

SUMMARY

During the third decade of September semidry moisture condition has persisted in most part of northeastern part of the country and this moisture condition caused shortage of water for late sowed and flowering stage crops to fulfill water requirement satisfaction. Moreover area which does not have additional water resource and with soil that has less water holding capacity faced more shortage of moisture. Additionally this semidry moisture condition has negative impact on agro-pastoral and pastoral areas of northern and northeastern part of the country in getting drinking water and green plants.

However the continued moisture condition in northwestern and western part of the country has positive impact for late growing crops and perennial plants. While it has negative impact on matured crops and post harvesting stage short and long cycle crops. In the same way the observed and analyzed meteorological data indicate that, highly dry moisture condition prevailed for past few months over southern Oromia and southeastern agro-pastoral and pastoral was improved. This moisture condition improved the drought condition over the area and availability of drinking water and rangeland.

During 1st decade of October rainfall indicators over north and north eastern parts of the country and over center of the country decrease from day to day. Over some parts of the country due to cloud coverage for some days gained rainfall but in most parts of the country dominated dry spell. Beside to this situation western and Bega second rainy season areas like south and south eastern parts of the country have a good rainfall amount and performance. Within 24 hours there was heavy rain fall over Arjo 36.4mm, Ayikel 30.1mm, Bore 30.0mm, and Dilla 34.7mm observed.

Generally the first dekad of October poor moisture condition has persisted in most part of Meher crop growing areas and has gradually extended to the second rain benefiting areas of the south and southeast part of the country.

In most cases, such amount of received rain water might positive impact both long cycle crops which were planted at earlier time and short cycle Meher crops, such as Cereal, Pelsus, and Oil crops, and favor were planted or re-planted lately and now found at different growing stages. In addition, the southward advancement of the weather system might be positive particularly for the second rain benefiting areas for the overall Bega season agricultural activities, like for land

preparation, collecting and storing of water, planting crops and seedling etc. Moreover, the received normal to above normal amount of moisture in the pastoral and agro pastoral areas might play significant role in improving pasture and drinking water.

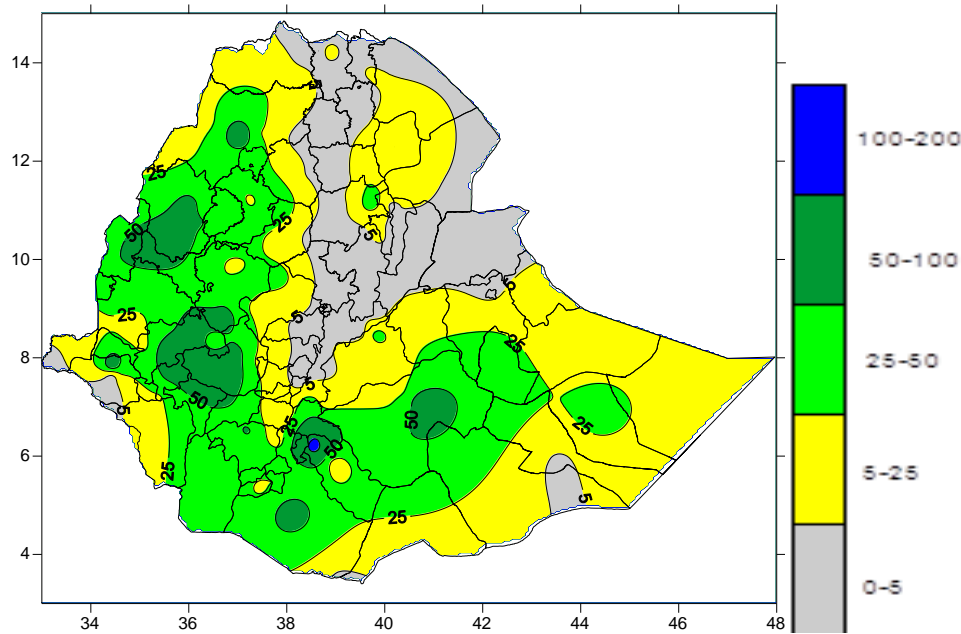


Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (1 – 10 October 2017)

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1. Rainfall amount (Fig.1)

Some Pocket area of Gedeo has received more than 100 mm of rainfall. Pocket area of north Gonder, Metekel, Asossa, tip of Kemashe, Illuababora, Sheka, Jimma, Gambela zone 2, Gedeo, Sidama, Borena and Bale and pocket area Keffa have exhibited 50-100 mm of rainfall. north Gonder, Bahirdar, west Gojam, Agew(Awi) , east and west Wollega, Tongo, north Shewa, Gambela zone1, Dawuro, Basketo, south Ommo, Derashe, Konso, Amaro, Bale, fik, Korahe, Oromia special Zone and Gammo goffa have exhibited 25-50 mm of rainfall. West Tigray, south Gonder, pocket area of east Tigray Afar zone 1,2,4, east Gojama, west Shewa, south west Shewa, Guraghe, Alaba, Hadya, Wolayta, Arsi, west and east Hararghe, Jijiga, Degahabour, Gode, Warder, Afder, Liben, West of gambela zone 2&3 Benchimagi and Godere have exhibited 5-25 mm of rainfall. East Tigray, central Tigray, Mekele south Tigray, Waghmra, SOUTH AND NORTH Wollo, tip of Afar zone 3&4, Shinle, and Harar have exhibited 0-5 mm of rainfall.

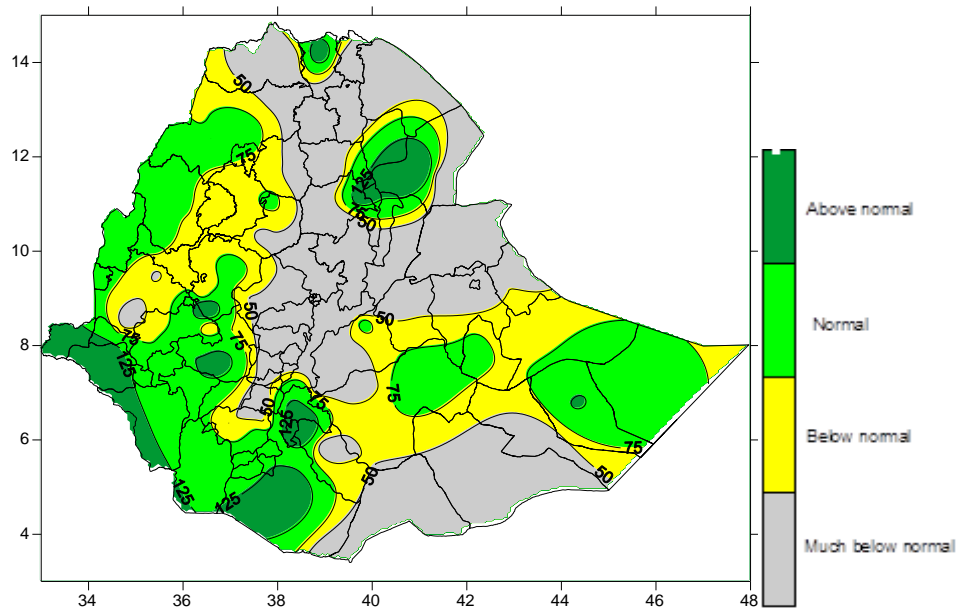


Fig. 2 Percent of normal rainfall distribution (1 – 10 October 2017)

Explanatory notes for the Legend

< 50-Much below normal

50-75%-Below normal

75-125%- Normal

> 125% - Above normal

1.1.2 Rainfall Anomaly (Fig. 2)

Most parts of the country exhibited normal to above normal rainfall over Pocket area of east Tigray, north Gonder, Metekel, Asosa, Tongo, Illubabore, Jimma, Gambela 1,2,3, Sheka, Gode, Keffa, Dawro, Bench maji, Basketo, south Omo, Dirashe, Konso, Amaro, Borena, Sidama, some part of Fik, Korahe, Warder, some pocket area of Bale, Degehabur, Oromiya special zone, and Afar zone 1, 4. The rest part of the country have received from much below normal to below normal rainfall

1.3. TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

Some stations recorded extreme maximum temperature greater than 35 °C 1 to 4 days. Among reporting stations: Gode, Methara, Abobo, Awash Arba, Aysha, Chifra, Dalifagi, Dubti, Elidar, Fiq, Fugnudo, Gewane, Mile, Gembela, Kebridehar, Lare, Metema, Quara, Sawula, Semera and Shiraro recorded. The situation might have caused a negative impact on the normal growth and development of plants and water and pasture for livestock.

2. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

2.1. VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

The collected and analyzed agro meteorological information indicated that during the first dekad of October good moisture condition has persisted in most part of Meher crop growing areas except eastern amhara and Tigray region and has gradually extended to the second rain benefiting areas of the south and southeast part of the country. In line with this, Within 24 hours there was heavy rain fall over Arjo 36.4mm, Ayikel 30.1mm, Bore 30.0mm, and Dilla 34.7mm was observed.

In most cases, such amount of received rain water might positive impact both long cycle crops which were planted at earlier time and short cycle Meher crops, such as Cereal, Pulses, and Oil crops, and favor were planted or re-planted lately and now found at different growing stages. In addition, the southward advancement of the weather system might be positive particularly for the second rain benefiting areas for the overall Bega season agricultural activities, like for land preparation, collecting and storing of water, planting crops and seedling etc. Moreover, the received normal to above normal amount of moisture in the pastoral and agro pastoral areas might play significant role in improving pasture and drinking water.

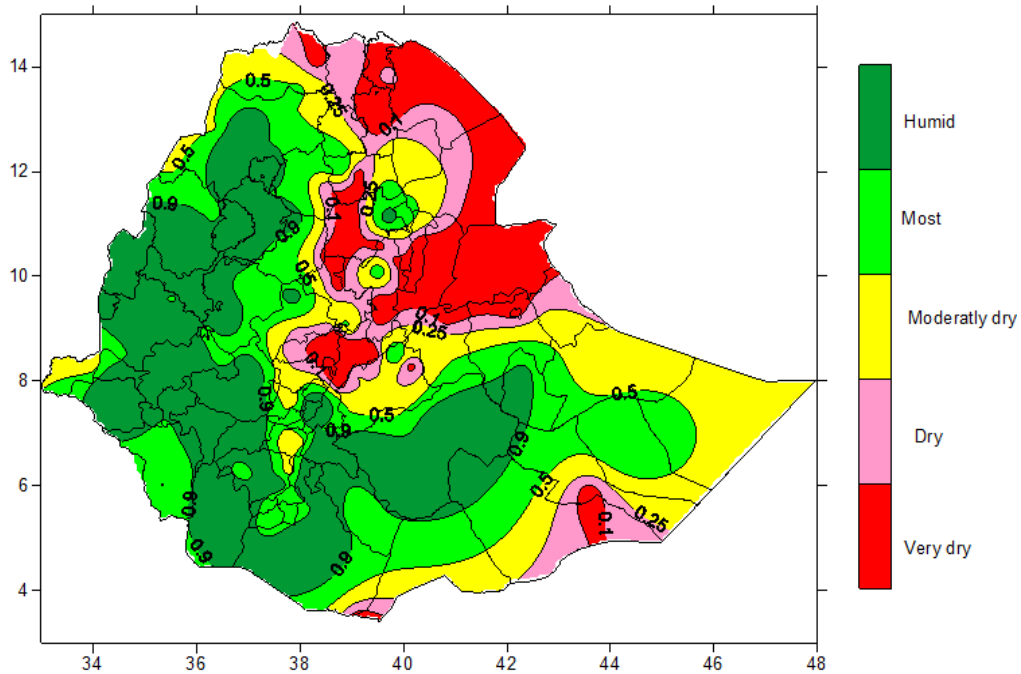


Fig.3 Moisture Status for (1-10 October, 2017)

As moisture status map above during the First dekad of October 2017 indicated that (see Fig 3). Except most parts of Afar, Eastern parts of Tigray, eastern parts of amhara, northern tip and pockets of Somali, pocket area of Oromia exhibited moderately moist to humid moisture condition. This condition favors the ongoing Meher agricultural activities and improves pasture and drinking water availability in postural and agro pastoral areas of the country as well.

2.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DECKED

In normal conditions, during the second dekad of October moisture is gradually withdrawn from the northern and northeastern part of the country. Early planting long and short cycle crops mostly reaches at grain filling and maturity stages and even in some Meher crop growing places harvest and post harvest activities may conduct. On the other hand, it is the time for second rain benefiting areas to start agricultural activities, such as land preparation, sowing and seedling.

Given the ten day forecast for the second dekad of October 2017, the moisture condition is likely to prevail mostly over the western half and to the southern and southeastern part of the country. These conditions are favorable to satisfy crops water need particularly those which are found at early and vegetative stages as well as for perennial plants. Moreover, it has a significant implication for the supply of drinking water and pasture over pastoral and agro pastoral areas. Conversely, frost is likely to happen particularly at matured crop fields, thus it should be noted that the coming situation may be unfavorable for crops at maturity stage and for those under harvest and post harvest activities. So farmers are advised to give priority to harvest matured corps as soon as possible. In addition, in relation to convective cloud formation there may be a possibility of unseasonal fall with cool temperature and it may cause some damage on different crops, vegetables, fruits and other perennial plants. Thus, in order to minimize the level of the possible damage, farmers are advised to remove hailstones from croplands as much as possible.