

SUMMARY

During the third decade of April 2010 better rainfall activities was observed ; over eastern parts of the country, eastern and southern parts of SNNPR, southern few places of western Oromia southern Tigray, southern Afar and few places of western Amhara received normal to above normal rainfall. This condition is favored better seasonal agricultural activities and had positive impact on belg crops at different phases of growth, perennial plants, improvement of pasture and drinking water particularly for pastoral and agro pastoral areas of the country. On the other hand, much of Tigray, central Amhara, Gambella, some parts of NNPR, south –western Oromia north Afar and Benishangul – Gumuz experienced below normal rainfall.. This condition had negative impact on going seasonal agriculture and its activities

During the first dekad of May, 2010 rain producing system strengthens widely over Belg rain benefiting area of the country. SNNPR, central and southern Oromia, eastern Amhara received rainfall for consecutive days in the dekad. The observed moisture situation might have favored the ongoing Belg agricultural activities especially for crops which found at grain filling and maturity stage and the area where planting of long cycle crops started earlier. Moreover, much of Amhara, eastern and southern Tigray, eastern parts of the country, western Oromia, Somali, Benshangul-Gumuze, and Gambela exhibited light to heavy rainfall which favored Belg agricultural activities, long cycle crops, and availability of pasture and water over pastoral and agro pastoral areas. On the other hand, some of reporting stations recorded extreme heavy falls ranging from 33.8 to 200 mm in one rainy day over different parts of the country. In line with this, reportedly crops to have damaged over Ginner and Fitcha due to water logging. This situation might have occurred in others places particularly in low lying areas where the soil type is clay. Therefore, care must be taken in order to minimize crop damage due to water logging.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 1-10 May 2010

1.1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig.1)

Pocket areas of southern Oromia and Bale received 200-300 mm of rainfall. Pocket areas of southeastern SNNPR and southern Oromia received 100-200 mm of rainfall. Much of SNNPR, much of Oromia and southern and pocket areas of Amhara and southern Benishangul-gumuz received 50-100 mm of rainfall. Much of Amhara, Tigray, Benishangul Gumuz, and southern and pocket areas of eastern Oromia received 25-50 mm of rainfall, while southern Tigray and parts of Afar, much of Somali and eastern Oromia received 5-25mm of rainfall. The rest parts of the country exhibited little or no rainfall.

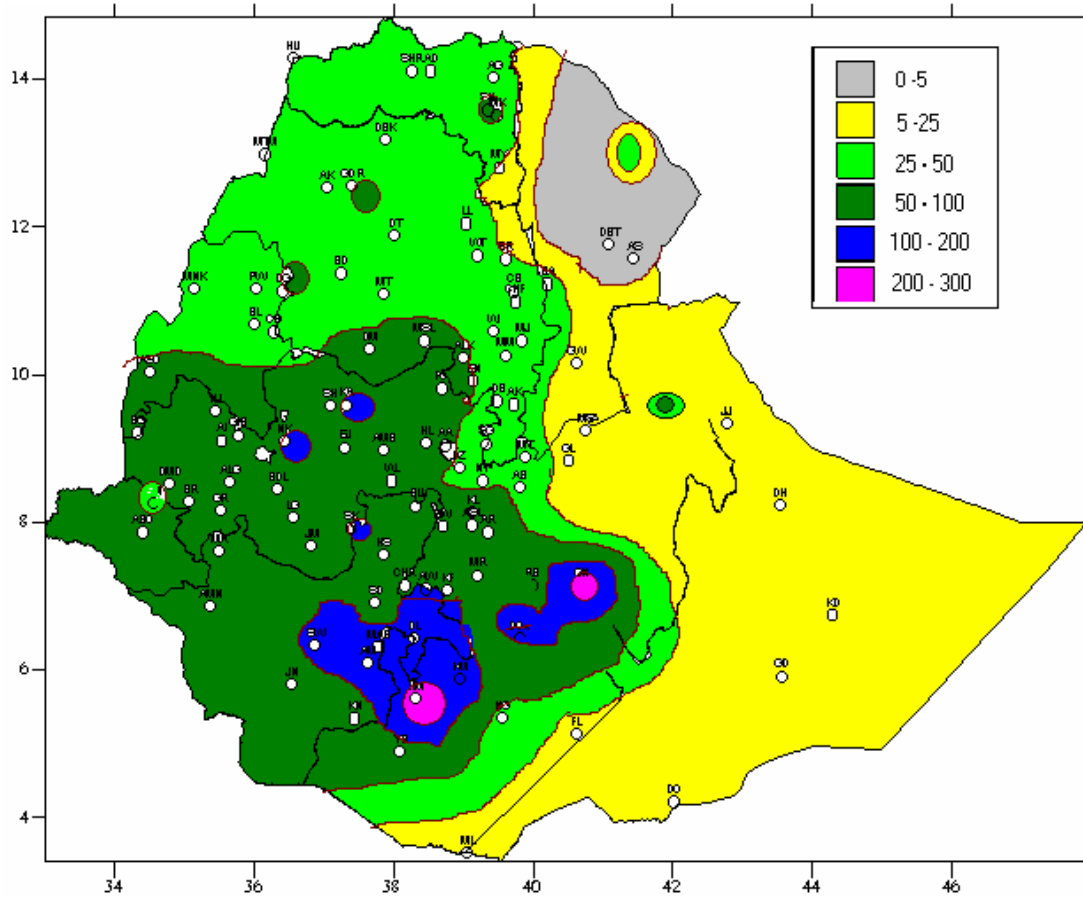


Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (1-10 May, 2010)

1.1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Most parts of Tigray, Amhara, Oromia, Gambela, Benishangul gumz, SNNP, parts northeastern Afar, northern Somalia, and Dire dawa received normal to above normal rainfall, while the rest parts of the country exhibited below normal to much below normal rainfall.

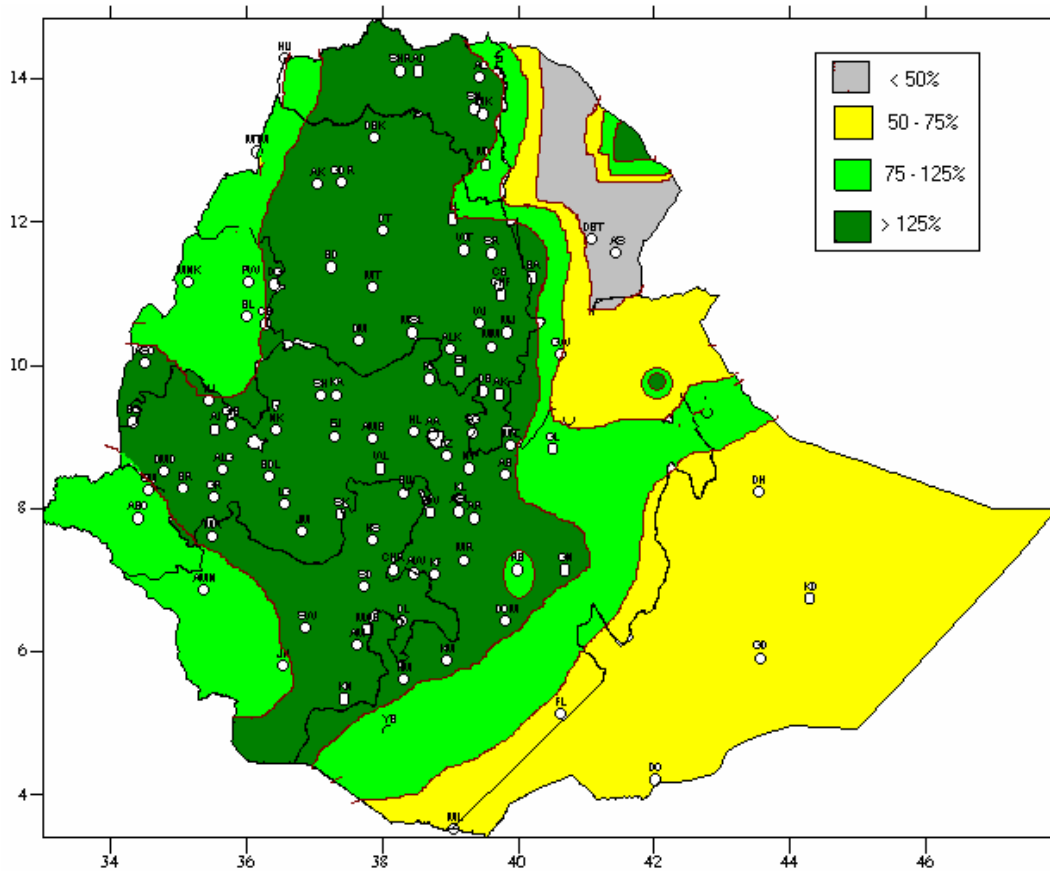


Fig2. Percent of normal rainfall distribution (1-10 May, 2010)

Explanatory notes for the legend:

<50 -- Much below normal

50—75% -- below normal

75—125% --- Normal

➤ 125% ---- Above normal

1.1.3 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

Some stations in the low lands and western border of the country recorded extreme maximum temperature greater than 35 °C, to mention some of them Dire Dawa, Gode, Metehara, Gambela, Mankush, Maytsemria, Error, Elidar, Semera and Awash Arba recorded 36.0, 37.7, 39.0, 36.5, 37, 40.7, 41.5, and 38.0 °C, respectively. The situation might have 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

Rain producing system strengthens widely over Belg rain benefiting area of the country. SNNPR, central and southern Oromia, eastern Amhara received rainfall for consecutive days in the dekad. The observed moisture situation might have favored the ongoing Belg agricultural activities especially for crops which found at grain filling and maturity stage and the area where planting of long cycle crops started earlier. Moreover, much of Amhara, eastern and southern Tigray, eastern parts of the country, western Oromia, Somali, Benshangul-Gumuz, and Gambela exhibited light to heavy rainfall which favored Belg agricultural activities, long cycle crops, and availability of pasture and water over pastoral and agro pastoral areas. On the other hand, some of reporting stations recorded extreme heavy falls ranging from 33.8 to 200 mm in one rainy day over different parts of the country. In line with this, reportedly crops to have damaged over Ginner and Fitcha due to water logging. This situation might have occurred in others places particularly in low lying areas where the soil type is clay. Therefore, care must be taken in order to minimize crop damage due to water logging.

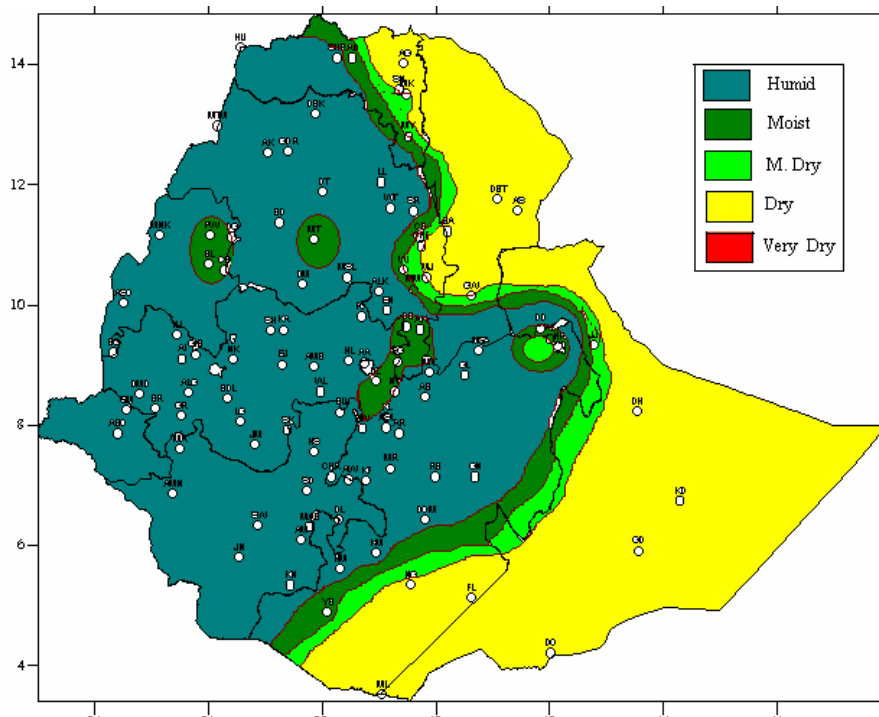


Fig.3 Moisture Status for (1-10 May, 2010)

As indicated moisture map below; western half of the country and pocket area of eastern part of the country experienced humid to moist moisture condition. The situation favored both Belg and meher agricultural activities as well as availability of pasture and drinking water particularly over pastoral and agro pastoral areas of the country. On the other hand, excess moisture and water logging problem might have a negative impact on the seasonal agricultural activities. Eastern half the country exhibited dry to moderately dry condition. This situation might cause moisture stress in areas under prolonged dry spell.

2.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

In the coming ten days SNNPR, most of Oromia, much of Somali, Dire dawa and Harari expected to have normal to above normal rainfall. Hence, the situations will have positive impact on the on going Belg agricultural activities, long cycle crops which are found at different phenological stages, perennial crops and availability of pasture and drinking water over postural and agro postural areas in the aforementioned areas. On the contrary, the expected excess rainfall activities over pocket area of SNNPR and Oromia will have negative impact on crop fields due to water logging. Moreover, eastern Tigray, eastern and adjoining area of Amhara, southern Afar, Gambela and Benshangul-Gumuze expected to have normal rainfall. This situation will have a positive contribution on crops' water requirement which is found at different phenological stages. On the other hand, western Tigray, western Amhara, most parts of Afar, and northern parts of Benshangul-Gumuze will have near normal and below normal rainfall. This situation will have negative impact particularly where dry condition prevailed with in the previous dekad.