



Meteorological Data and Climatology Lead Executive

Climatology and Remote Sensing Desk

Ten Daily Satellite Rainfall Estimation and Vegetation Coverage Bulletin

3rd Dekad of January 2026

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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.

Fetene Teshome
Director General
Ethiopia Meteorology Institute
P.O. Box 1090
Tel: 0115-51 22 99
Fax 0115-51 70 66
E-mail: ethiomet.gov.et
Addis Ababa

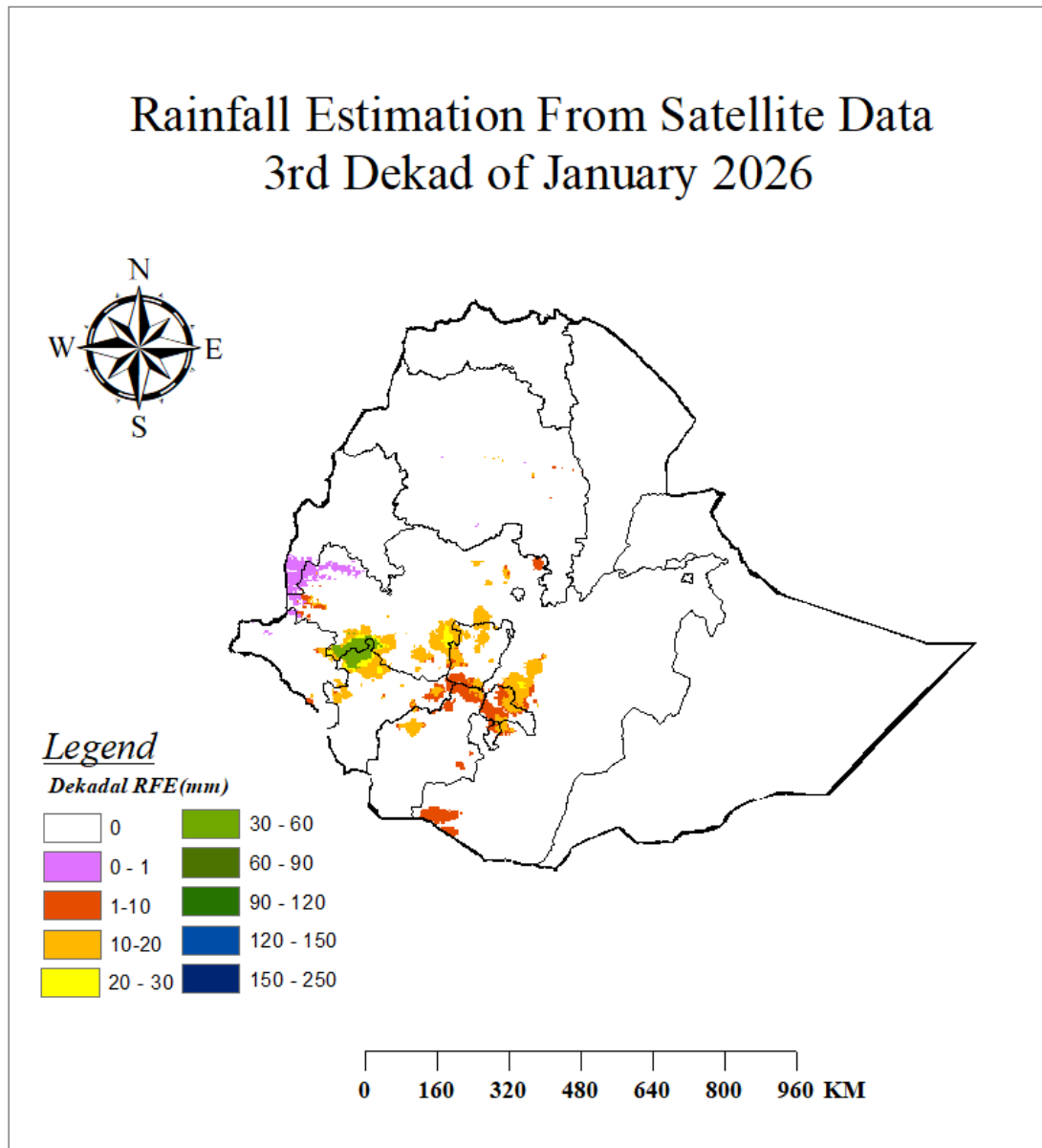
Introduction

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 January 2026 satellite rainfall estimation and vegetation greenness were produced with the help of TAMESAT and METOSAT vegetation products. During this dekad, some parts of Bega rain-benefiting areas received moderate rainfall as a result of the strong relationship between rainfall and the Normalized vegetation index (NDVI) most Bega-benefiting areas (southern and southwest) as well as other parts of the country, were covered by Vegetation. On the other hand, the Afar, Somali and eastern Oromia regions received minimum to no rainfall, and low to bare greens were observed in the country.

Rainfall Estimation from Satellite Data

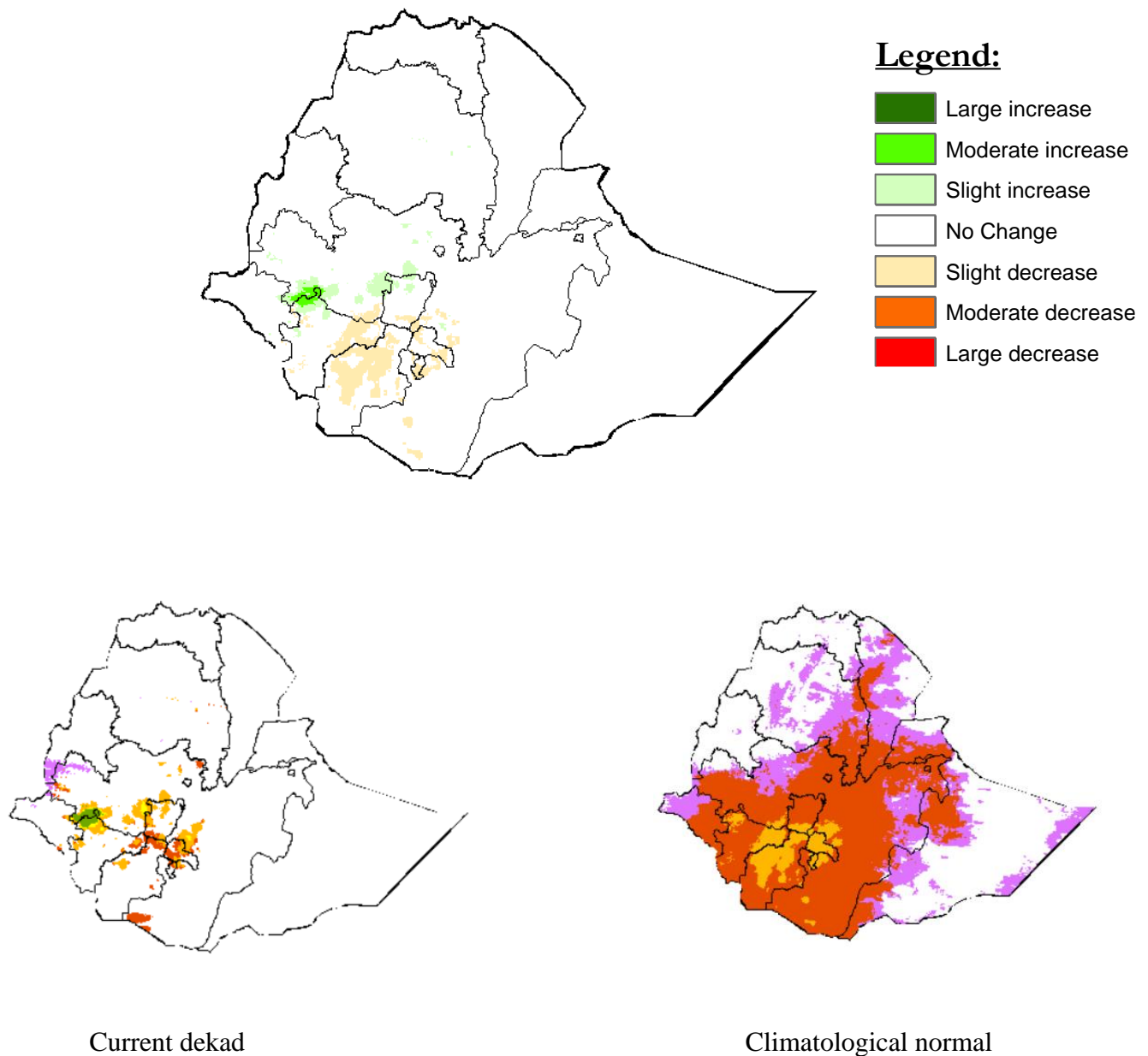


Rainfall distribution

Bega season (October–January) is generally the dry period across most parts of the country. During this dekad, rainfall was observed in limited areas. Parts of western Oromia and adjacent areas of Southwest Ethiopia received 30–60 mm of rainfall. Light rainfall (1–30 mm) was recorded over parts of Sidama, central Ethiopia, and a few areas of Southern Ethiopia. In contrast, no rainfall was reported over the rest of the country.

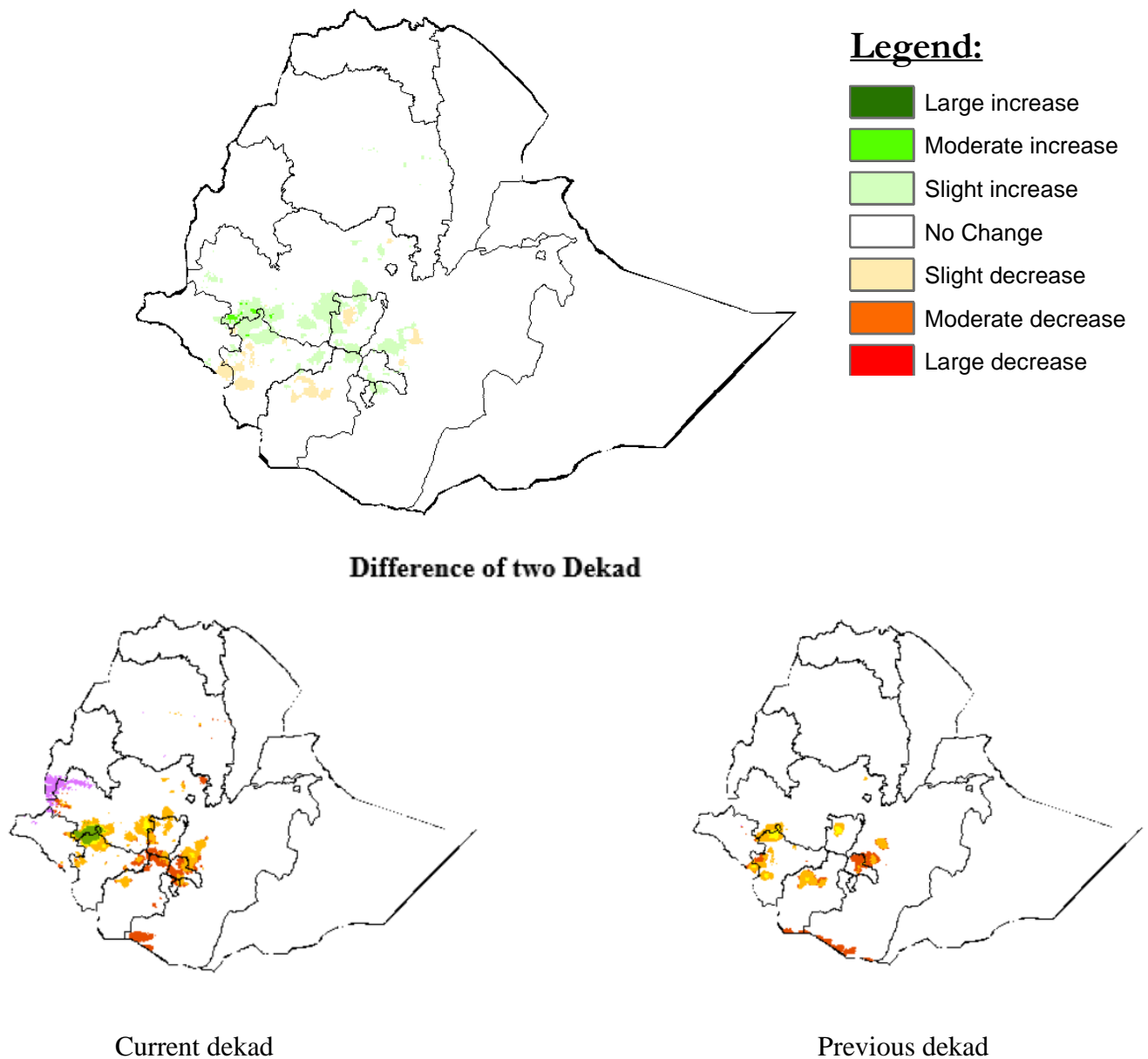
Comparison with climatological normal

In this dekad the comparison of satellite rainfall estimation and climatological average shows that there was a slight to moderate increase of rainfall observed in a few areas of western Oromia, southwest Ethiopia, and central Oromia regions. On the other hand, slight decrease of rainfall was observe over South Ethiopia, Southwest Ethiopia, Southern Ethiopia and Sidama region. No change in the rest of the country.



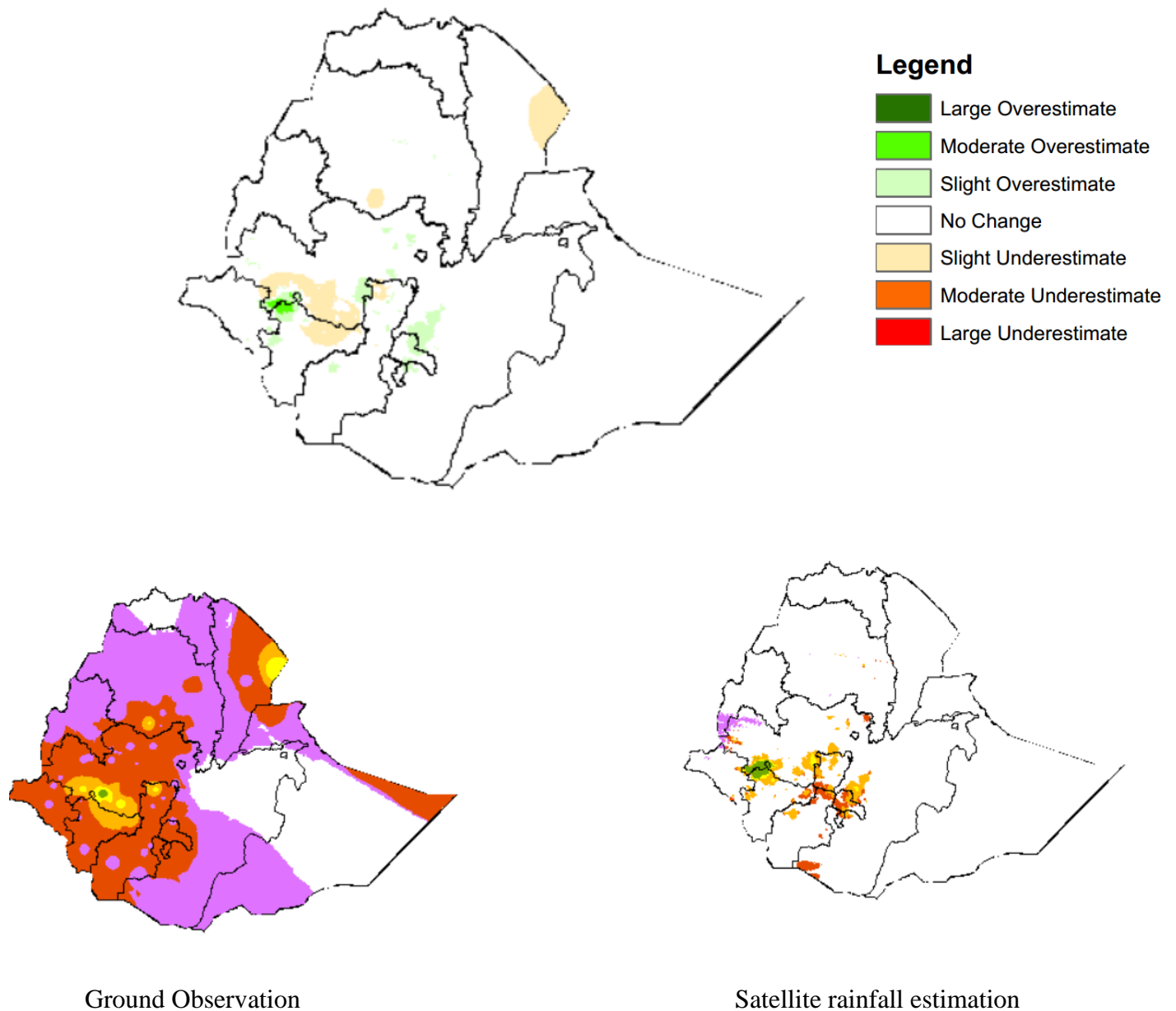
Comparison with the previous Dekad

The comparison of the 3rd dekad of January 2025 and the 2nd dekad of January 2025 shows that a slight to moderate increase of rainfall was observed in some part of western Oromia, southwest Ethiopia, and Central Ethiopia regions. On the other hand, a slight decrease of rainfall was observed over few areas of southwest Ethiopia, and southern Ethiopia regions. No change in the rest of the country.

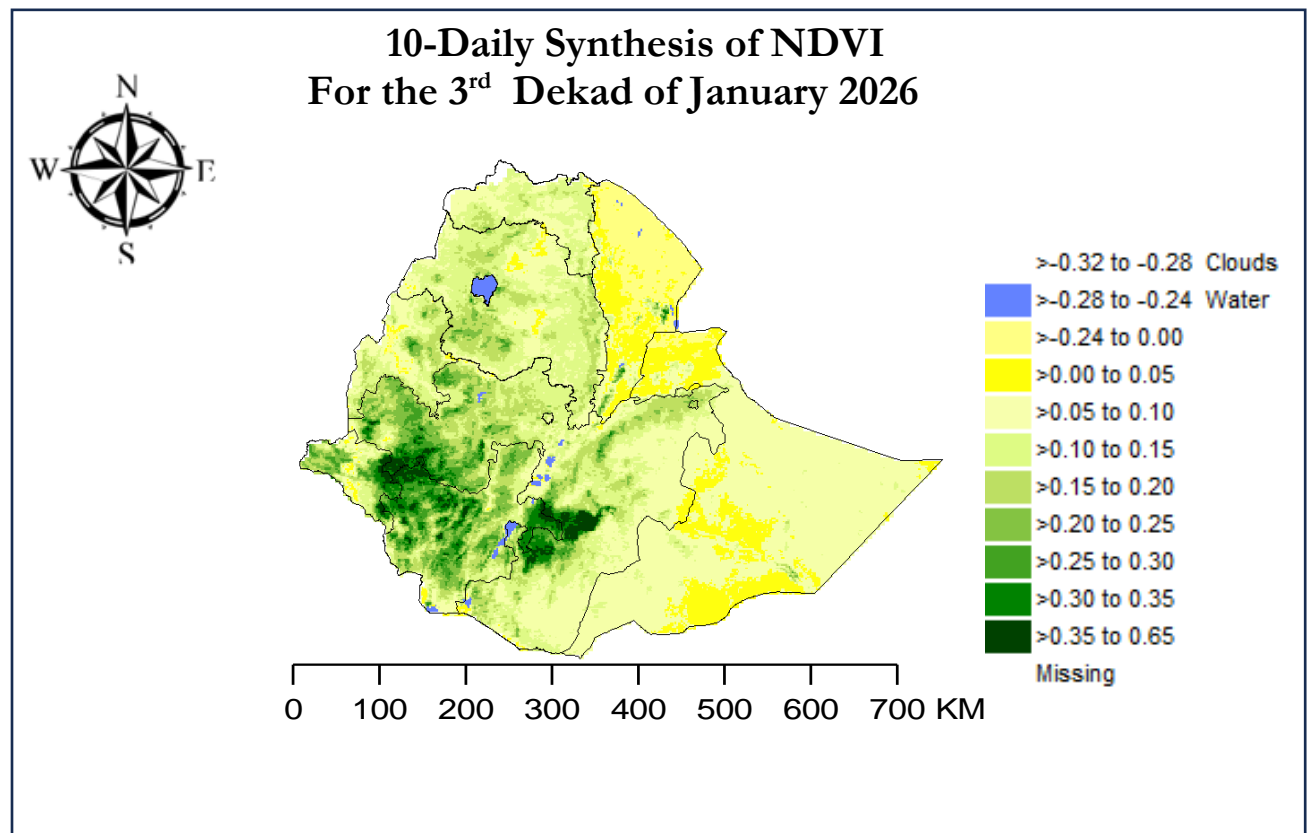


Comparison with the ground observation

The satellite rainfall estimation shows that there was a slight to moderate overestimate observed in southwest Ethiopia and pocket areas of Oromia region. On the other hand, a slight underestimate was observed in some part of western Oromia, few areas of southwest Ethiopia, and afar regions. 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 3rd dekad of January 2026

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, Southwest Ethiopia, south Ethiopia, western Oromia, Sidama and some part of Gambella regions are covered by moderate greenness. Somali and Afar, Benishangul Gumuz, Tigray and Amhara regions are covered by low to bare greenness. (Refer to the *actual* figure above).

Comparison with the Climatological Normal

The comparison of the current dekad with climatological normal shows that a small increase of greens was observed in some part of South Ethiopia, southwest Ethiopia, Gambella and few areas of Oromia regions. On the other hand, a small to large decrease in greenness was observed in Oromia, Somali, some part of Benishangul Gumuz, and Amahra regions.

