11-20 January 2018 Vol.33 No. 15 Date of issue 22 Feb , 2018

SUMMARY

During the first dekad of February 2018 dry and sunny weather condition dominated over most parts of the country. This condition was favorable for those areas that do not finished harvest and post-harvest activities of late sawed crops. On other hand Arsi, Bale, Kafa and some parts of Gurage zones got small amount of rainfall. This rainy and moist condition at above mentioned areas was favorable for land preparation for Belg growing area and for availabilities pastor and drinking water in pastoral and agro-pastoral areas.

In normal condition the second dekad of February the Belg season moist condition starts to strengthen in most of Belg growing areas. Hence it is the time when land preparation activities for Belg agriculture are stats. According to the information collected from different meteorological stations, during the second dekad of February dry, sunny and hot weather condition has observed across much parts of the country particularly at the earliest time of the dekad. However, after the mid of the dekad the moisture condition was improving over most parts of Belg rain benefiting areas. In line with this, the western and central Oromia, half of SNNPR, Amhara, some places of south Tigray, south part of Afar and eastern part of the country had been experiencing slight to heavy amount of rainfall.

This condition could be taken as crucial toward the enhancement of soil moisture and creating conductive condition for land preparation, sowing of crops, germination and development of early planted varieties, and the fulfillment of perennial plant's water need. In addition, it was also positive for the regeneration of pasture and the availability of drinking water for the pastoral and agro pastoral community.

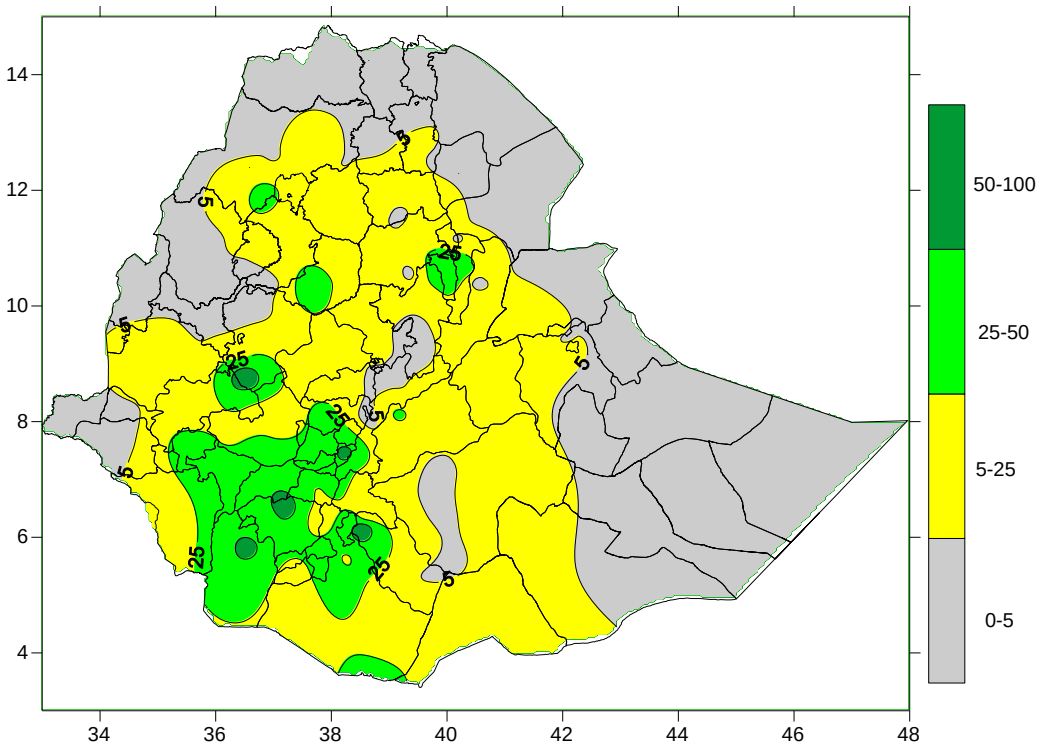

Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (11 – 20 February 2018)

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1. Rainfall amount (Fig.1)

Some areas of south Omo, Alaba, Gamogofa and Gedeo have received 50 – 100 mm of rainfall. Pocket area of Afar zone 1, east Gojam, Illubabur, Sheka, Keffa, Dawuro, Selti, Wolayita, Hadiya, Basketo, south Omo and Burji exhibited 25-50 mm of rainfall. Some part of Mekele, south Tigray, north & south Wollo, south & north Gonder, Bahirdar, west Gojam, Agew(Awi), Kamashi, west Wellega, north Shewa, west Shewa, south west Shewa, Jimma, Gedeo, Derashi, , Borena, Harer, Arsi, Afar zone 3, 4 & 5, Oromia special zone, west & east Harergie, Liben, Bench Maji and Godere exhibited 5-25 mm of rainfall. The rest part of the country are nor rainfall.

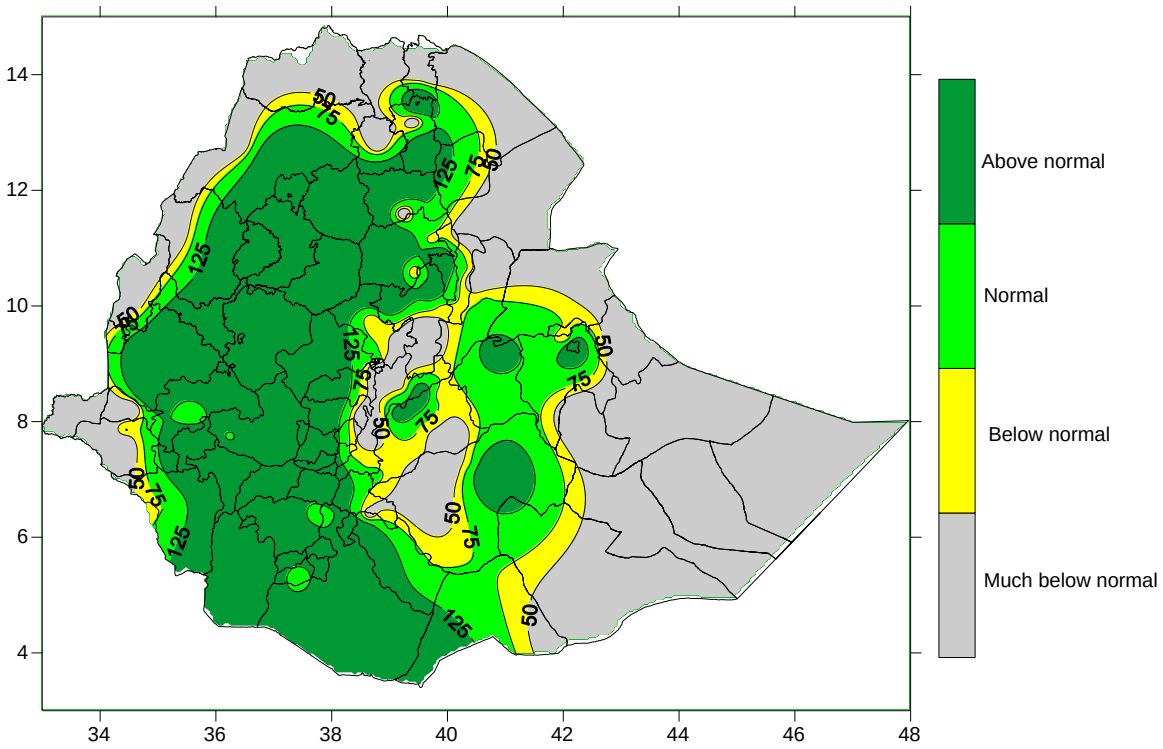

Fig. 2 Percent of normal rainfall distribution (11 – 20 February 2018)

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)

The area of the country exhibited normal to above normal rainfall over Mekele, south Tigray, north & south Wollo, south & north Gonder, Bahirdar, west Gojam, Agew(Awi), east Gojam, Kamashi, west Wellega, Illubabur, north Shewa, west Shewa, south west Shewa, Jimma, Sheka, Keffa, Dawuro, Hadiya, Wolayita, Basketo, Gedeo, south Omo, Derashi, Burji, Borena, Harer, Arsi, Afar zone 3, 4 & 5, Oromia special zone, west & east Harergie, Liben, Bench Maji and Godere . The rest part of the country has received from much below normal to below normal rainfall

2. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

2.1. VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

During the second dekad of February dry, sunny and hot weather condition has observed across much parts of the country particularly at the earliest time of the dekad. However, after the mid of the dekad the moisture condition was improving over most parts of Belg rain benefiting areas. In line with this, the western and central Oromia, half of SNNPR, Amhara, some places of south Tigray, south part of Afar and eastern part of the country had been experiencing slight to heavy amount of rainfall. This condition could be taken as crucial toward the enhancement of soil moisture and creating conductive condition for land preparation, sowing of crops, germination and development of early planted varieties, and the fulfillment of perennial plant's water need. In addition, it was also positive for the regeneration of pasture and the availability of drinking water for the pastoral and agro pastoral community.

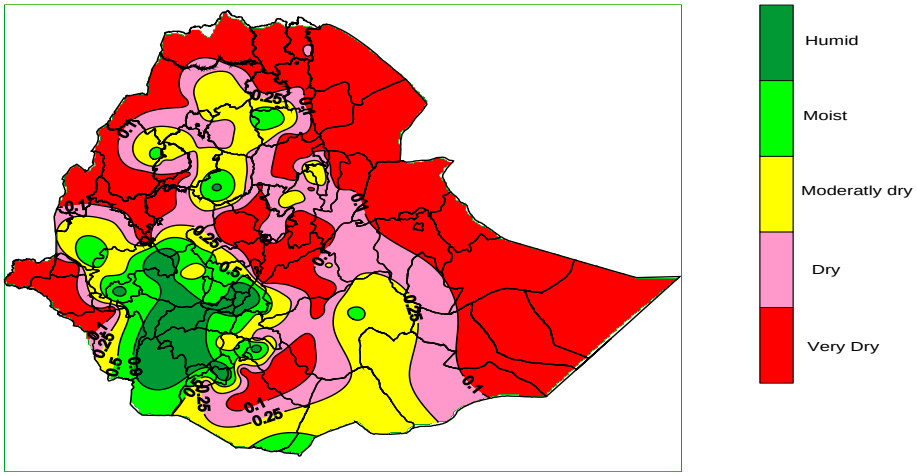

Fig.3 Moisture Status for (11-20 February, 2018)

As moisture status map above during the second dekad of February 2018 indicated that (see Fig 3). Mekele, south Tigray, north & south Wollo, south & north Gonder, Bahirdar, west Gojam, Agew(Awi), east Gojam, Kamashi, west Wellega, Illubabur, north Shewa, west Shewa, south west Shewa, Jimma, Sheka, Keffa, Dawuro, Hadiya, Wolayita, Basketo, Gedeo, south Omo, Derashi, Burji, Borena, Harer, Arsi, Afar zone 3, 4 & 5, Oromia special zone, west & east Harergie, Liben, Bench Maji and Godere country received Humid to Moist moisture condition.

This condition favors Belg sowing and land preparation agricultural activities. The rest part of the country moderately dry to very dry moisture condition this situation are negative impact on Belg sowing agricultural activity and pasture and drinking water availability in postural and agro pastoral areas of the country as well.

EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

In normal condition, during the last dekad of February most part of Belg growing areas starts to receive the seasonal rainfall and in relation to this most farmers are involved in land preparation and sowing of belg season growing crops.

The weather forecast given for the last dekad of February indicated that most Belg rain benefiting areas are likely to receive various amount of rainfall and this in turn expected to favor all of the aforementioned region and zones in the forecast section. This condition is expected to be positive for land preparation, sowing of belg season crops and seedling of trees. In addition, pastoral and agro pastoral communities can be benefited from the anticipated rain and it may play a significant role for ensuring the availability of fodders for animal feed and drinking water. Likewise, it may also open an opportunity to store water and to perform soil and water conservation practices on the areas where it can be achieved. In this regard farmers are advised to make them ready to use the opportunity by utilizing the available moisture in most efficient and effective manner.