

## SUMMARY

During the third dekad of March 2018, good moisture was observed over southern and south western part of the country. In line with this, Bench maji, Gamo Gofa, south Omo, Kefa, Sheka, Gambella, Wellega, Illuababora, Jimma, Assosa, Kamashi, Guji, Borena, Bale, Wolayita, Hadiya, Gurage, Liben, Arsi, west Shoa, west Harergie, Metekel, west Gojam and north Gonder received rainfall in the range of 5 – 113mm within 2 to 8 rainy days. Heavy fall in one day was also observed over some places such as, Maji 54.3, Bedele 39.2, Negele 35.8, and Chira 30.0mm. The observed wettest condition to those parts of the country might have positive implication for ensuring further crop development and for conducting land preparation to plant long cycle crops, like Maize and Sorghum, over long cycle crops growing areas. In addition, the condition might also favor the pastoral and agro-pastoral community toward improving pasture and drinking water. On the other hand, the prevailing dry moisture condition to the North, Central, East, South and Southeastern parts of the country could have negative impact for the fulfillment of crop's water need and on the availability of fodder for animal feed and drinking water.

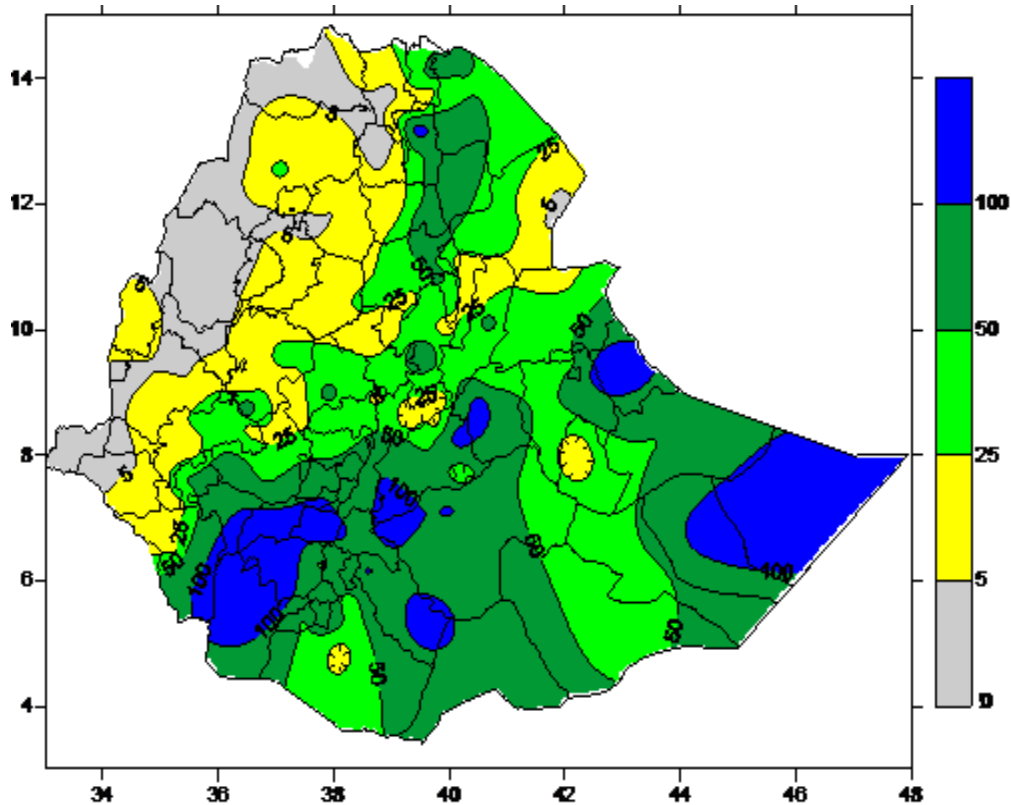
During the first dekad of April 2018, rain bearing meteorological phenomena was strengthening in amount and distribution over most Belg rain benefiting areas of the country. In line with this eastern and southern Tigray, north and south Wello, most of Shewa zones, Afar region of zone 3, 4 and 5, Somali region of Sity, Fafen, Deghabur, Leben, Afder, and Korahе zone, Illubabora, Jimma, eastern Wellega, Horugudru, eastern and western Harergie, Arsi and Bale, Guji and Borena, Gurage, Silti, Hadya, Sidama, Wollita, Gamogofa, Segen people, South Omo, Gedeo, Bench maji, and Keffa zone of SNNPR experienced slight to heavy rainfall. This situation might have positive impact on moisture requirement of different Belg and long cycle Meher crops found at various phases of growth, perennial plants, general agricultural activities, improve pasture and drinking water availability particularly south and southeastern pastoral and

agro pastoral parts of the country. On the other hand, extreme heavy fall (50.0 – 102.9) mm in one rainy day recorded over north eastern, eastern and southern parts of the country. Due to the pronounced widespread and intensified rainfall over some places of the aforementioned areas might result in crop damage, which were attaining at different phenological stages. Besides, it improved the supply of drinking water and pasture over pastoral and agro pastoral areas.

## 1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1-10 April, 2018

### 1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig.1)

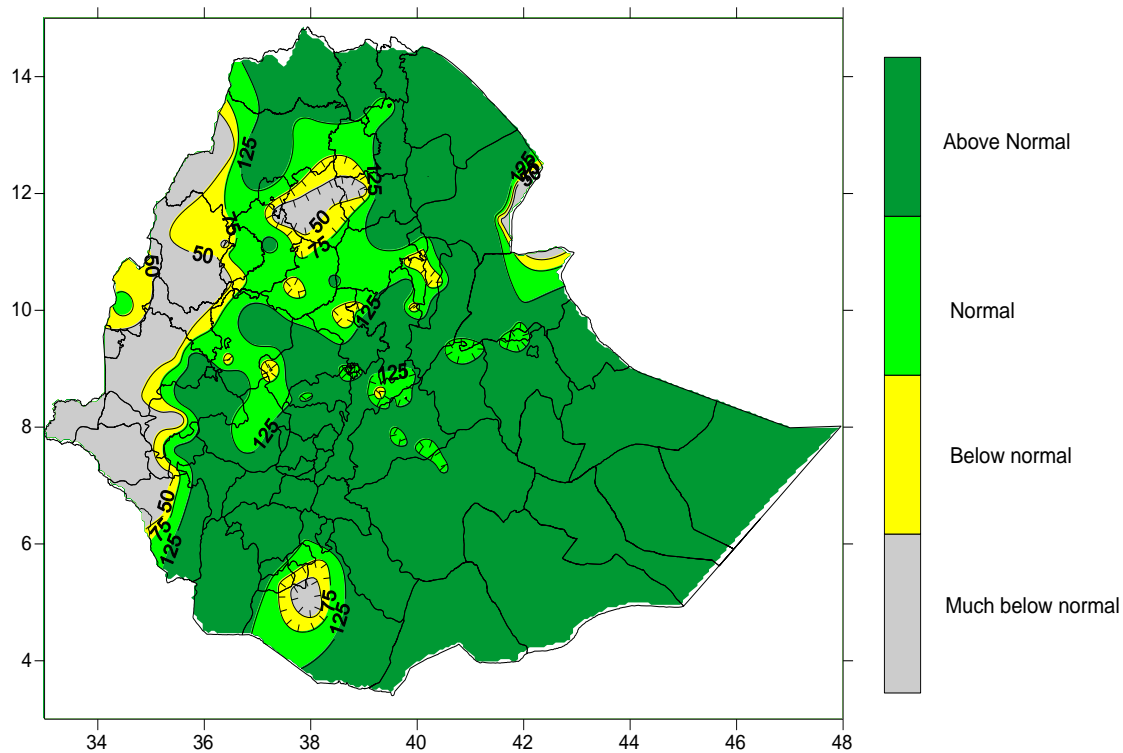


**Fig. 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (1-10 April, 2018)**

During first dekad of April 2018 some areas of Koraha and Warder zones of Somali region, Hadiya, Dawuro, Wolayita, Basket, Gamo Gofa, South Omo and Darashe zones of SNPPR, small areas of Bale, Guji and West Harerge zones of Oromia and pocket areas of South Tigray experienced more the 100mm rainfall. Most parts of southern, southwestern and southeastern

parts of the country, pocket areas of central and northern Ethiopia, some palace of southern Tigray, zone 1 and zone 4 of afar region and north Wello adopted 50 – 100mm Rainfall. Some areas of Borena zone, east Harergie, central Oromia, Illubabur, Jimma, Afar zone1 and zone2, eastern Tigray and Afder, Gode and Fiki zones of Somali region Prevail 25 – 50mm rainfall during the dekad. The rest parts of the country got less than 25mm rainfall.

### 1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig.2)



**Fig2. Percent of normal rainfall distribution (1-10 April, 2018)**

**Explanatory notes for the legend:**

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

Most parts of the country except Gambella, Benishangul Gumze some parts of central Amhara, western Tigray, eastern Afar, western tip of Oromia and south Omo zone of SNNPR exhibited Normal and above normal rainfall.

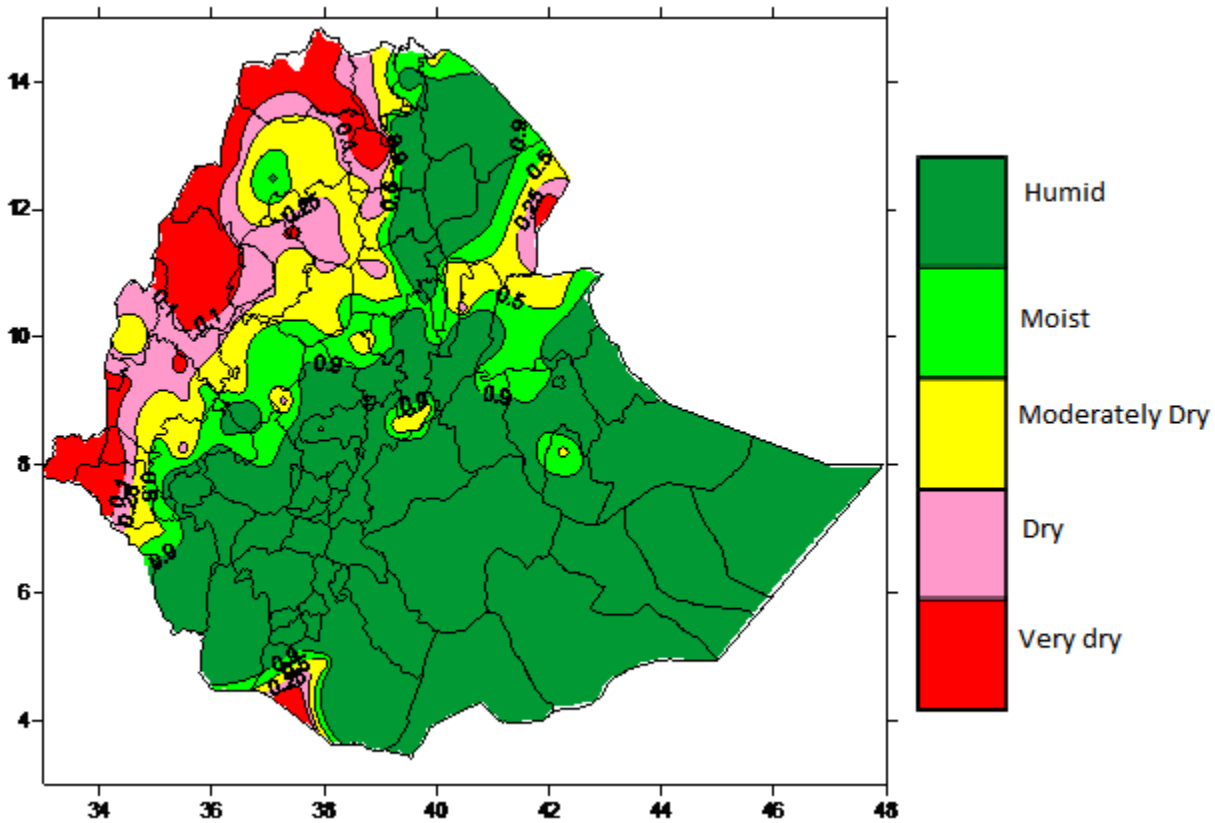
### **1.3. TEMPERATURE ANOMALY**

Some stations recorded extreme maximum temperature greater than 35 °C 2 to 10 days. Among reporting stations: Gode, Methara, Abobo, Assayta, Awash Arba, Aysha, Chewaka, Chifra, Degehabor, Dubti, Elidar, Gambela, Gewane, Kebridehar, Lare, Mankush, Mille, Mytsebri, Quara, Semera, Shiraro, Tistiska and Pawe recorded 37.9, 37.0, 39.2, 41.2, 38.0, 42.0, 36.0, 38.5, 35.5, 41.8, 39.6, 39.0, 40.0, 38.0, 39.5, 37.5, 39.2, 36.1, 41.4, 40.0, 39.0, 35.5 and 39.4 °C, respectively. The situation might have caused a negative impact on the normal growth and development of plants and livestock.

## **2. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE**

### **2.1. VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE**

The dekad under review rain bearing meteorological phenomena was strengthening in amount and distribution over most Belg rain benefiting areas of the country. In line with this eastern and southern Tigray, north and south Wello, most of Shewa zones, Afar region of zone 3, 4 and 5, Somali region of Sity, Fafen, degehabur, Leben, Afder, and Korahe zone, Elubabor, Jimma, eastern Wellega, Horugudru, eastern and weastern Harerge, Arsi and Bale, Guji and Borena, Gurage Silti, Hadya, sidama, Wollita, Gamogofa, Segen people, South omo, Geddeo, Bench maji, and Keffa zone of SNNPR experienced slight to heavy rainfall. This situation might have positive impact on moisture requirement of different Belg and long cycle Meher crops found at various phases of growth, perennial plants, general agricultural activities, improve pasture and drinking water availability particularly south and southeastern pastoral and agro pastoral parts of the country. On the other hand, extreme heavy fall (50.0 – 102.9) mm in one rainy day recorded over north eastern, eastern and southern parts of the country. Due to the pronounced widespread and intensified rainfall over some places of the aforementioned areas might result in crop damage, which were attaining at different phenological stages. Besides, it improved the supply of drinking water and pasture over pastoral and agro pastoral areas.



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

As moisture status map above (the relationship between total dekadal rainfall and the dekadal total reference evapotranspiration) during the first dekad of April 2018 indicated that (see Fig 3). Much Belg rainfall benefiting areas of the country exhibited moist to humid moisture condition. This condition favors the ongoing Belg agricultural activities. Besides, most parts of Gambella and Benishangul Gumuz and some parts of western half of Tigray and Amhara experienced moderately dry to very dry moisture condition.

## **2.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DECKED**

In the coming second dekad of April 2018, the meteorological forecast information indicates that the seasonal rainfall activity is expected to continue over much of Belg rainfall benefiting area of the country. In line with this, eastern and western Wellega, eastern and western Harerge, Arsi and Bale, Borena and Guji zone of Oromia, addis Ababa, Gambella, SNNPR, most of Somali region, Waghemera, south and north Wello zone of Oromia region, central, eastern, southern zone of Tigray region, Afar region of zone 1, 3, and 5 expected normal to above normal rain fall. This situation expect to improve moisture requirement of Belg and long cycle Meher crops found at different phases of growth, perennial plants, pasture and drinking water availability in pastoral and agro pastoral areas. Farmers and concerned bodies are advice to conserve available water and efficiently and wisely use of moisture that will expect. Moreover eastern Gojam, Bahir dar zuriya and south Gonder zone of Amhara region, Assosa and Kemashe zone of Benshangul region expected near normal rainfall in some parts which will give conducive condition for general agricultural condition. On the other hand, little or no rainfall expect over the rest parts of the country may negatively affect moisture requirement of Belg and long cycle Meher crops found at different phases of growth, perennial cops, pasture and drinking water availability in pastoral and agro pastoral areas.