

Summery

During the third dekad of July 2018, the northern, western, southern, southwestern highlands and eastern parts of the country experienced good soil moisture condition. This situation had benefited the ongoing meher agricultural activities like, land preparation, meher crop sowing, fulfilling the water requirement for long cycle crops, vegetables, late sowed Belg crops in some areas, permanent trees. In addition the situation benefited the pastoral and agro-pastoral areas in availabilities of drinking water and rangeland greenness that can use as fodder. Moreover, some places of Northern, Western and Central parts of the country received heavy rain. specifically stations, Aksum, Chefa, Debre Tabor, Dangla, Harer, Mankush Masha# Majete, Maytsebri, Nefas Mewucha, Pawe, Qara, Fereweyni, Shambbu, Shiraro, Shire Indesilase, Shola Gebeya, Semera, Sirinka, Wegel Tena, Gatra, Adis Ababa, Alem ketema, Ayra, Alge, Arjo, Amba Mariam, Afder, Bati, Astbi and Bedele recorded heavy rainfall within 24 hour. The situation had negative effects on agricultural activities to some extent.

During the first dekad of August 2018, rain bearing meteorological phenomena was strengthening in amount and distribution over most kiremt rain benefiting areas of the country. In line with this, Tigray, Amhara, Benshangul-Gumuze, Gambela, Wellega, Shewa, Jimma, Illubabur, Sheka, Keffa, Gurage, Silte, Welayita, Gamogofa, Bench maji, Sidama, Arsi, Bale, Guji, east & west Harergie, Afar zone 1, 5 & 3 received slight to heavy rainfall. This situation might have positive impact on early sown long cycle crops (Maize, sorghum) which were at different phenological stages, perennial plant as well as late sown cereals crops like (Teff, wheat and barley), pulse (beans, peas and haricot beans) and oil crops. Besides these, it improved pasture and drinking water availability in the north eastern low lands of pastoral and agro pastoral areas of the country. On the other hand, extreme heavy fall (44.5 – 65.0) mm in one rainy day recorded over Atsibe 51.1, Bore 47.0, Gatira 65.0, Kachise 44.5, Majete 46.5, Shire 50.3 and Gundomeskel 45.4mm received. On the other hand over east and south west slightly decrease the moisture condition; the situations are not negative impact on agricultural activities.

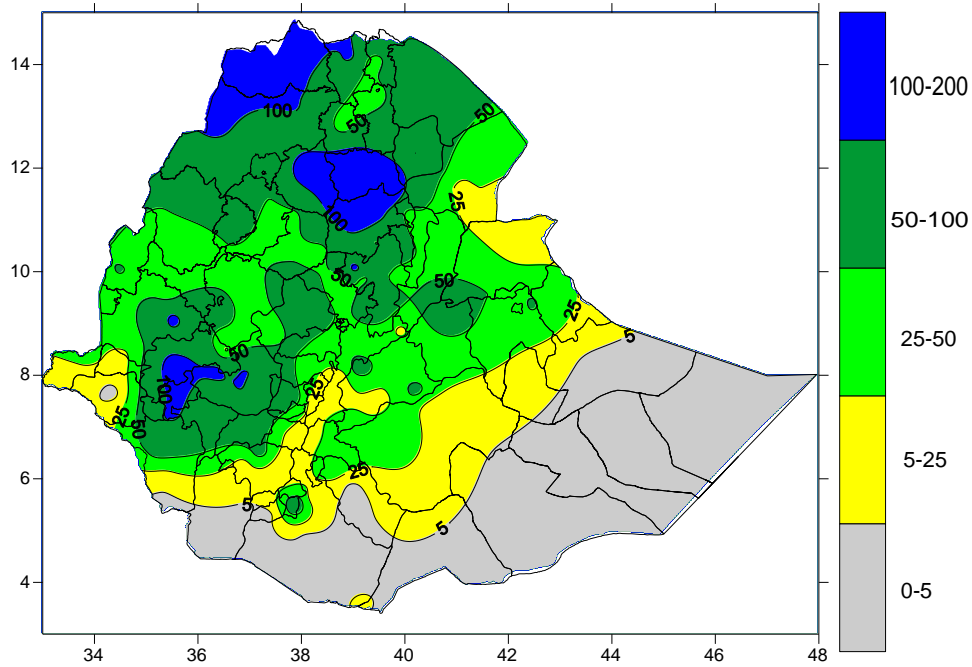


Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (1 – 10 August 2018)

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1. Rainfall amount (Fig.1)

During the first dekad of August 2018 much of west Tigray and some of north & south Gonder, north & south Wello, Oromiya zone, Illubabor, Jimma and Sheka receive rainfall in the range of 100 to 200mm. Much of central, east and south Tigray, Afar zone 2 & 4, west Wellega, Illubabora, Jimma, Goder, Keffa, Dawro and some of Metekel, east Gojam, Addis Ababa, north and south Shewa, Kamashi, Gurage, Alaba, Wollayita, and some pocket areas of Arsi, Harare, Asosa and Shinile experienced rainfall in the range of 50-100mm. Much of Asosa, Metekel, Kamashi, Tongo east and west Wollega, southwest Shewa, Afar zone 1 & 5, Shinile, Harar, Jijiga, east and west Wellega, Arsi, Arsi, Bale and some parts of south Tigray, Gedeo, Sidama, and Basketo special woredas exhibited rainfall in the range of 25 to 50mm. The rest part of the country got rainfall in the range of 0 to 25mm.

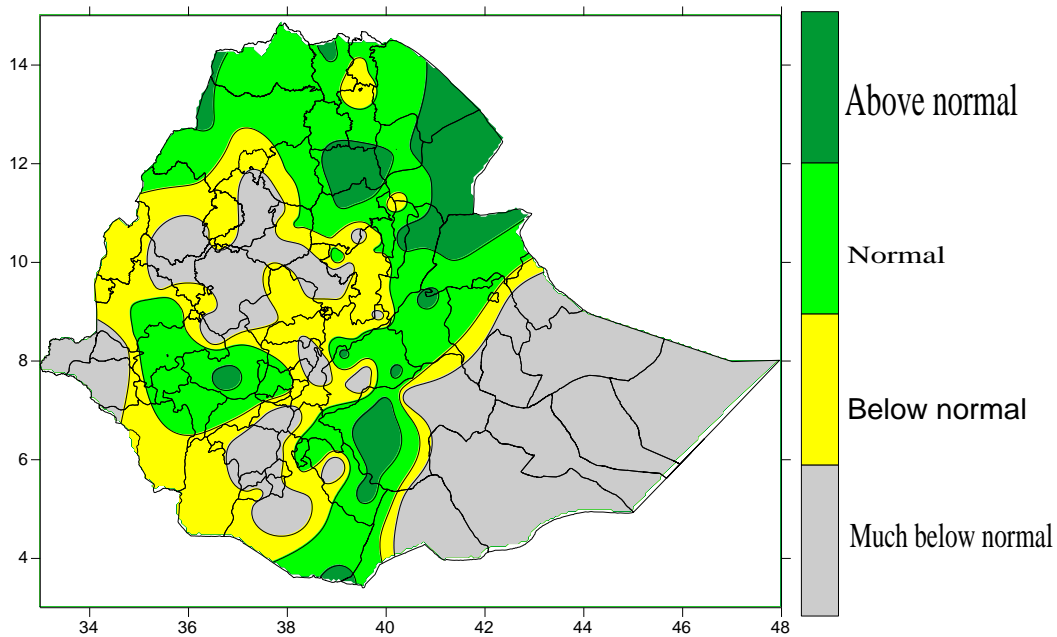


Fig 2. Percent of normal rainfall distribution (1-10 August, 2018)

Explanatory notes for the legend:

< 50 -- Much below normal

50—75% -- below normal

75—125% --- Normal

>125% ---- Above normal

1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig.2)

During the dekad under review Afar zone 1 & 2, north Wollo, and some of Shinile and some pocket areas in Jimma, and west Harerge, experienced above normal rainfall. All zones of Tigray, most parts of Afar, north Wollo, Keffa, Sheka, south Wollo, Arsi, west and east Harege, Harar, Shinile, and some of west Wellega, Illubabor, Sheka, Jimma, Gedeo, Guji, Bale, Liben, and Borena exhibited normal rainfall. The rest part of the country remained under much below to below normal category.

2. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

2.1. VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

During the first dekad of August 2018, rain bearing meteorological phenomena was strengthening in amount and distribution over most kiremt rain benefiting areas of the country. In line with this, Tigray, Amhara, Benshangul-Gumuz, Gambela, Wellega, Shewa, Jimma, Illubabur, Sheka, Keffa, Gurage, Silte, Welayita, Gamogofa, Bench maji, Sidama, Arsi, Bale, Guji, east & west Harergie, Afar zone 1, 5 & 3 received slight to heavy rainfall. This situation might have positive impact on early sown long cycle crops (Maize, sorghum) which were at different phenological stages, perennial plant as well as late sown cereals crops like (Teff, wheat and barley), pulse (beans, peas and haricot beans) and oil crops. Besides these, it improved pasture and drinking water availability in the north eastern low lands of pastoral and agro pastoral areas of the country. On the other hand, extreme heavy fall (44.5 – 65.0) mm in one rainy day recorded over Atsibe 51.1, Bore 47.0, Gatira 65.0, Kachise 44.5, Majete 46.5, Shire 50.3 and Gundomeskel 45.4mm received. On the other hand over east and south west slightly decrease the moisture condition; the situations are not negative impact on agricultural activities

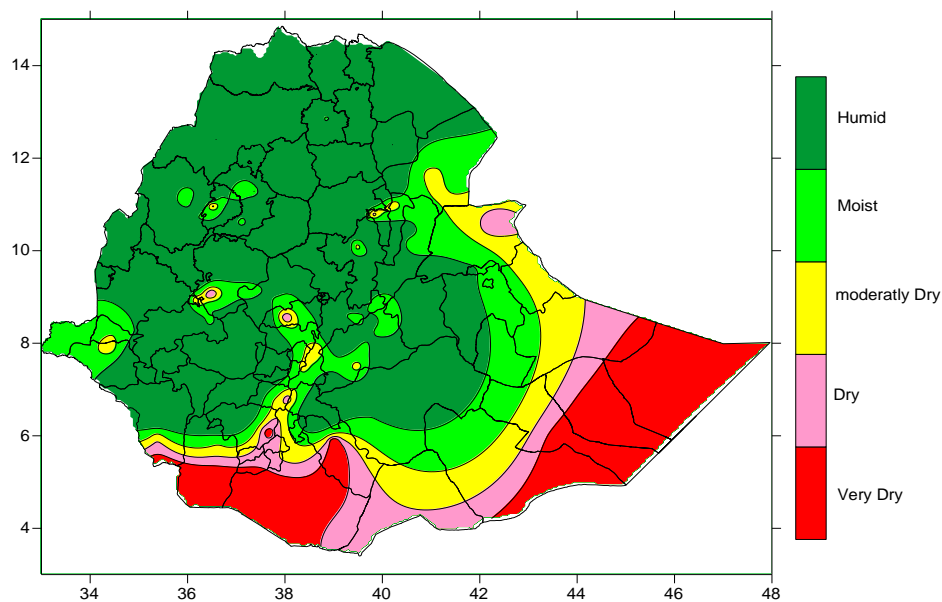


Fig. 3 moisture status Distribution (1 - 10, August 2018)

As indicated on the moisture status map above, Except Tip area of southern and south eastern Ethiopia experienced moist to humid moisture condition which might have favored ongoing agricultural activities, water availability for meher crops found at different stages of growth, perennial plants, drinking water and pasture availability over pastoral and agro pastoral areas.

2.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DECKED

In the coming second dekad of May 2018, the meteorological forecast information indicates that the rainfall activity is expected to strength than the previous ten days period over most of Meher rainfall benefiting areas of the country. In line with this, Oromia region of eastern and western Wellega, Jimma, Illubabur, all zone of Shewa, west & east Harergie, Addis Ababa, Amhara region of west & east Gojam, north & south Gonder, Bahirdar zuria, Awi zone, northern Shewa and south and north Wello, all zons of Tigray, Gambela, Benishangul zones, SNNPR regions of Keffa, Bench Maji, Gurage, Hadya, Wellaita, Dawro, Gamogofa and Sidama zones are likely to get mostly near normal and over some places receive above normal rainfall. This situation is expect to improve moisture requirement of Meher crops found at different phases of growth and perennial plants as well as enables farmers to lately plant Meher crops in the northern parts of the country. Besides, the improvement of moisture condition over eastern and north eastern parts of the country may play significant role to enhance the soil moisture and to ensure the supply of pasture and drinking water in the areas which was the observed moisture stress occurred in the previous dekads. On the other hand, the expected heavy fall over some areas of Meher producing areas would have a negative impact on crop fields' particularly over low-lying areas and anticipated to generate flash floods due to raise water levels across the river banks. Thus, proper attention should be undertaken to minimize the risk in areas where there is no proper drainage system and low-lying areas making furrow and channel in order to reduce the effect of excess rain. Moreover, the expected excess and continuous moisture on crop fields may favors for the infestation of weeds and outbreak of pest and disease. Thus, the concerned personnel should take proper precaution and take regularly visit crop fields' to mitigate the effect. On the other hand Dire dewa and Harary, Afar region of zone 3, 4, and 5, Arsi and Bale zones and Somali region of Jijiga and Shinelie zones, SNNPR region of South Omo and Segen people expected to receive slight to little rainfall and the rest parts of the country are predominantly remain under dry condition. Therefore, farmers and pastoralist who are living in those areas should be properly managing to utilize the available moisture in efficient and effective manner by applying recommended agronomic practices.