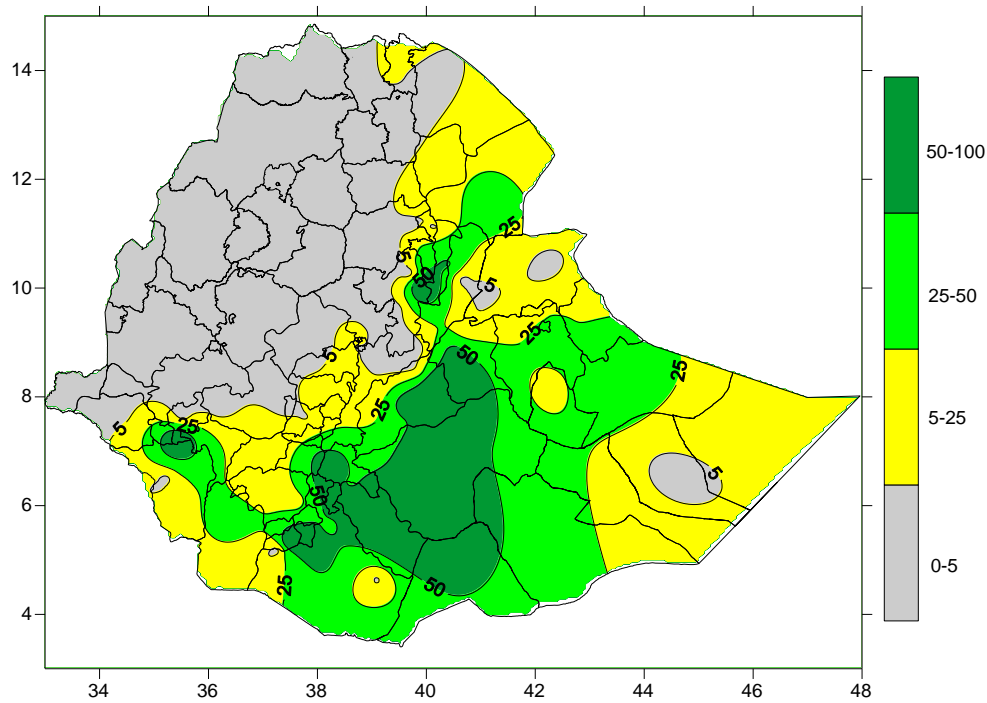


## SUMMARY

During the third dekad of February 2018, Normally Belg season started after mid February in most parts of Belg growing area of the country. In the current year the rain bearing meteorological phenomenon gradually strengthened from day to day over most part of belg growing areas. In line with this, over north Wello, Jimma, north Shewa, Borena, Addis Ababa, Iluababora, East shewa, Arsi, Bale south Wello, east Gojam, south and east Tigray, Pepole of Segen and Jigjiga, have received in various distribution and amount of rainfall. The situation was positive implication where Belg season land preparation and sowing activates started earlier, the water need of perennial plants and supply of drinking water and pasture over pastoral and agro pastoral areas.

During the first dekad of March 2018, particularly in the first five days of the dekad rain bring meteorological features strengthen and there was wide spread rainfall over most parts of Belg growing areas of the country and received slight to heavy rainfall. Thus, this condition could favor the water requirement of early sown crops which found at emergence stage and late started Belg land preparation and sowing activities areas of the country. Moreover it benefited pastoral and agro-pastoral areas in fulfilling the drinking water and pastures. However during the second half of the dekad due to decreasing moisture flow in the country most of Belg growing areas exhibited below normal rainfall. Hence the deficit moisture condition in the above mentioned Belg season benefiting areas has negatively affected for areas that already started Belg season agricultural activities and late started cropping activities of Belg season.

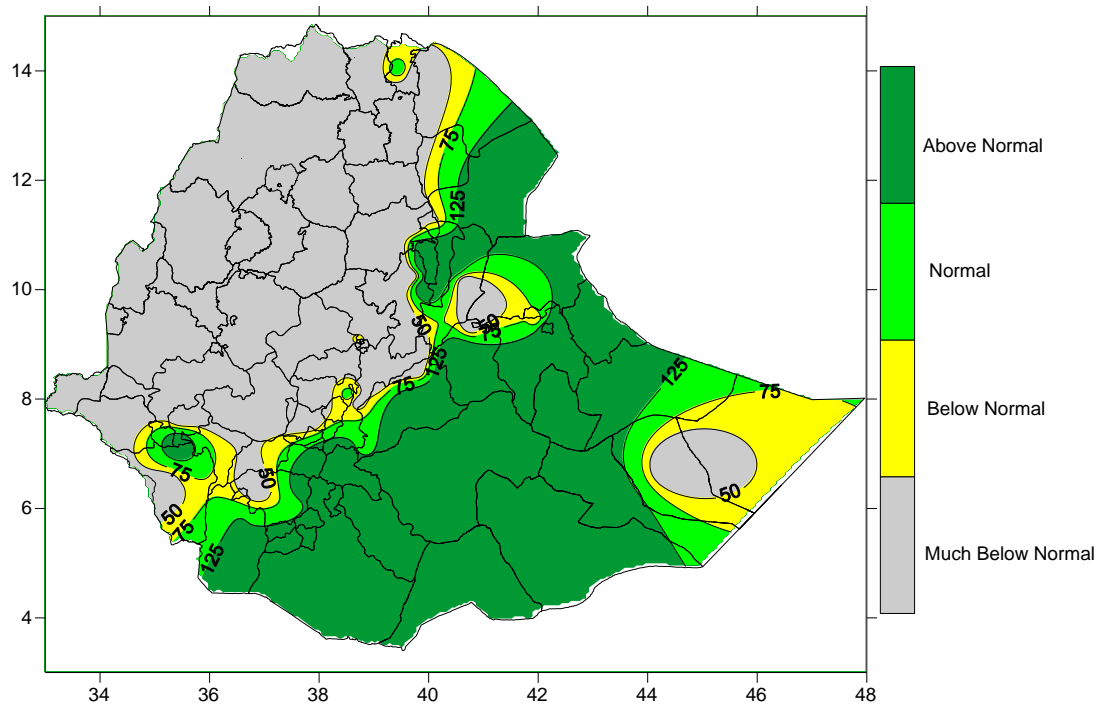


**Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (1 – 10 March 2018)**

**1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT**

**1.1. Rainfall amount (Fig.1)**

Some areas of Godere, Pocket area of Afar zone 5, Sidama, Gedeo, Bale, Guji, Burji, Amaro, Liben, pocket area of west Harergie and Arsi have received 50 – 100 mm of rainfall. Afar zone 1, west Harergie, Harer, east Harergie, Deghabur, Arsi, Hadiya, Wolayita, Derashi, south Omo, Godere, Borena and Afder exhibited 25-50 mm of rainfall. Some part of east Tigray, Afar zone 2, 3,&4, Oromia special zone, Shinille, Jijiga, Fik, Warder, Gode, Addis Ababa, south west Shewa, Gurage, Selti, Alaba, KT, Dawuro and Gamogofa exhibited 5-25 mm of rainfall. The rest part of the country are little or no rainfall.



**Fig. 2 Percent of normal rainfall distribution (1 – 10 March 2018)**

**Explanatory notes for the Legend**

**< 50-Much below normal**

**50-75%-Below normal**

**75-125%- Normal**

**> 125% - Above normal**

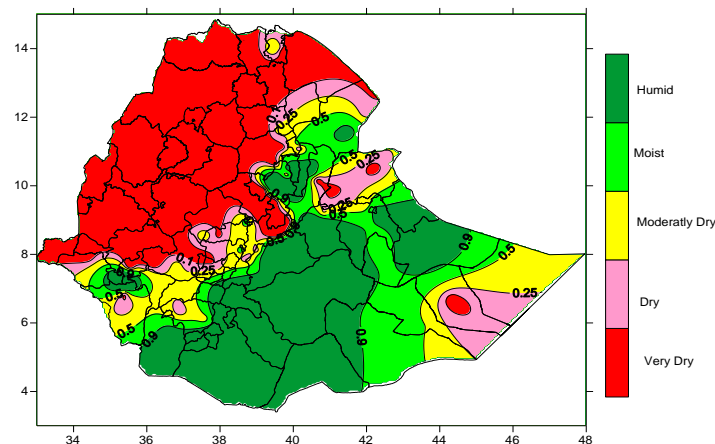
**1.1.2 Rainfall Anomaly (Fig. 2)**

The area of the country exhibited normal to above normal rainfall over Godere, Pocket area of Afar zone 5, Sidama, Gedeo, Bale, Guji, Burji, Amaro, Liben, pocket area of west Harergie , Arsi, Afar zone 1, west Harergie, Harer, east Harergie, Deghabur, Hadiya, Wolayita, Derashi, south Omo, Godere, Borena and Afder. 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 first dekad of March 2018, particularly in the first five days of the dekad rain bring meteorological features strengthen and there was wide spread rainfall over most parts of Belg growing areas of the country and received slight to heavy rainfall. Thus, this condition could favor the water requirement of early sown crops which found at emergence stage and late started Belg land preparation and sowing activities areas of the country. Moreover it benefited pastoral and agro-pastoral areas in fulfilling the drinking water and pastures. However during the second half of the dekad due to decreasing moisture flow in the country most of Belg growing areas exhibited below normal rainfall. Hence the deficit moisture condition in the above mentioned Belg season benefiting areas has negatively affected for areas that already started Belg season agricultural activities and late started cropping activities of Belg season.



**Fig.3 Moisture Status for (1-10 February, 2018)**

As moisture status map above during the first dekad of March 2018 indicated that (see Fig 3). Godere, Pocket area of Afar zone 5, Sidama, Gedeo, Bale, Guji, Burji, Amaro, Liben, pocket area of west Harergie , Arsi, Afar zone 1, west Harergie, Harer, east Harergie, Deghabur, Hadiya, Wolayita, Derashi, south Omo, Godere, Borena and Afer 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, the second dekad of March is characterized by the progress of moisture in terms of amount and coverage when it compares with the previous few dekad. Most parts of Belg growing areas, particularly to the eastern and southern sections of the country, are expected to get an opportunity to receive better rainfall. It is also the time for various belg season crops to be planted, germinated and exhibited further development due to the improvement of soil moisture at the crop root zones. Beside, perennial plants which are grown in belg rain benefiting areas are getting good moisture during this time and hence, they are favored by the situations. The pastoral and agro pastoral community are also benefited from the condition in terms of getting fodder for animal feed and drinking water. However, the time is also characterized by some consecutive dry days particularly at the first half of the dekad.

Given the forecast for the dekad under review, dry and sunny weather is likely to prevail particularly for the earliest half of the dekad. This situation may intensify the water stress on those areas in combination with previously observed dry days and in turn it may have negative impact on the overall development of crops and on livestock well being and production. The expected dry moisture condition at the earliest time of the dekad in combination of high daily temperature may negatively affect both early and lately sowing crops, the available moisture in the soil and the perennial plants. Therefore, farmers are advised to take all the necessary measures so as to maintain the available soil moisture and efforts should be made to minimize the loss of water due to poor handling and management. Likewise the situation may also put further pressure toward the availability of fodder for animal feed and the accessibility of drinking water for the pastoral and agro pastoral community.

On the other hand, the weather forecast is also indicted that the moisture situation is expected to improve especially after the half of the dekad and in this regard it is hoped that the overall crops and livestock's condition is expected to be improved. The anticipated moisture enhancement over those areas is going to play a crucial role toward lessening the moisture stress and scarcity of pasture which occurred previously. In line with this, the aforementioned zones in the forecast section will be benefited from the coming weather condition particularly at the later part of the dekad. Thus, both farmers and pastoralist are advised to utilize the expected moisture in more effective and efficient manner.