



Meteorological Data and Climatology Lead Executive

Climatology and Remote Sensing Desk

Ten Daily Satellite Rainfall Estimation and Vegetation Coverage Bulletin

1st Dekad of May 2024

Date: May 13, 2024

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 1 st dekad of May 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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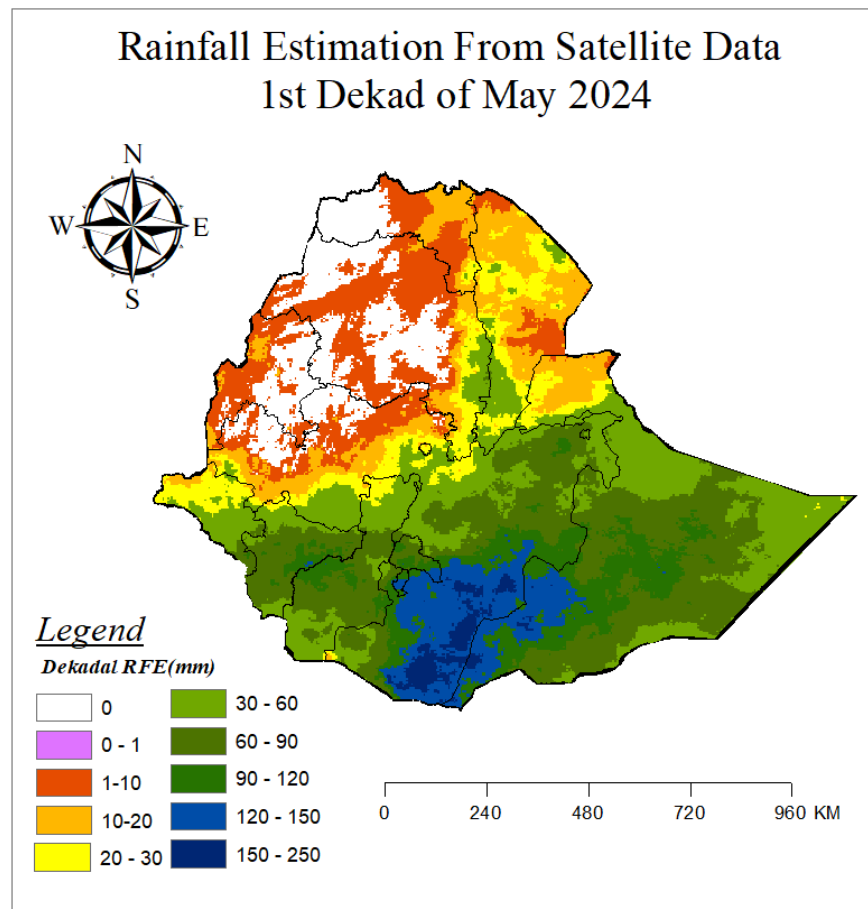
Introduction

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 1st Dekad of MAY 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 (southern, southern eastern and central) as well as other parts of the country were covered by Vegetation. On the other hand, some pocket areas of Tigray, Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, and Oromia regions receive minimum to no rainfall, and low to bare greens were observed in the country.

Rainfall Estimation from Satellite Data

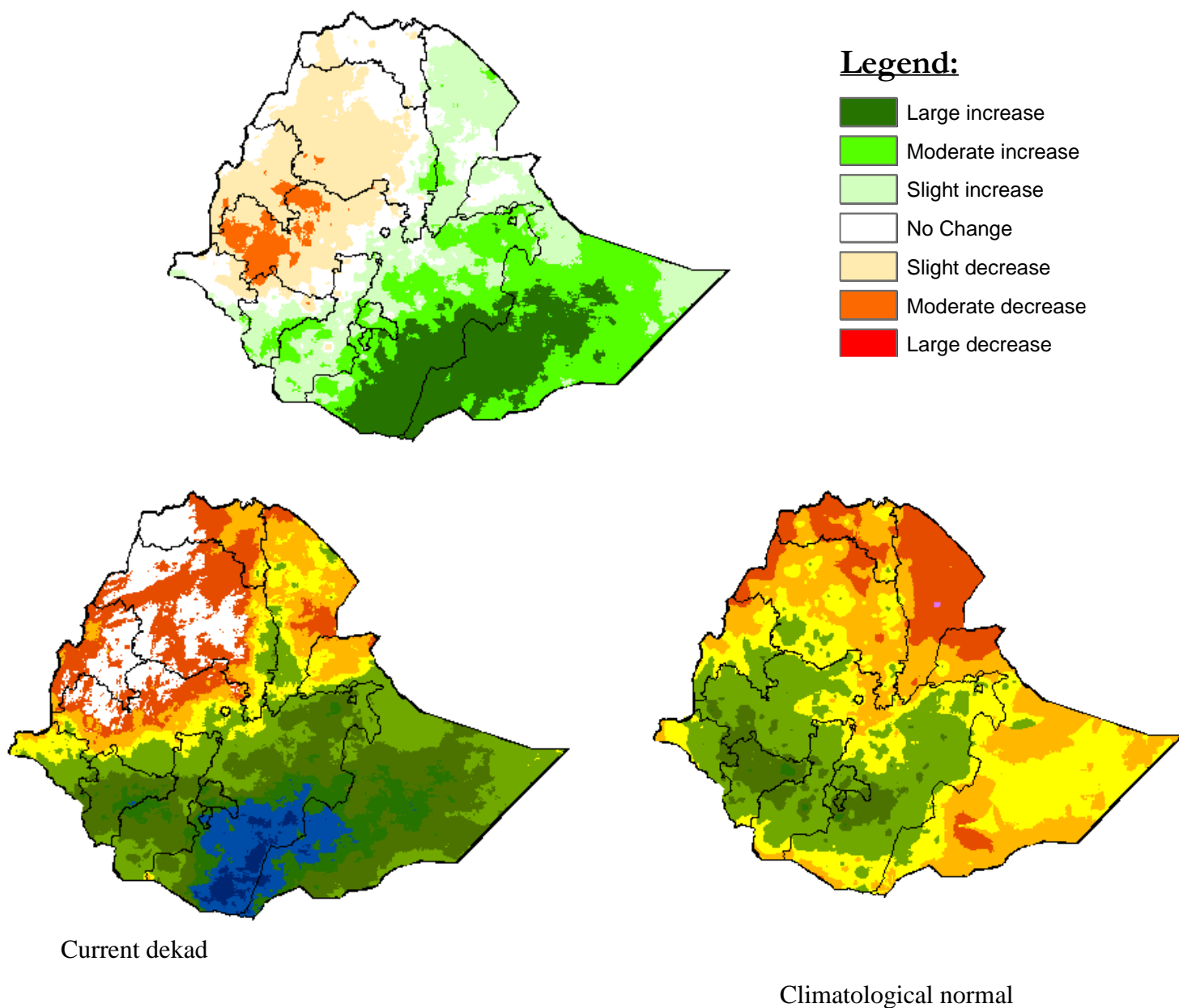


Rainfall distribution

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 first dekad of May, rainfall has commenced in various parts of the country. Specifically, Rainfall has been observed in South Ethiopia, South West Ethiopia, Sidama, Central Ethiopia, Dire Dawa, Harari, Somali and most of Oromia regions received between 30 – 120mm. Gambella, Afar, some pocket areas of Amhara, and north west Oromia region received between 10 – 60 mm. The adjoin areas of south Ormia and Somali received between 120 to 250 mm of rainfall. Conversely, no rainfall has been recorded in the remaining areas of the country.

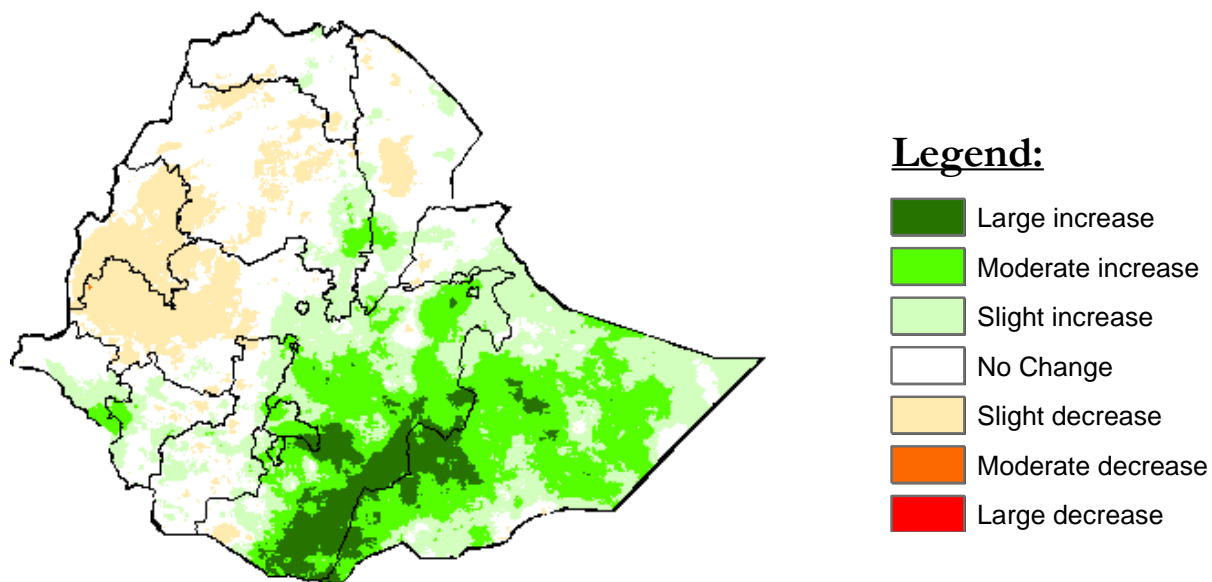
Comparison with climatological normal

In this dekad the comparison of satellite rainfall estimation and climatological average shows that was slight to large increase of rainfall was observed over Somali, central and southern Oromia regions and also slight to moderate increase of rainfall was observed in Sidama, South Ethiopia, Afar, and South West Ethiopia regions. On the other hand, a slight to moderate decrease in rainfall was observed in Benishangul Gumuz, Amhara, and Western Oromia regions. No change in the rest part of the country.

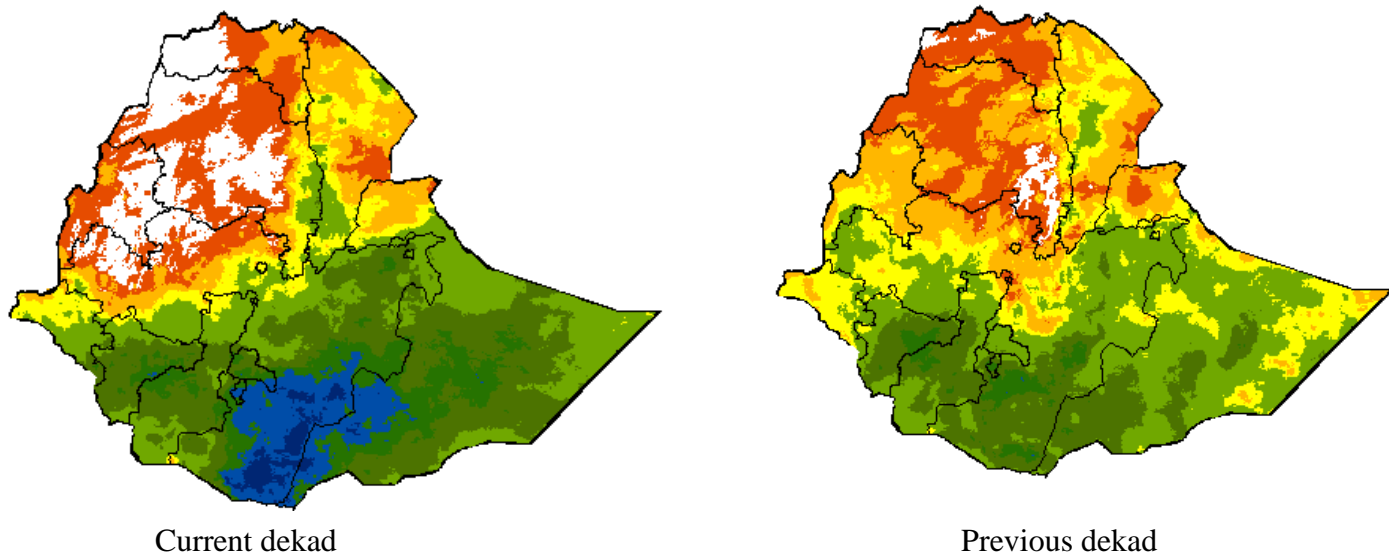


Comparison with the previous Dekad

The comparison of the 1st dekad of May 2024 and the 3rd dekad of April 2024 shows that a slight to large increase of rainfall was observed in Somali, Sidama, central and southern Oromia regions. A slight to moderate increase in rainfall was observed in Gambella, South West Ethiopia Central Ethiopia and some pocket areas of Amhara and Afar regions. On the other hand, a slight decrease in rainfall was observed in Benishangul Gumuz, Amhara, western Oromia, and some pocket areas of Afar regions. No change in the rest part of the country.

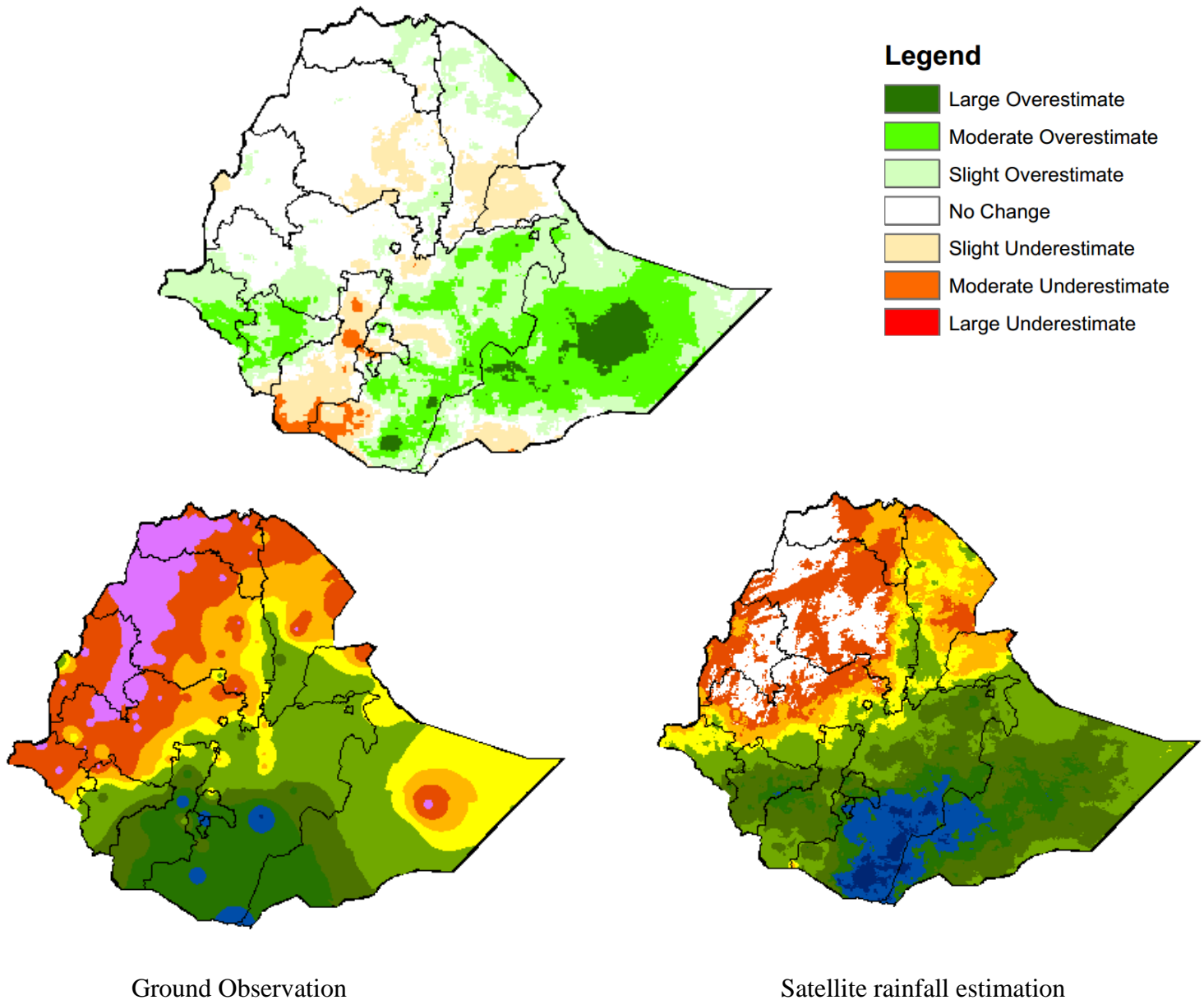


Difference of two Dekad

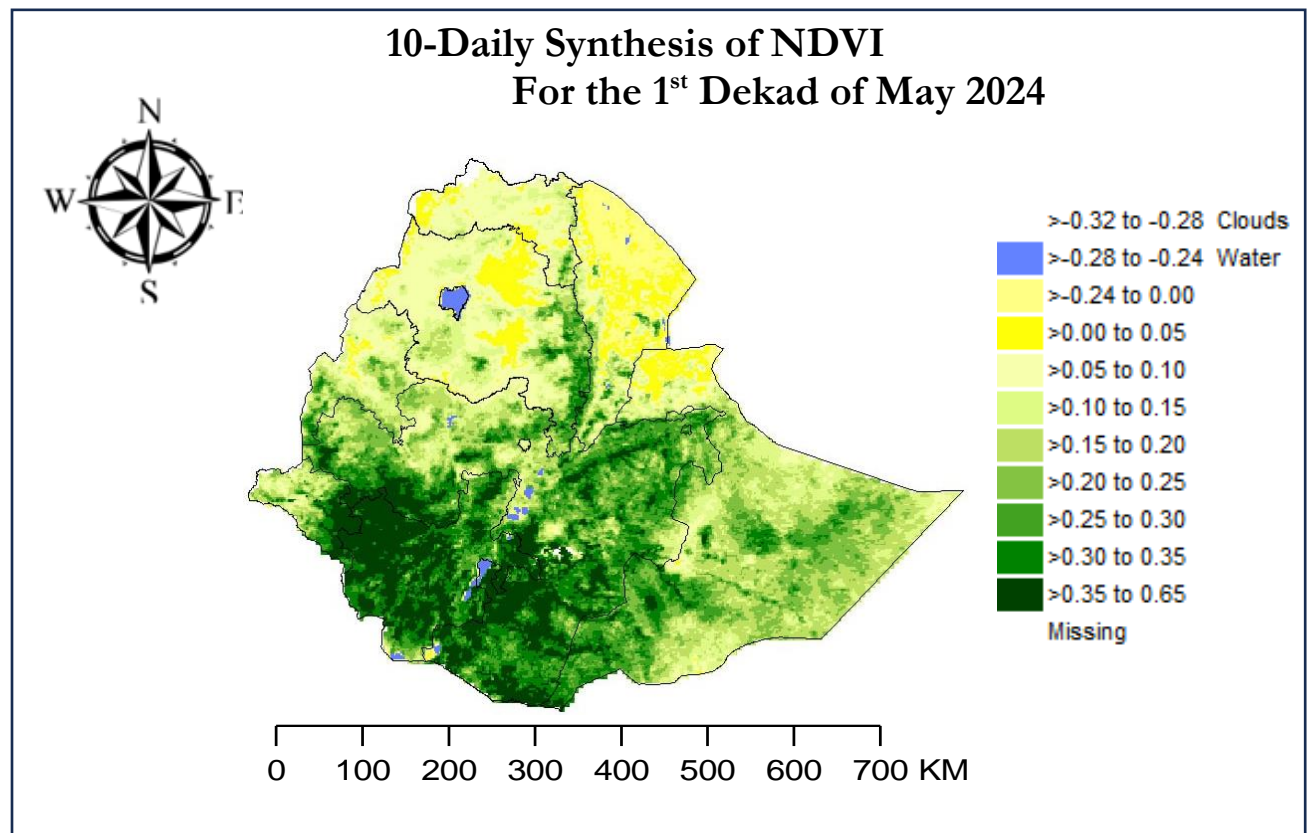


Comparison with the ground observation

The satellite rainfall estimation shows that there was a slight to large overestimate observed in Somali, and Oromia. Moderate to slight overestimate in Gambella, South-West Ethiopia, and pocket areas of Afar regions. On the other hand, a slight to moderate underestimate was observed in South Ethiopia, Central Ethiopia, and Sidama. There is no significant difference in the rest parts of the country, it shows the same pattern as compared with the Actual.



10-Daily Synthesis of NDVI



Assessment of synthesis NDVI for the 1st dekad of May 2024

NDVI distribution for this dekad declared high greenness over most parts of the country. Whereas low NDVI values have been observed over some parts of the country. Hence, South West Ethiopia, South Ethiopia, Sidama, Central Ethiopia, most parts of Oromia, Somali, Gambella, pocket areas of Amhara and Afar regions are covered by high to moderate greenness. Afar, Tigray, Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, and some pocket areas of Somali 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 normal shows that a small to a large increase of greens was observed in Somali, Dire Dawa, Harari, Central Ethiopia, South West Ethiopia, South Ethiopia, Afar, central and southern Oromia, some parts of Amhara, and pocket areas of Tigray regions. On the other hand, a small to large decrease in greenness was observed in Gambella, western Oromia, Benishangul Gumuz, Amhara, and pocket areas of Somali regions.

