bahir Dar, Arjo, Debra Markos, Limugent, Jimma, Adama, Nekemte Gimbi, Algae, Chewaka and Adewa received heavy falls raging from 32 to 59.3 mm of rainfall in one rainy day. Moreover, rainfall following normal trend was expanded over refit valley and eastern parts of Kiremt rain benefiting areas. In general, Tigray, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, eastern Gambella central, western and including pocket areas southern Oromia high lands, SNNPR and few place of eastern parts of the country received normal to above normal rainfall, while, the rest parts of the country, experienced below normal rainfall. The situation favored long cycle, meher crops perennial plant, land preparation, sowing of cereals (Teff, wheat and barley etc.), pulse (beans, peas and haricot beans) and oil crops (linseed and Nug or Niger seed etc.), improve pasture and drinking water availability in postural agro pastoral areas of the country. On the other hand, below normal rainfall experienced over some kiremt rain benefiting areas, might have negative impact on seasonal agricultural activities.

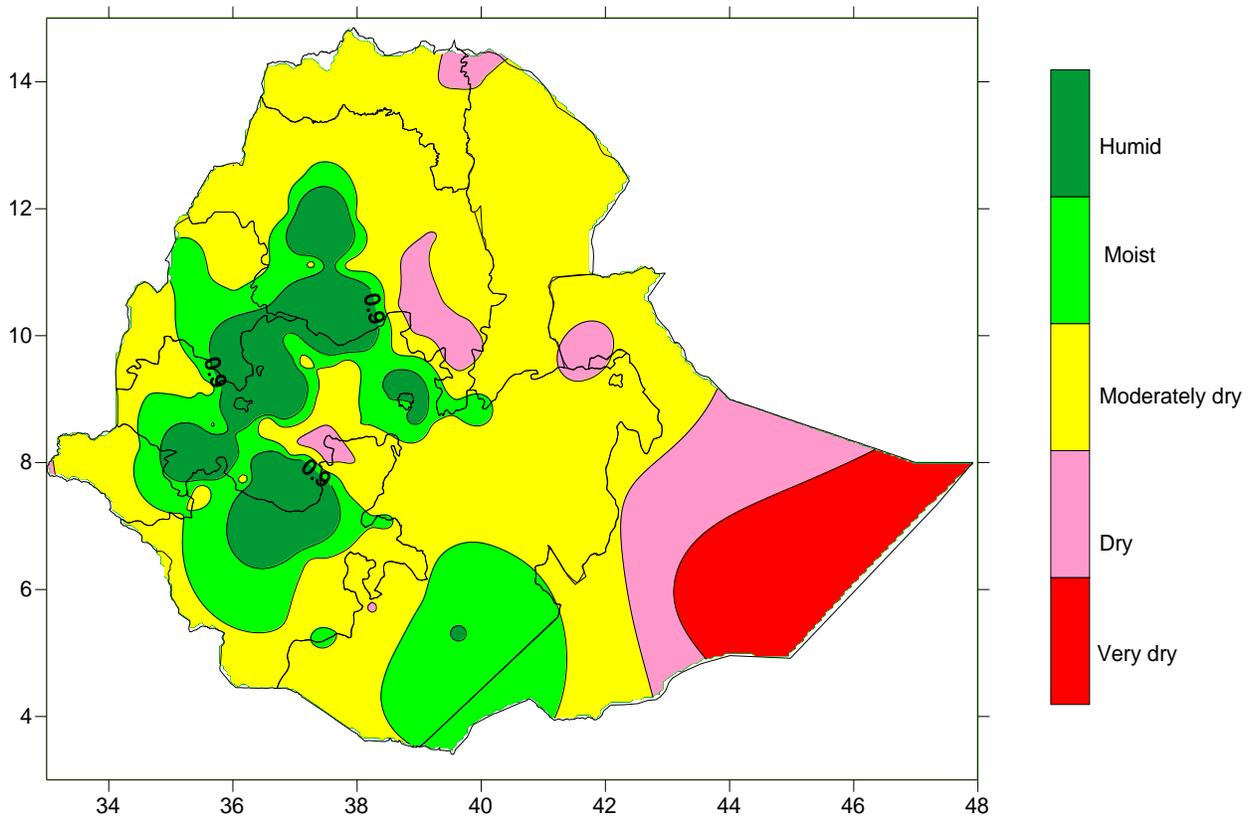


Fig.3 Moisture Status for (1-10 July 2014

As moisture status map above indicated, moist to humid moisture condition experienced over much of southwestern Amhara, Benshagul- Gumuz, southwestern, southeastern and central Oromia, southern Somalia, SNNPR and eastern Gambella, while much of Afar, Tigray, Amhara, Bensahgul –Gumuz, Gambella, central, eastern and southern Oromia, and northern and southern Somalia exhibited moderately dry moisture condition. The rest parts of the country exhibited dry to very dry moisture statuses.

2.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

In the coming second ten days of July 2014, due to gradual strengthen of Kiremt rain bearing meteorological phenomenon from day to day and get in to its normal position, most of kiremt rain benefitting of Tigray, much Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz ,Gambella western and central Oromia, northern SNNPR will expect to receive normal to above normal with expectation of heavy falls over some areas. In addition to this, southern SNNPR, Afar, eastern and southern Oromia, Harari, DireDawa and northern Somali will expect to exhibit near normal rainfall. The situation will expect to favor ongoing seasonal agricultural activities like sowing of short cycle meher crops particularly Teff which need saturated soil moisture condition, fulfill water requirement of long cycle meher crops, perennial plants, improve pasture and drinking water availability in postural agro pastoral areas of the country. Besides, heavy fall will expect over some place may have cause flash flood that result in soil erosion, water logging over plain farm land and damage to the crops in the farm field. In order to reduce excessive moisture effect farmers advised row planting, furrow and channel making, terracing and plant excess moisture tolerant crops in areas prone water logging. In general farmer are advised to sow or plant their crops as soon as possible to reduce moisture stress may will occur during critical stage of growth at end of the season. In some cases, limited early plant of some crops may give chance of double cropping where temperature is favorable to do so.