

SUMMARY

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.

During March second dekad most of Belg rain season benefiting areas of the country experienced from slight to moderate rain. This moistly condition in the dekad has positive for the Belg season agricultural activities, crops with different growing stages and for land preparation for late sowing areas. In addition this moist condition also benefited the preliminary crops for fulfilling their water requirement satisfaction and availabilities of drinking water and pasture for the pastoral and agro-pastoral areas of the country. In line to this most of Amhara, northeastern Tigray, and East of Benishangul Gumuz and some parts of Southern Oromia adopted normal to above normal rainfall condition. This situation has advantage for ongoing normal Belg agricultural activities. On other hand some areas of the country including pocket area of Southern Ethiopia got moderately dry to very dry moisture condition. This condition negatively affects the normal agricultural activities mainly in belg growing areas of the country.

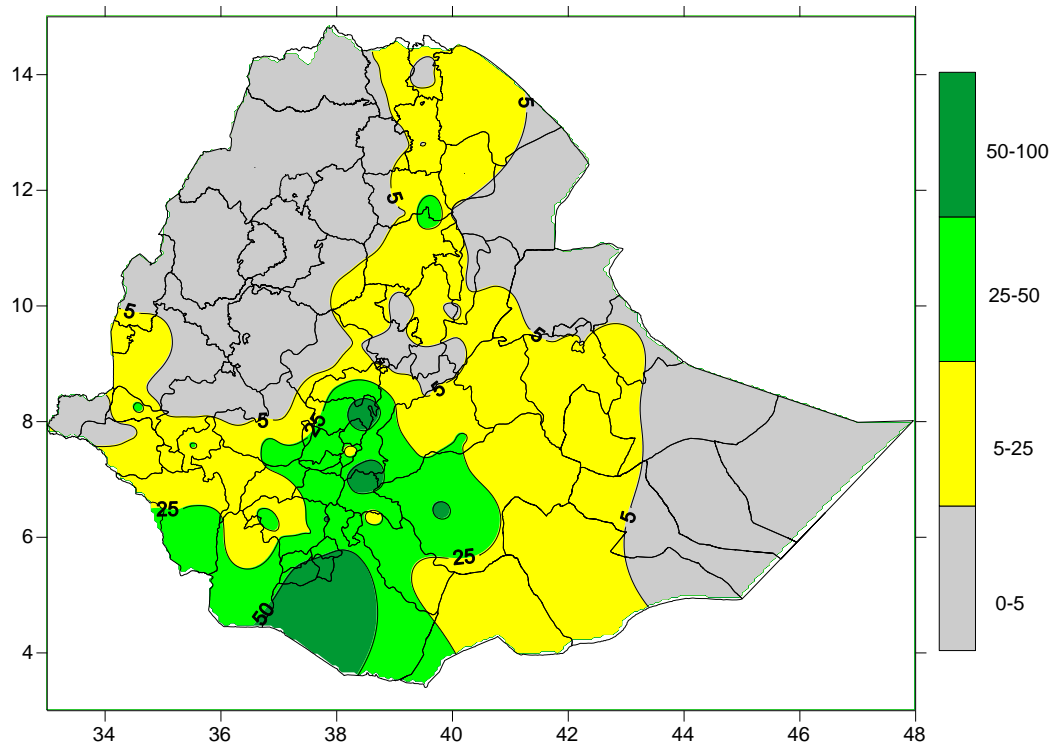


Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (11 – 20 March 2018)

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1. Rainfall amount (Fig.1)

Some areas of Konso south west, Amaro south west, Borena, have received 50 – 100 mm of rain fall. pocket area of north Wello, south west Shewa, Gurage, Selti, Alaba, Hadiya, Wolayita, Sidama, Bale, tip of Gamogofa, Gedeo, Guji, Derashe, Burji and south Omo exhibited 25-50 mm of rainfall. Some part of east Tigray, south Tigray, south Wello, Afar zone 2, 3, 4, and 5 Oromia special zone, Harer, eastern Harergie, Jijiga, Arsi, Fik, Jimma, Sheka, Godere, Keffa, Gode, Bench Maji, Afder and Liben Warder exhibited 5-25 mm of rainfall. The rest parts of the country are little or no rainfall.

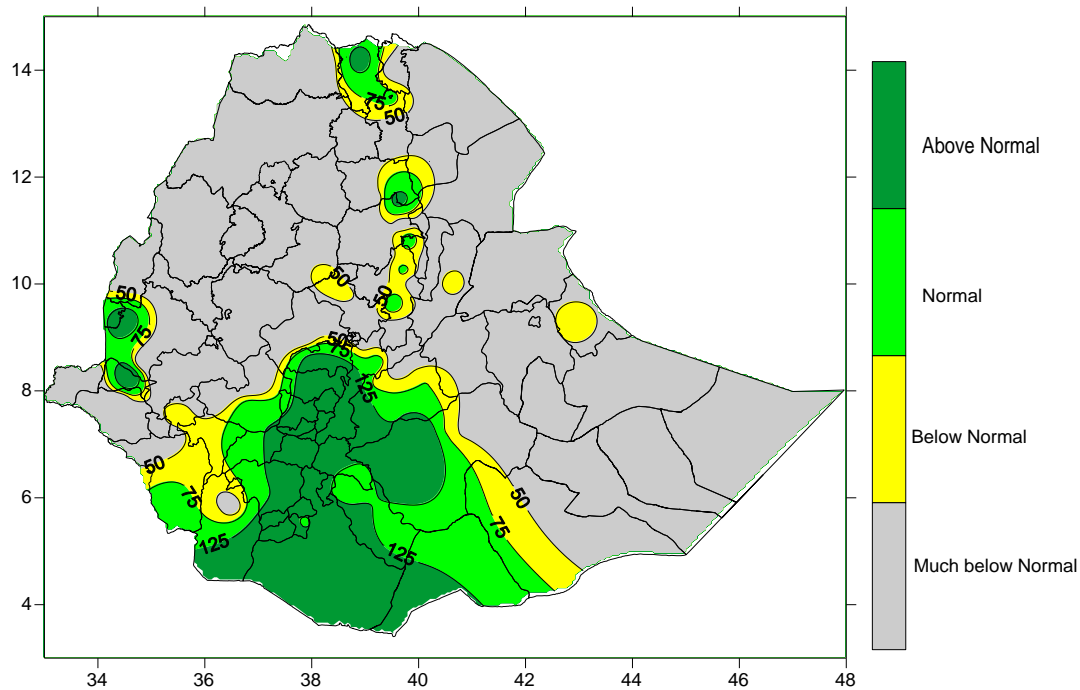


Fig. 2 Percent of normal rainfall distribution (11 – 20 March 2018)

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 Pocket area of Central Tigray and north Wello, Mekele, south west Shewa, Gurage, Selti, Alaba, Dawro, Hadiya, Sidama, Bale, south west Gamogofa, Gedeo, south Omo, Derashe, Burji, Konso, Amaro, Borena, Guji, Tongo and Gambela zone 1. 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 March second dekad most of Belg rain season benefiting areas of the country experienced from slight to moderate rain. This moistly condition in the dekad has positive for the Belg season agricultural activities, crops with different growing stages and for land preparation for late sowing areas. In addition this moist condition also benefited the preliminary crops for fulfilling their water requirement satisfaction and availabilities of drinking water and pasture for the pastoral and agro-pastoral areas of the country. In line to this most of Amhara, northeastern Tigray, and East of Benishangul Gumuz and some parts of Southern Oromia adopted normal to above normal rainfall condition. This situation has advantage for ongoing normal Belg agricultural activities. On other hand some areas of the country including pocket area of Southern Ethiopia got moderately dry to very dry moisture condition. This condition negatively affects the normal agricultural activities mainly in belg growing areas of the country.

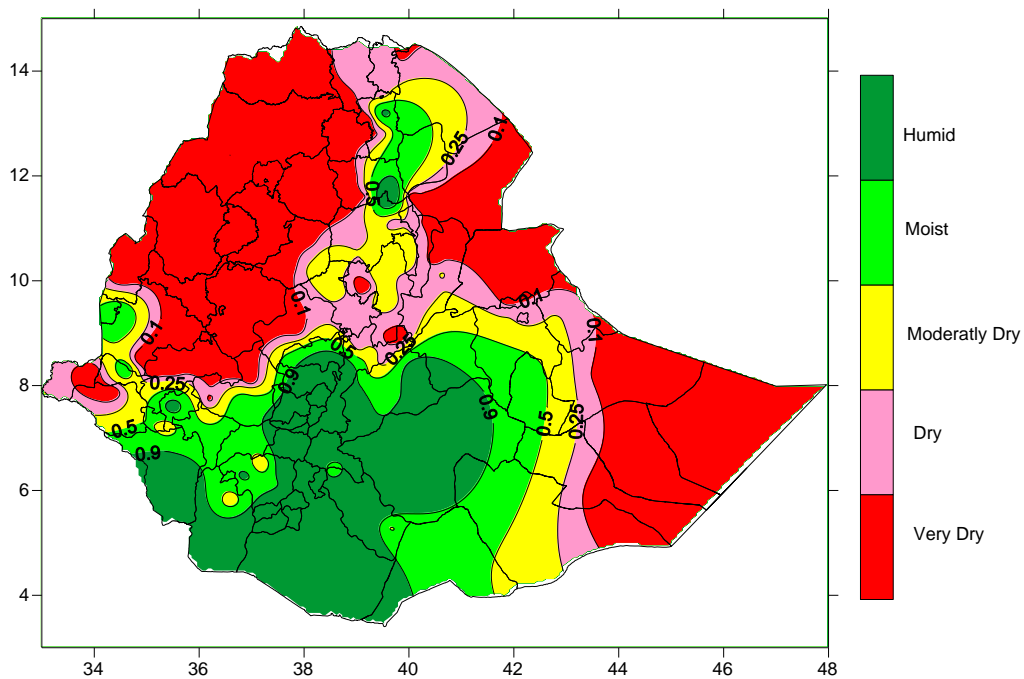


Fig.3 Moisture Status for (11-20 March, 2018)

As moisture status map above during the second dekad of March 2018 indicated that (see Fig 3). Afar zone 4, pocket area of south Tigray, pocket area of north Wollo, Tongo, Sheka, Godere, Keffa, Bench Maji, Dawuro, Basketo, Gamogofa, south Omo, Derashi, Konso, Amaro, Borena, south west Shewa, Gurage, Selti, Alaba, Hadiya, Wolayita, Sidama, Gedeo, Guji, Bale, Liben, Arsi, west Harergie and Fik received Humid to Moist moisture condition. This condition favors Belg 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 the third dekad of March 2018, According to meteorological forecasts in upcoming dekad due to the strength of rain bearing meteorological systems anticipated and to have receive slight to heavy rainfall over most parts of Belg growing areas of the country. In line with this Oromia region of Eastern Wollega, Jimma, Illubabur, Arsi and Bale, Borena and Guji zone, western and eastern Shewa, Addis Ababa, much of Gambella zone and Amhara region of north and south Wollo, north Shewa and Tigray region of Southern and eastern zone, most zone of SNNPR and Somali region expected to receive slight to moderate rainfall in amount and distribution. Thus, this moisture condition will favor the water requirement of early sown Belg crops which found at different phonological stage, perennial plants and availability of pastor and drinking water over south and south eastern pastoral and agro pastoral areas of the country. However, the expected heavy falls over some places would result in crop damage. Thus, attention should be given in areas where there is no proper drainage system and low-lying areas in order to mitigate the effect of excess rain. On the other hand, the expected dominantly dry situation over some Belg rain benefiting area would exacerbate the water stress that had prevailed over the crops during the preceding dekad. Thus, water harvesting practices should be continuing over those areas in order to mitigate the effect of moisture stress condition.