



Meteorological Data and Climatology Lead Executive

Climatology and Remote Sensing Desk

Ten Daily Satellite Rainfall Estimation and Vegetation Coverage Bulletin

3rd Dekad of March 2024

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Contents

Contents	i
Forward	ii
Introduction	1
Rainfall Estimation from Satellite Data	2
Rainfall distribution	2
Comparison with climatological normal	3
Comparison with the previous Dekad	4
Comparison with the ground observation	5
10-Daily Synthesis of NDVI	6
Assessment of synthesis NDVI for the 3 rd dekad of March 2024	6
Comparison with the Climatological Normal	7

Forward

As an entity responsible for monitoring local and country-wide climatic features and their day-to-day evolution, the National Meteorological Agency of Ethiopia strives hard to present useful information to different socio-economic activities. The production of satellite-based rainfall estimates and vegetation greenness bulletin is part of this effort.

The launch of meteorological satellites which happens as a result of technological advancement opens a new horizon in weather and climate monitoring. Unlike manned point observations, satellites collect data on clouds, vegetation, and other parameters from parts of the world that are not easily reachable or accessible. Satellite observation supplements ground manned observation and when it comes to vegetation cover, it is the only source of information.

The Ethiopian Meteorological Institute uses products from the TAMSATA group based in UK and Copernicus for producing dekadal rainfall estimates and vegetation greenness bulletins. We have a strong belief that various socio-economic activities related to planning disaster mitigation, water resources management, construction, environmental protection, transportation, recreation, tourism, and others will benefit most from the careful and continuous use of this bulletin. Meanwhile, your comments and constructive suggestions are highly appreciated to make the objectives of this bulletin a success

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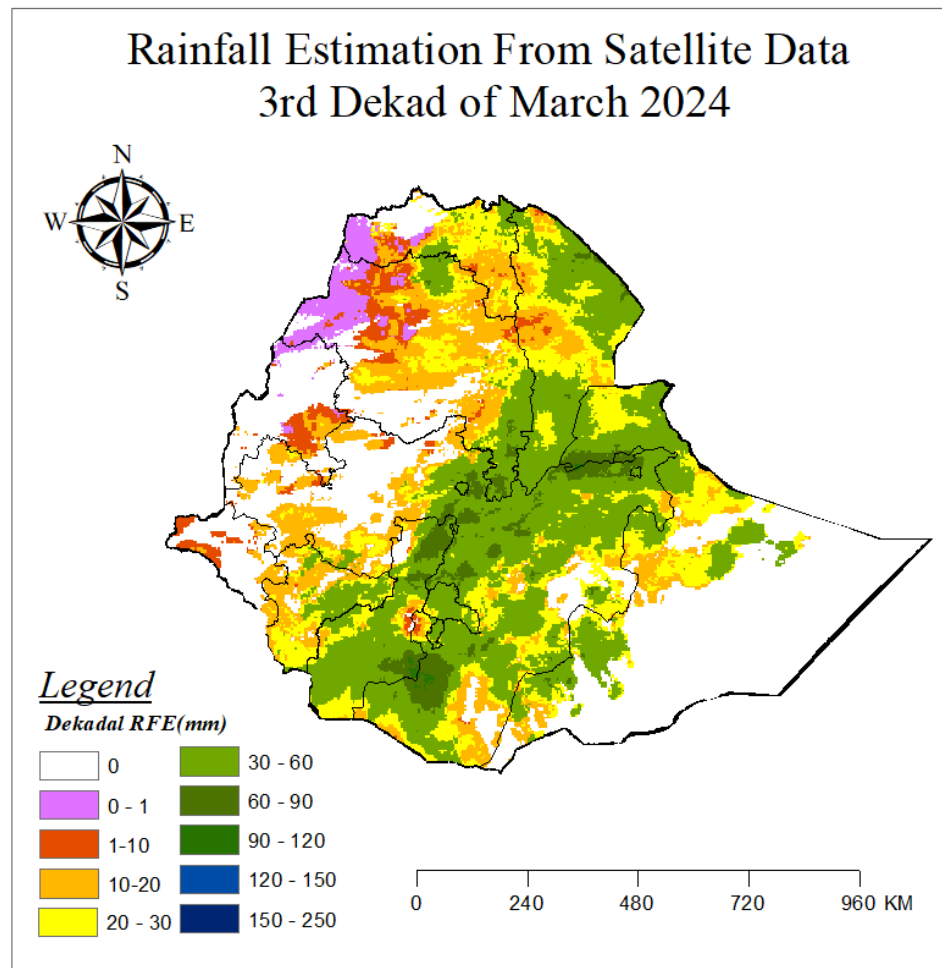
Introduction

Satellite remote sensing is often used to estimate vegetation distribution and productivity at large spatial scales. The normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI) is the most widely used surrogate for large-scale assessments of vegetation greenness and has been applied in a wide range of studies (Brandt et al. 2015, Chen et al. 1998; Santos and Negri, 1997; Zhang et al 2009). The spatial distribution of remotely sensed NDVI and consequently of terrestrial vegetation is a function of prevalent climatic conditions such as rainfall and temperature. The relationship between NDVI and rainfall is well established at various spatial and temporal scales (Davenport et al. 1993; Grist et al. 1997; Nicholson et al. 1990; Potter and Brooks 1999; Wang et al. 2001). The results of these studies, although varying, indicate that rainfall is an important predictor of the geographical distribution of vegetation in many environments, particularly in transitional zones, such as from humid to arid and semi-arid environments (Zhao et al. 2015) as found in the Sahel of Africa.

Rainfall is a crucial resource in many socioeconomic activities, particularly for those African countries relying predominantly on rain-fed agriculture. Many countries have been affected by rainfall variability and long-term changes in both rainfall amount and distribution over recent decades. However, the number of rain gauges throughout Africa is small and unevenly distributed, and the gauge network is deteriorating. Satellite rainfall estimates are being used widely in place of gauge observations or to supplement gauge observations. (Tufa Dinku et al).

In this bulletin, the 3rd Dekad of March 2024 satellite rainfall estimation and vegetation greenness were produced with the help of TAMESAT and METOSAT vegetation products. During this dekad, some parts of Belg rain-benefiting areas received moderate rainfall as a result of the strong relationship between rainfall and the Normalized vegetation index (NDVI) some Belg-benefiting areas (western and central) as well as other parts of the country were covered by Vegetation. On the other hand, the western and southeast parts of the country receive minimum to no rainfall, and low to bare greens were observed in the country.

Rainfall Estimation from Satellite Data

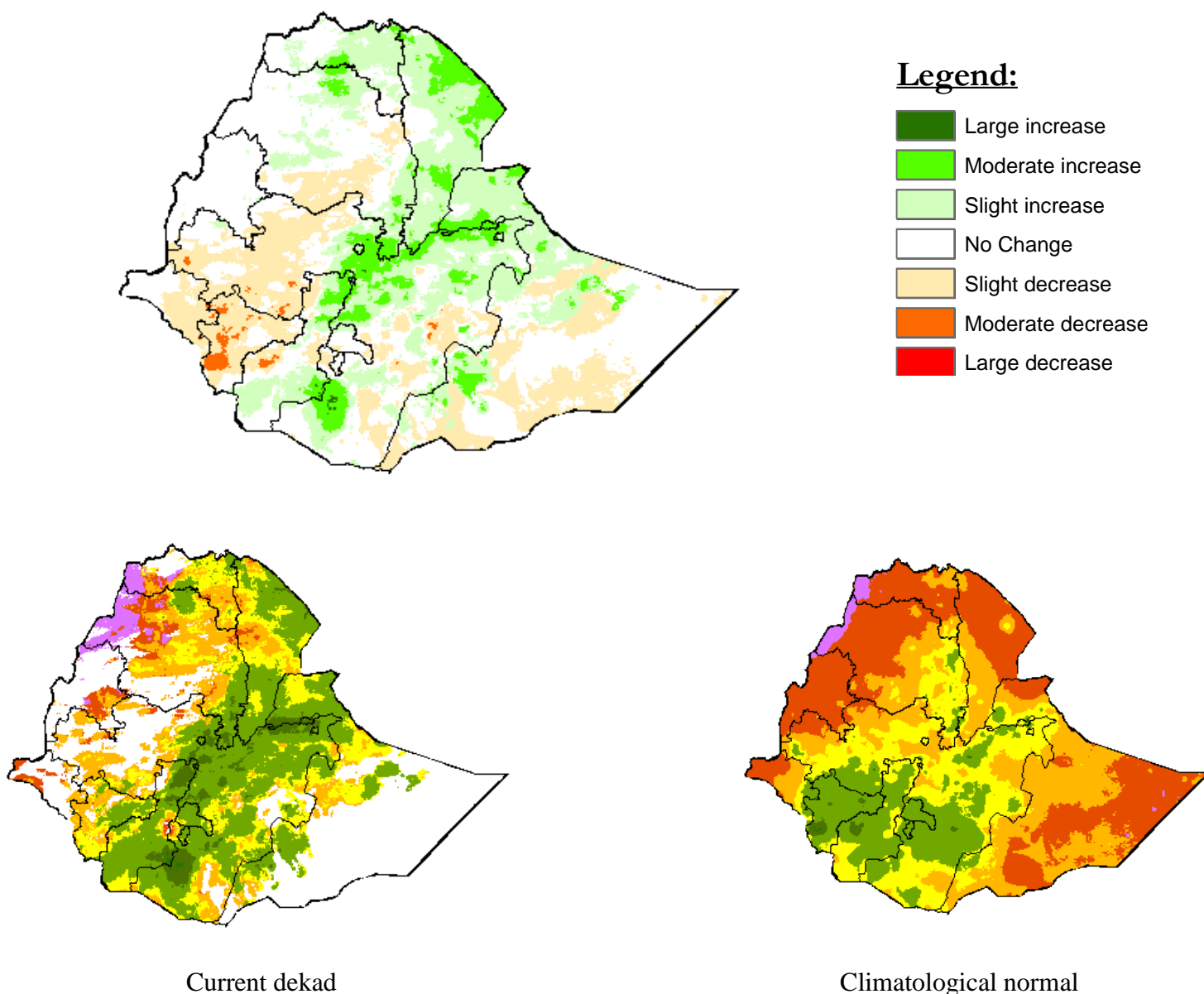


Rainfall distribution

The Belg season, spanning from February to May, marks the main rainy period for the southern, southwest, and southeast regions of the country. By the third dekad of March, rainfall has commenced in various parts of the country. Specifically, Rainfall has been observed in adjoin aras of southern Ethiopia and Oromia region recived between 90 – 120 mm. Most of South West Ethiopia, Central Ethiopia, Sidama, South Ethiopia, Dire Dawa, Harari, most part of Oromia, Afar, Amhara, Tigray, some pocket areas of Benishangul Gumuz, Gambella, and Somali regions received between 1 to 90 mm of rainfall. Conversely, no rainfall has been recorded in the remaining areas of the country.

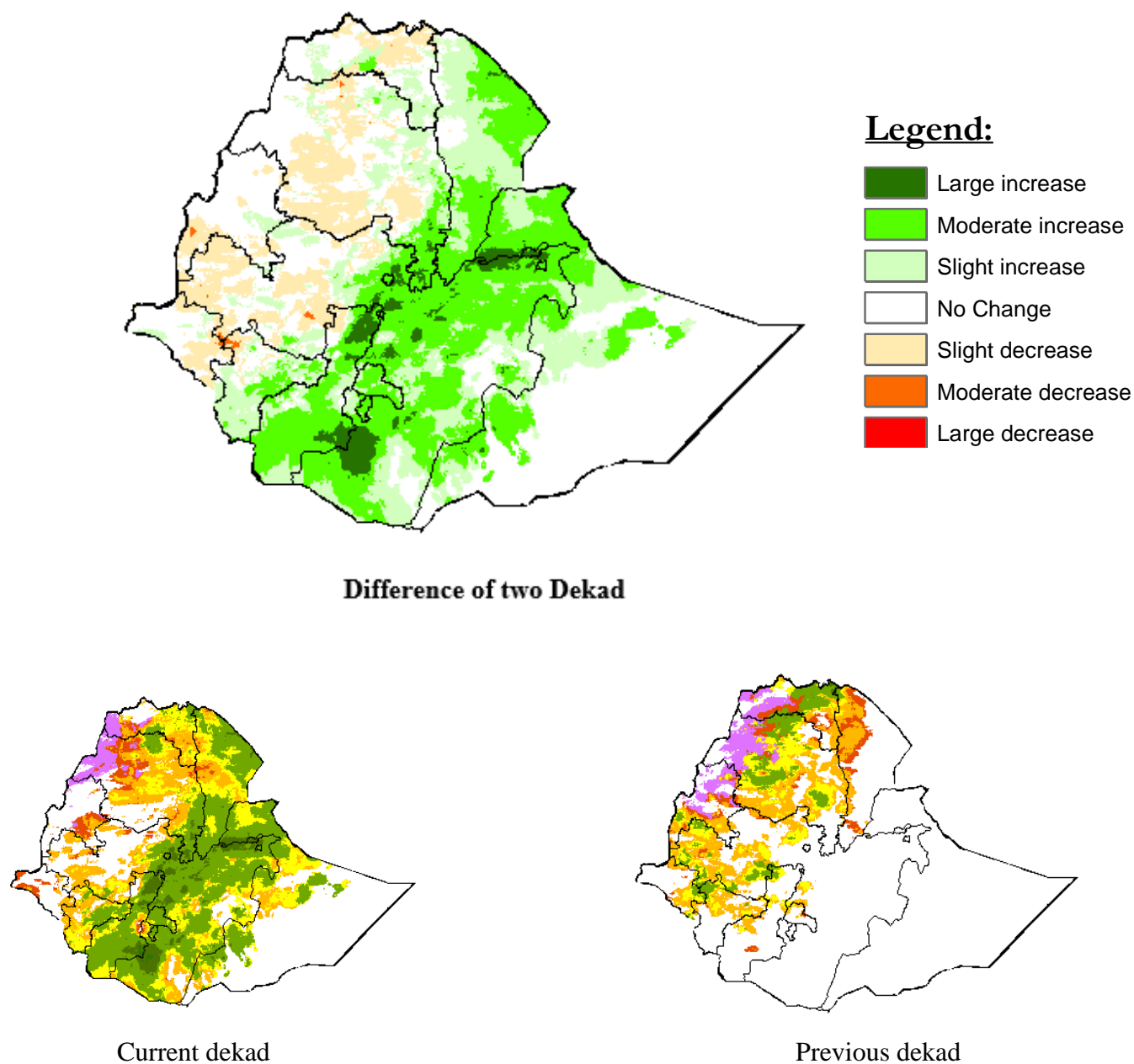
Comparison with climatological normal

In this dekad the comparison of satellite rainfall estimation and climatological average shows that was moderate to slight increase of rainfall was observed in Afar, Tigray, Central and Southern Oromia, Central Ethiopia, Harari, Dire Dawa, Amhara, and some pocket areas of Afar regions. On the other hand, a slight decrease in rainfall was observed in western Oromia, Gambella, Somali, some pocket areas of Amhara, and Central Ethiopia regions. Rainfall was also observed slight to moderate decrease in South-West Ethiopia, some pocket areas of South Ethiopia, and Oromia regions.



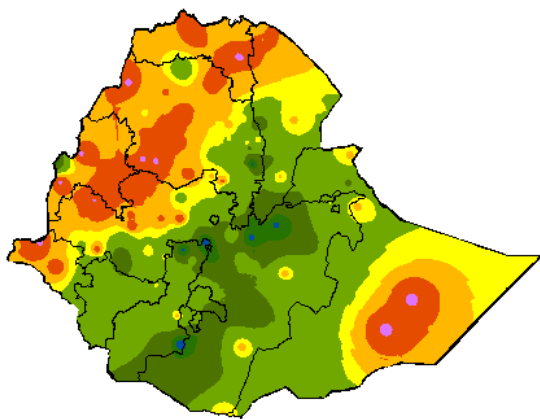
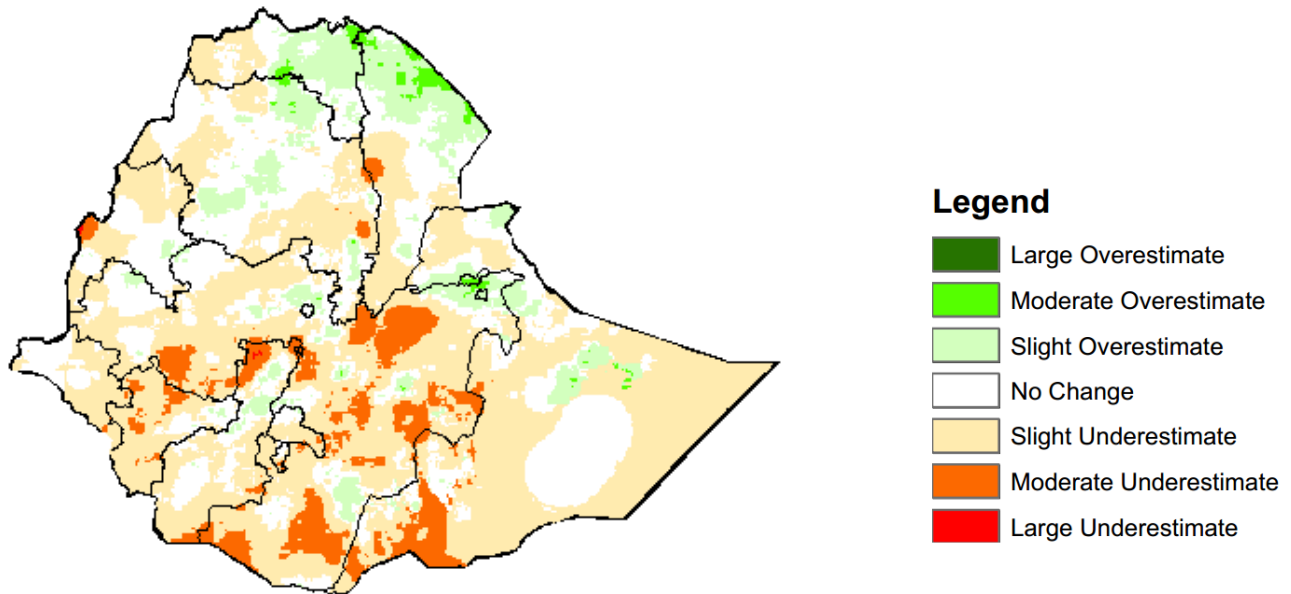
Comparison with the previous Dekad

The comparison of the 3rd dekad of March 2024 and the 2nd dekad of March 2024 shows that a moderate to slight increase of rainfall was observed in Afar, central and southern Oromia, Sidama, South Ethiopia, South West Ethiopia, some part of Somali, some pocket areas of Amhara, and Tigray. On the other hand, a slight decrease in rainfall was observed in Amhara, western Oromia, Gambella, Benishangul Gumiz, and some part of Tigray regions. No change in the rest part of the country.

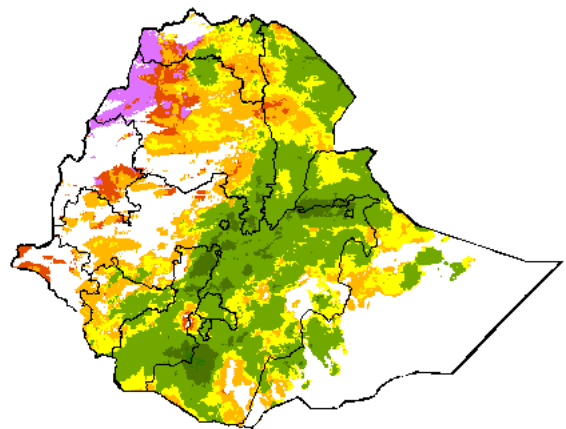


Comparison with the ground observation

The satellite rainfall estimation shows that there was a moderate to slight overestimate observed in the Afar, Tigray, Dire Dawa, and Harari regions. On the other hand, a slight to moderate underestimate was observed over Oromia, South-West Ethiopia, Somali, Sidama, Central Ethiopia, Benishangul Gumuz and some part of Amhara, regions. There is no significant difference in the rest parts of the country, it shows the same pattern as compared with the Actual.

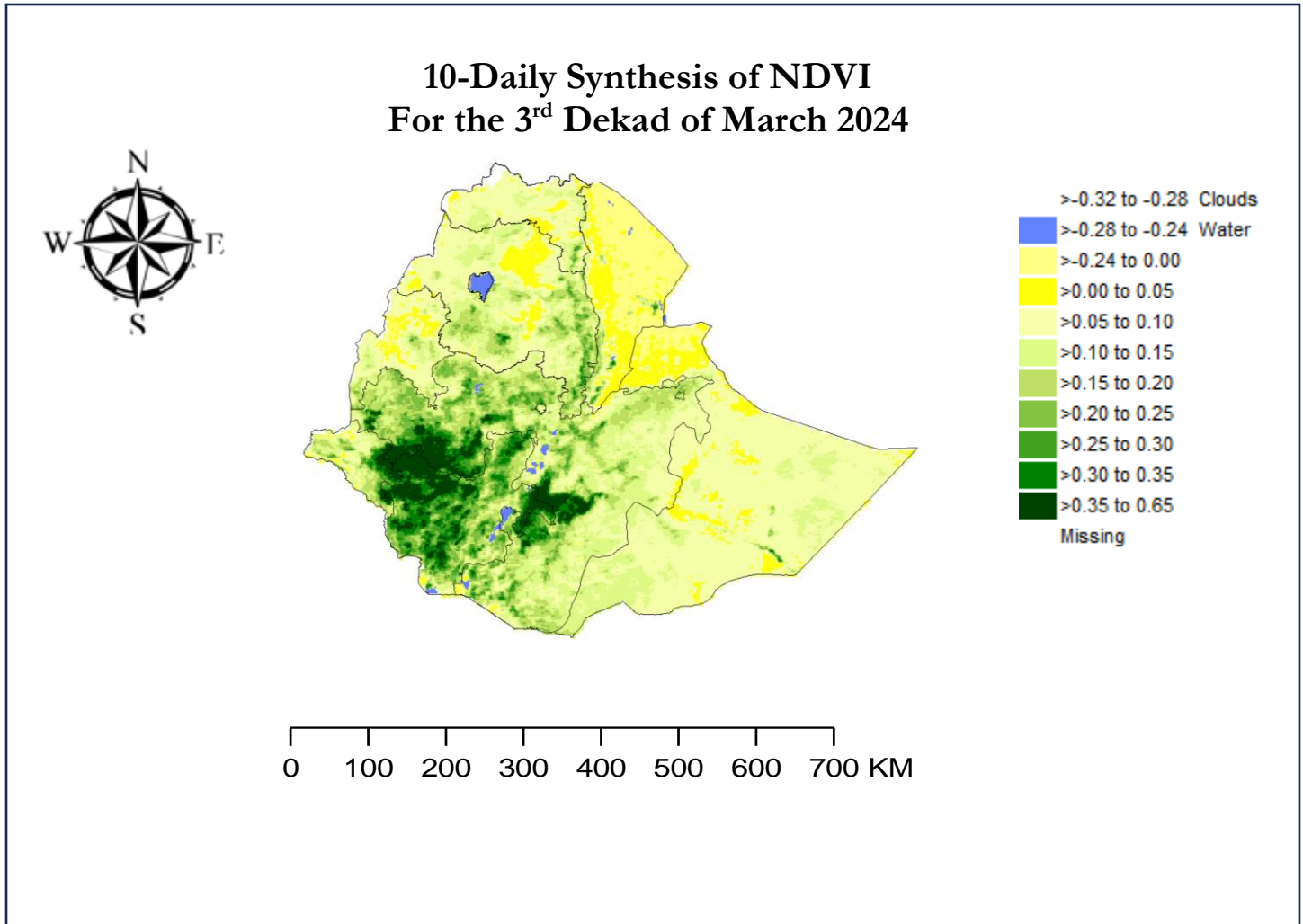


Ground Observation



Satellite rainfall estimation

10-Daily Synthesis of NDVI



Assessment of synthesis NDVI for the 3rd dekad of March 2024

NDVI distribution for this dekad declared high greenness over some parts of the country. Whereas low NDVI values have been observed over most parts of the country. Hence, South West Ethiopia, South Ethiopia, Sidama, Central Ethiopia, most parts of Oromia, few parts of Amhara and Gambella regions are covered by high to moderate greenness. Afar, most parts of Tigray, Amhara, Somali, Benishangul Gumuz, and some parts of Gambella and Oromia regions are covered by low to bare greenness. (Refer to the *actual* figure above).

Comparison with the Climatological Normal

The comparison of current dekad with climatological normals shows that a large to a small increase of greens was observed in South West Ethiopia, South Ethiopia, most parts of Gambella, Oromia, Amhara, and pocket areas of Somali regions. On the other hand, a small decrease in greenness was observed in some of the Oromia, Benishangul Gumuz, Amhara, Afar, Oromia, and pocket areas of Somali regions.

