

SUMMARY

During the first dekad of July 2010, better kiremt rain bearing meteorological phenomenon was observed over western and central parts of the country. As a result, Benshangul-Gumuz, western and central Oromia, western Amhara, and Gambela exhibited extended rainfall with heavy rain in some places. The situation might have favored Meher agricultural activities, land preparation and sowing of various Meher crops. Moreover, Tigray, eastern Amhara, southern Afar, highlands of southern Oromia, Dira dawa, Harari, northern Somali and northern SNNPR received rainfall. The situation might have favored Meher agricultural activities, perennial plants, and pasture and availability drinking water over pastoral and agro-pastoral areas.

During the second dekad of July 2010, meher rain benefiting areas were exhibited better rain covered much of these areas. During the dekad under consideration, better rainfall performance was observed in eastern parts of SNNPR, eastern Amhara, eastern Oromia and northern parts of Somali where rainfall was deficit during the previous period. Moreover, south western, central, northern, northeastern parts of the country received better rainfall. The situation favored on going meher agricultural activities. On the other hand, heavy falls exhibited in some areas might have negative impact on meher agricultural activities particularly in areas of soil with poor drainage. In general central, south western and north eastern parts of the country received better rainfall amount and distribution compared to the rest parts of the country. Contrary to these, western and north western parts of the country which previously known by much amount of rainfall were experienced rainfall amount below normal which might have a certain negative impact on timely sowing of meher crops.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 11-20 JULY 2010

1.1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig.1)

Pocket area of central Oromia received 200-300 mm of rainfall. Parts of Central and western Oromia, southern and eastern Amhara, eastern Tigray and southern Benshangul-Gumuz experienced 100-200 mm rainfall. Much of Tigray, Amhara and Benshangul-Gumuz and parts of central, eastern and western Oromia, northern SNNPR and northern Gambela exhibited 50-100 mm of rainfall. Much of Gambela and SNNPR, parts of central and eastern Oromia and southern Afar and pocket area of northern Tigray received 25-50 mm of rainfall. Parts of western Afar, northern Somali, southern Oromia and southeastern SNNPR were experienced 5-25 mm of rainfall. The rest parts of the country exhibited little or no rainfall.

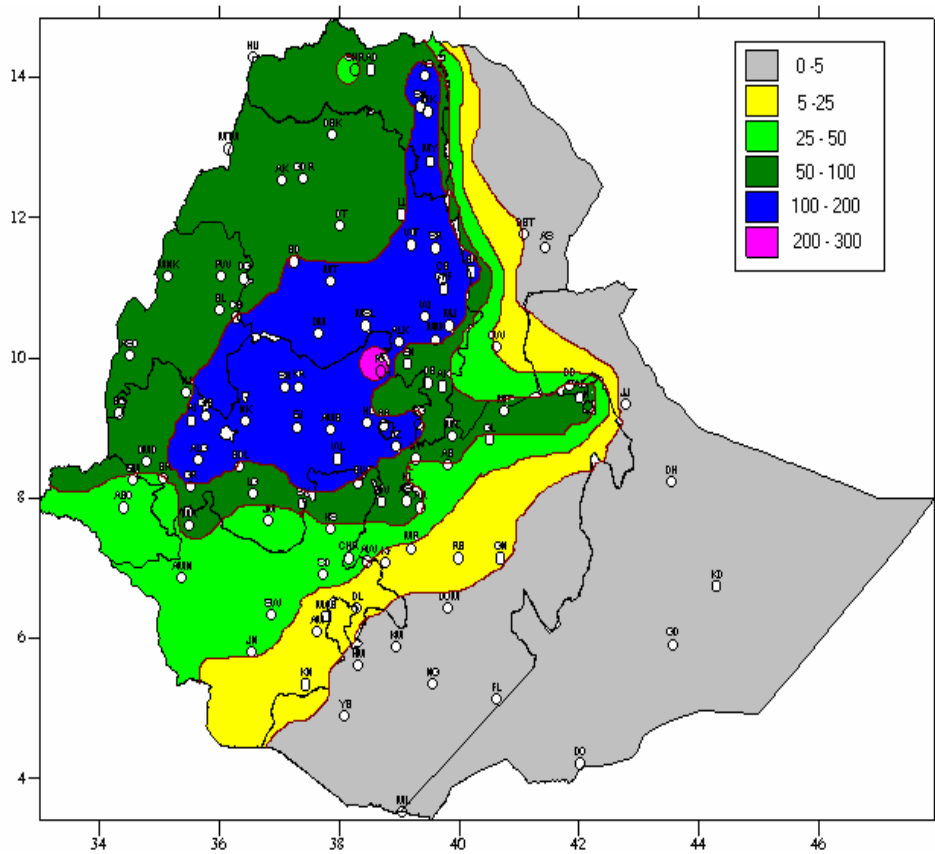


Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (11-20 July, 2010)

1.1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Much of Benshangul-Gumuz, Oromia, Amhara and Tigray, part of southern Afar and pocket area of southern SNNPR experienced normal to above normal rainfall. The rest parts of the country exhibited much below normal to below normal rainfall.

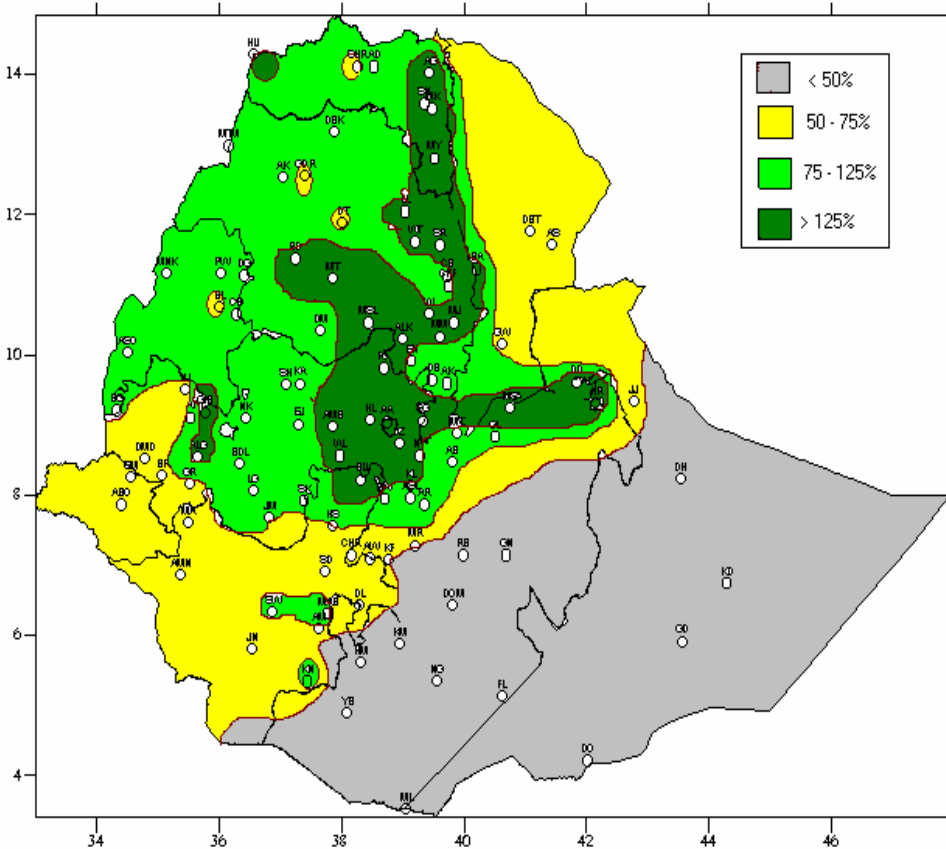


Fig2. Percent of normal rainfall distribution (11-20 July, 2010)

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 found in eastern, northeastern, central, northern and western lowlands of the country reported extreme maximum temperature greater than 35°C, for 3 to 10 days of the dekad. To mention some of these stations ; Gewane, Semera, Ellidar, Awash Arba, Mille, Error, Methahara, DireDawa, Shoa Robit, Hum era, Gode, and Gambela recorded 46.0, 43.2, 42.1, 42.0, 41.9, 37.0, 37.0, 36.2, 36.2, 36.0, 35.6, 35.5 °C respectively. The situation might have a negative impact on the normal growth and development of plants as it increases moisture loss through evapo transpiration livestock and their products due heat stress prevailed. On the other hand only Koffelie station reported minimum extreme temperature less than 5 °C for 5 days.

2. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

Meher rain benefiting areas were exhibited better rain covered much of these areas. During the dekad under consideration, better rainfall performance was observed in eastern parts of SNNPR, eastern Amhara, eastern Oromia and northern parts of Somali where rainfall was deficit during the previous period. Moreover, south western, central, northern, northeastern parts of the country received better rainfall. The situation favored on going meher agricultural activities. On the other hand, heavy falls exhibited in some areas might have negative impact on meher agricultural activities particularly in areas of soil with poor drainage. In general central, south western and north eastern parts of the country received better rainfall amount and distribution compared to the rest parts of the country. Contrary to these, western and north western parts of the country which previously known by much amount of rainfall were experienced rainfall amount below normal which might have a certain negative impact on timely sowing of meher crops.

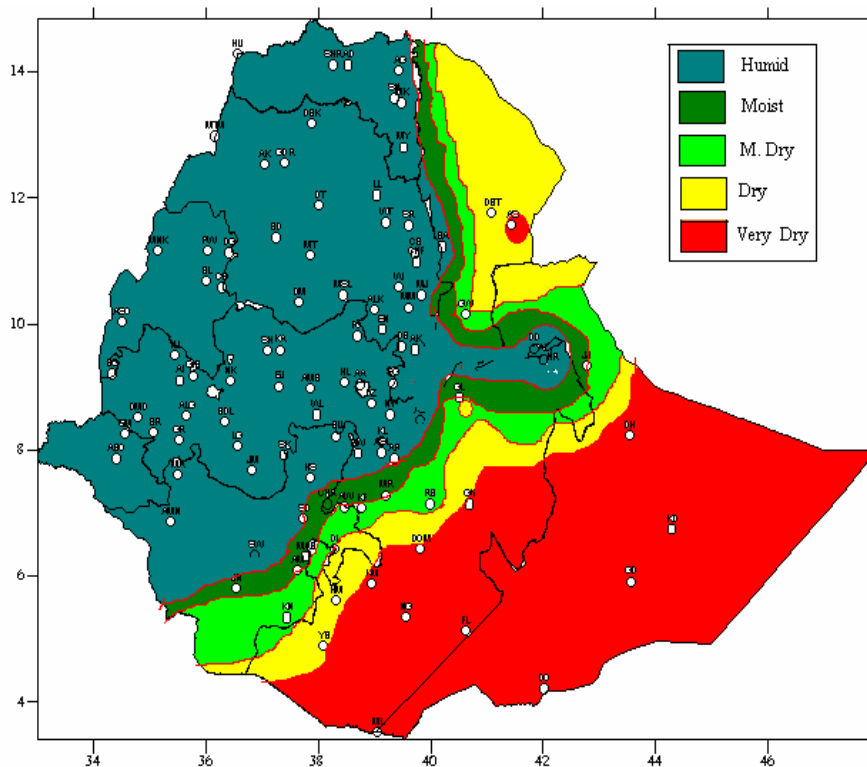


Fig.3 Moisture Status for (11-20 July, 2010)

As indicated on moisture map above, Most of western and eastern parts of the country experienced moist to humid moisture condition. Pocket area of northeastern, southern portions of Afar, northern parts of Somalia and parts of southern Oromia exhibited moderately dry condition. The situation might have favored Kiremt agricultural activities as well as availability of drinking water and pasture while, the rest parts of the country prevailed dry to very dry moisture condition.

2.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

In the coming dekad, as forecasted meteorological phenomenon indicated much of Amhara, Tigray, western and central Oromia, Benishangul Gumuz and northern parts of SNNPR will expected to receive normal to above normal rainfall, while north eastern ,eastern , southern high lands ,Afar, north Somali, eastern Oromia ,Dire Dawa,Harari and eastern parts of SNNPR will expected to receive near normal rainfall. These situations will expect to have positive impact on meher agricultural activities. Contrary to these, some parts the above mentioned areas will expect to have below normal rainfall that might have certain negative impact on meher agricultural activities. On the other hand heavy fall with time interval will expect over some pocket areas of central, northern, south western and eastern Ethiopia This situation may cause problems of soil erosion particularly over sloppy areas and water logging over plain clay soil areas which are unfavorable for agricultural activities. We advice control measures should be taken by the concerned body.

Table1. Crop Phenological Report for the Second Dekad of September 2010

Station name	Region	Zone	Woreda	Three major crops grown in the area			Phases of crops		
				First crop	Second crop	Third crop	1	2	3
Bedele	Oromiya	Illubabour		Maize	X	X	NL	X	X
Ziway	Oromiya	E. Shoa		Maize	x	X	NL	x	x
Fitch	Oromiya	N. Shoa		Teff	Barely	Beans	S	Fl	Em
Majete	Amhara	N. Shoa		Teff	x	x	S	x	x
Kulumsa	Oromiya	Arsi		Wheat	x	x	S	x	x
Shambu	Oromiya	Horo. Wollega		Beans	x	x	Em	x	x
M. Meda	Amhara	N. Shoa		X	X	Beans	x	x	S
Gelemso	Oromiya	W.Hararghe		Maize	x	x	Fl	x	x
Woliso	Oromiya	SW. Shoa		Maize	Nug	x	Ta	Bu	x
Sh. Gebeya	Amhara	N. Shoa		Wheat	Beans	x	S	S	X

Key

P/S= plant/ sow	BS= Beary Soft	FR= Full Ripeness	GR= Green Ripeness
Em= Emerge	BH= Beary Hard	R= Ripeness	El =Elongation
TL=Third Leaf	FI =flower	H= Harvest	CR=Consumer Ripeness
FL = Fifth Leaf	PH= Pin Heading	Ti= Tiller	Ta= Tassel
SL = Seventh Leaf	He= Heading	YGR= Yellow Green Ripeness	NL = Ninths Leaf
YR= Yellow Ripe	Bu= Budding	x = Data not available	