

NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AGENCY
TEN-DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN
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During the first dekad of Nov 2017, it was observed that the Bega season dry and windy conditions have prevailed in most part of the country. Such a condition might be taken as positive for harvest and post harvest activities particularly for areas where crops were fully matured, while it could be negative for crops which are found at developmental, vegetative and flowering stages and for perennial plants due to scarcity of water for further crops development. Moreover the situation could have negative impact on the availability of pasture and drinking water for pastoral and agro pastoral areas. On the other hand, moderately dry to humid moisture condition was observed over some of the western part of the country. Though, this condition could cause some damage on matured crops and hinder harvest and post harvest processes, it might have positive for perennial plants and crops which were not fully matured and found in different developmental stages. Similarly, good moisture distribution was observed over most of Bega season rain benefiting areas of the south and southeast parts of the country and it was believed that the received rainfall could improve soil moisture and as a result it enhance healthy crop development. Furthermore, the received moisture might have great significance for the improvement of pasture and drinking water particularly for Bega season rain beneficiaries of pastoral and agro pastorals.

Similarly, during the second dekad of November 2017, the Bega dry moisture status, coupled with sunny and windy weather condition, was prevailed over most part of the country. In addition, night and morning time cool and chilly weather condition was also observed over some high land areas as one of significant weather phenomena during the dekad under review. Such weather condition could be taken as favorable to conduct harvest and post harvest activities of fully matured Meher crops, while it could be negative for perennial plants and crops not yet fully matured and currently found at different growing stage. Furthermore, the prevailing dry and windy weather condition might put some pressure on the provision of pasture and drinking water for pastoral and agro pastoral areas.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1. RAINFALL AMOUNT AND DISTRIBUTION

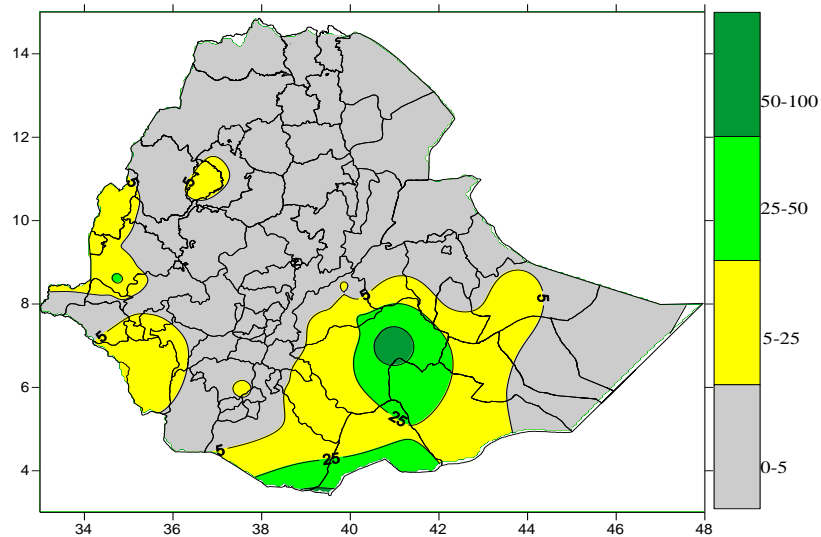


Fig 1: Rainfall distribution in mm (11-21 Nov 2017)

During the dekad under review, good rainfall distribution was more concentrated in some pocket areas to the southeast part of the country. In line with this, few places in Bale and Afder zones received rainfall in the range of 50 to 100mm. Similarly, some part of Bale, Afder, Liben, Borena, and tip of Arsi received rainfall in the range of 25 to 50mm. The rest parts of the country experienced 0-25mm of rainfall.

1.2. RAINFALL ANOMALIEIES

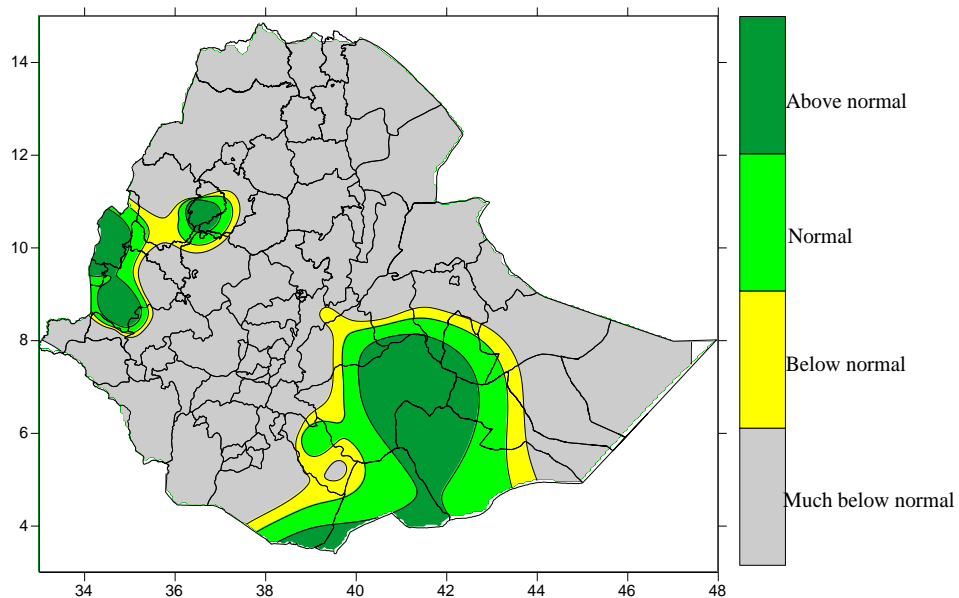


Figure 2: Percent of normal rainfall distribution (11-21 Nov, 2017)

Explanatory notes for the legend:

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

Most places in Agew Awi, Asossa, Tongo sp Woreda, West Wellega, Bale, Afder, Liben, Gode, Fik, and in some places of Arsi, Guji, Borena, and Degehabur have experienced normal to above normal rainfall. The rest parts of the country have exhibited below to much below normal rainfall.

1.3. MOISTURE CONDITION

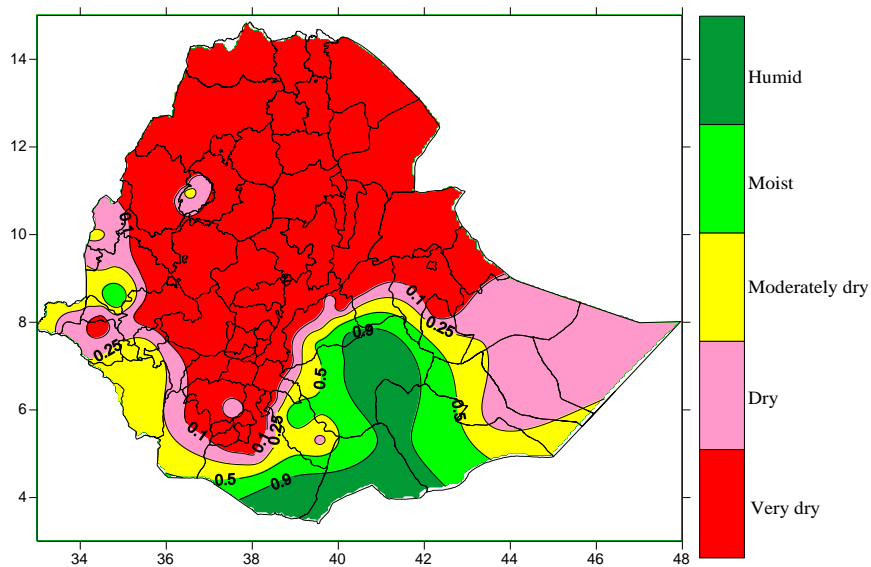


Figure 3; Moisture Status for the first dekad of Nov 2017

Most part of Bale, Borena, Liben, Afder, Gode and tip of Arsi, west and east Hararge, Guji, and west Wellega have experienced moist to humid moisture condition. Similarly, most places of Agew Awi, Asossa, Tongo, west Wellega, all zones of Gambela, Godere, Sheka, Bench Maji, South Omo, Degehabur, Korahe, and Warder have exhibited dry to moderately dry moisture condition. The rest parts of the country have exhibited very dry moisture condition.

2.1. EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

Based on the given ten day weather forecast, in the coming third dekad of Nov 2017, the Bega season dry, sunny and windy weather condition is expected to be prevailed in most part of the country. Such a condition is believed to be positive for harvest and post harvest activities particularly for areas where crops are fully matured. Thus, farmers are advised to utilize this opportunity to harvest fully matured crops. In relation to the expected dry condition, some high land areas of the country likely to experience night and morning time cold condition. Such a situation may affect the rate of crop development and as a result it likely to cause poor crop performance. Therefore, farmers and growers are advised to take cultural or innovative measures to maintain and ensure the crop environment to be continued in warm state.

On the other hand, the forecast indicated that the rain bearing weather systems is likely to be weakened for the next ten days particularly over the Bega season rain benefiting areas of the country. So, agro pastoralist and pastoralist are advised to utilize the available rain water as effectively as possible. In addition, some pocket areas to the northeastern part of the country are likely to get light rain within the dekad under review. Though, this condition could be positive for improving pasture and drinking water in the pastoral and agro pastoral areas, it may also hamper harvest and post harvest activities. Therefore, farmers are advised in advance to use the dry days to collect fully matured crops as much as possible.