

Summery

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.

During the second dekad of August 2018, rain bearing meteorological phenomena was strengthening in amount and distribution over most Meher producing and kiremt rain 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, Hadiya, Wellaita, Dawro, Gamogofa and Sidama zones received mostly near normal and over some places exhibited above normal rainfall. This situation had improved moisture requirement of Meher crops found at different phases of growth, perennial plants and vegetables as well as the situation benefited the pastoral and agro-pastoral areas in availabilities of drinking water and pasture. On the other hand the experienced heavy fall (53.0 – 96.7 mm) in one rainy day over Western, South western, Central and Northern parts of the country had negative effects

on agricultural activities in causing the occurrence of flooding water logging and landslide. However, the pronounced widespread and intensified moisture condition particularly the low land areas 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 observed moisture stress in the previous dekads.

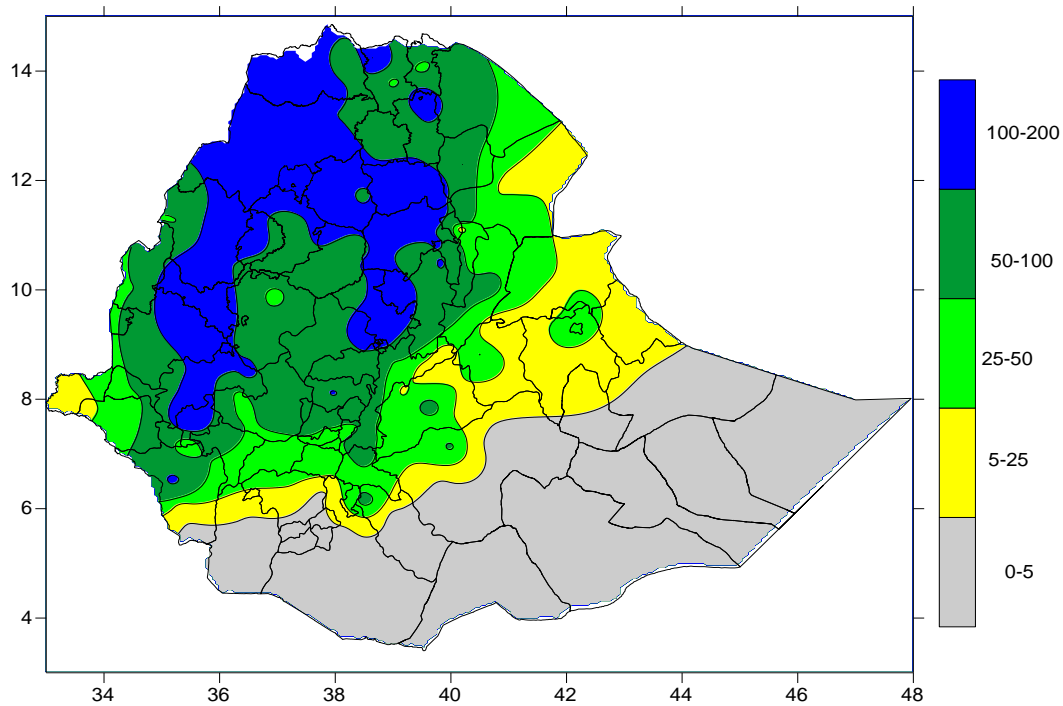


Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (11 – 20 August 2018)

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1. Rainfall amount (Fig.1)

Most parts of west Tigray, south & north Gonder, Pocket area of central Tigray, north & south Wollo, south Shewa, Addis Ababa, Agew, Metekel, Kamashi, Wellega, Illubabur, Sheka and Mekele received 100-200mm of rainfall. Most parts of east & central Tigray, Waghmira, south Tigray, Afar zone 2,3,4 &5, Oromia special zone, Metekel, Assosa, west Wellega, Bahirdar, west & east Gojam, north Shewa, west Shewa, south west shewa, Jimma, Yem, Gurage, Silte, Godere and Bench Maji received 50-100mm of rainfall. Some part of Afar zone 1, Shinile, Harer, west Harergie, east shewa, Arsi, Sidama, Alaba, Welayita, Hadiya, Dawuro and Gambela zone 1 & 2 received 25-50mm of rainfall. Eastern parts of Afar zone 1, Jijiga; east Harergie, Fik, Bale,

Basketo and Gamogofa experienced 5-25mm of rainfall. The rest parts of the country experienced less than 5mm or no rainfall.

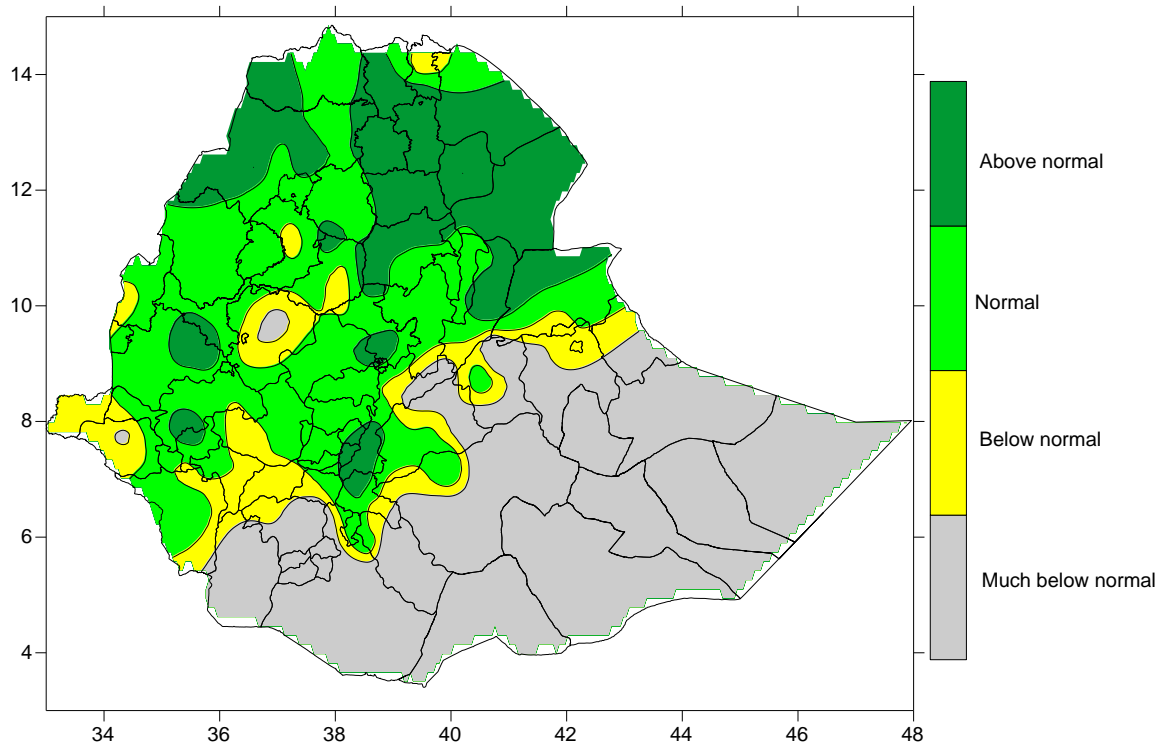


Fig 2. Percent of normal rainfall distribution (11-20 August, 2018)

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)

Most parts of west Tigray, south & north Gonder, Pocket area of central Tigray, north & south Wollo, south Shewa, Addis Ababa, Agew, Metekel, Kamashi, Wellega, Illubabur, Sheka , Mekele , east & central Tigray, Waghmira, south Tigray, Afar zone 2,3,4 &5, Oromia special zone, Metekel, Assosa, west Wellega, Bahirdar, west & east Gojam, north Shewa, west Shewa, south west shewa, Jimma, Yem, Gurage, Silte, Godere and Bench Maji exhibited normal to

above normal rainfall. The rest parts of the country exhibited below normal to much below normal rainfall.

2. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

2.1. VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

During the second dekad of August 2018, rain bearing meteorological phenomena was strengthening in amount and distribution over most Meher producing and kiremt rain 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 received mostly near normal and over some places exhibited above normal rainfall. This situation had improved moisture requirement of Meher crops found at different phases of growth, perennial plants and vegetables as well as the situation benefited the pastoral and agro-pastoral areas in availabilities of drinking water and pasture. On the other hand the experienced heavy fall (53.0 – 96.7 mm) in one rainy day over Western, South western, Central and Northern parts of the country had negative effects on agricultural activities in causing the occurrence of flooding water logging and landslide. However, the pronounced widespread and intensified moisture condition particularly the low land areas 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 observed moisture stress in the previous dekads.

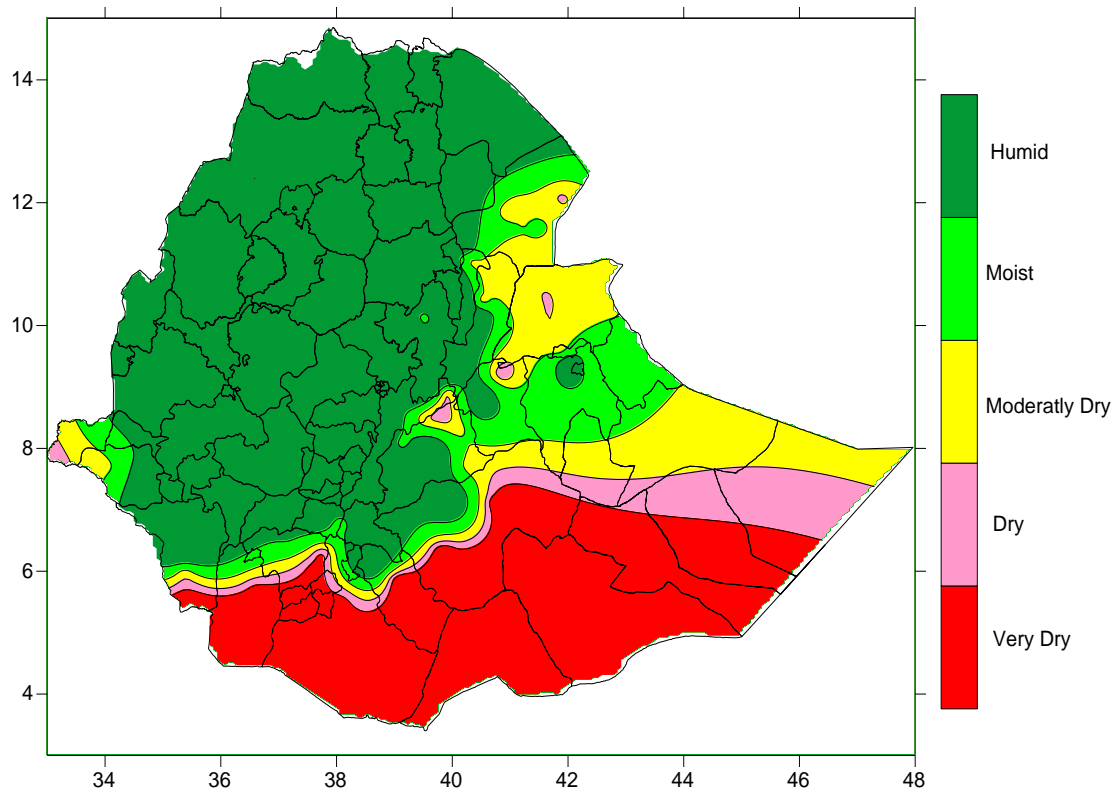


Fig. 3 moisture status Distribution (11 - 20, August 2018)

As indicated on the moisture status map above, Most of kiremt benefiting areas 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. over pocket areas of southern and south eastern part are Dry to very dry moisture conditions the situation are slightly negative impact on pastoral areas.

2.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DECKED

According to the forecast for the third dekad of August, wet weather condition is likely to prevail over most places of Meher growing areas. In line with this, all zones of Tigray, Gambella, Benishangule, north and south Gonder, Awi, east and west Gojam, Bahirdar, north and south Wello, all zones of Wellega, all zones of Shewa, Jimma, Illubabora, Arsi, Bale, Addis Ababa, Hadiya, Gurage, Wellaiyta, Keffa, Sheka, Bench Maji, Sidama, and Gideo are likely to experience normal to above normal rainfall. In addition to this some places may experience heavy fall which cause flash flood. On the other hand, west and east Harerge, Dire Dawa, Harari, Afar, Jigjiga, Sheneli, and people of segen, are likely to receive rainfall in the range of normal to below normal. Thus, the expected various amount of rainfall in different places may be favorable to satisfy the water need of various Meher season crops, perennial plants and horticulture crops. Sometimes this wet condition could be the cause for the formation of weed infestation and excess moisture driven pests and diseases. So that farmers are advised to be cautious to handle the situation at the earliest time of occurrence. On the other hand, heavy fall is predicted in some parts of the country and it may cause flash flood and affect crops development and the overall livelihoods. It may also cause soil erosion and water logging. Therefore, farmers and the concerned bodies are advised to be ready to take the necessary precaution in order to reduce the possible impact of flash flood and water logging. For the area where low moisture is anticipated, farmers and pastoralist are advised to collect rain water and utilize the available moisture in the utmost efficiency.