

Ethiopian Early Warning System



Monthly Report : February 2007

AREAS OF PRIORITY ACTION

New Strategy for Emergency Intervention to be Applied

Weather performance in 2006 was best in both cropping and pastoral areas. In cropping areas most regions expected significant increase in production. It is true that there were localized disasters caused by floods, pest infestation, weather irregularities etc. But their impact were relatively less when compared with severe drought in recent past.

The total number of emergency beneficiaries in 2007 is estimated to be 1.3 million. This figure is significantly lower than the previous years.

Following the significant decline in the number of emergency beneficiary, a new strategy for emergency intervention is in the making. Under the new strategy, unlike in the past, resources are not directly allocated for emergency beneficiaries. Rather, the actual need should be established and interventions start when needs arise. This is expected to improve the targeting activity in addressing the most needy and reduce unnecessary use of resources and dependency syndrome.

There are concerns, however, on such issues as capacity constraints. There are serious tasks ahead to devise strategy on what tools to use. For the time being, if there are critical areas, intervention will be undertaken upon requests of regions. Then interventions both in food and non-food components start with follow up verification activities using the traditional rapid assessment techniques. To support this effort, the Early Warning Working Group has started methodology development for the case by case verification.

Cases of AWD and Measles

Cases of Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) and measles were identified in different parts of the country, particularly in Oromiya, Affar and Somali regions. Three zones (Bale, Borena and West Arsi) reported the disease in Oromiya while in Affar Afambo Woreda of Zone 1, Gewane, Amibara and Buremudaitu woredas of Zone 3 were among the seriously affected. In Somali Region the poor water quality aggravated the spread of the disease especially in the flood affected areas. According to the regional health bureau, in the month of January alone deaths were reported in Moyale of Liben zone, Hargelle and Chereti of Afder zone, Gode and Kelafo of Gode Zone and Kebridehar woreda of Korahe Zone. The situation looks worrying with the region lacking skilled personnel and resources.

HIGHLIGHTS

Weather Performance

There were rains of varying volume and distribution ranging from below normal to normal during February 2007. The last ten days of the month, however, were mostly dry.

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Agricultural Activities Progressing

Land preparation and sowing activities of Belg crops had been in progress in most Belg growing areas during February 2007 despite elongated dry period towards end of February and ten days into March.

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Weather Performance in Pastoral Areas

Deyr rain in Somali Region and Dedea in Afar Region were above normal in duration and volume respectively. This has improved pasture and other subsequent issues except areas lacking the rains.

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Disaster Occurrence

Human and Animal Health

Cases of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) continued to be major concerns in different parts of the country. The cases were reported in Oromiya, Somali and Affar regions. Bale, Borena, and West Arsi were the zones that reported the disease in Oromiya. In Somali Region the poor water quality aggravated the spread of the disease especially in the flood affected areas. According to the regional health bureau, in the month of January alone out of 521 cases 14 deaths were reported in Moyale of Liben Zone, Hargelle and Chereti of Afder zone, Gode and Kelafo Zone and Kebridehar Woreda of Koraha Zone.

In Affar Region Afambo Woreda of Zone 1, Gewane, Amibara and Buremudaitu woredas of Zone 3 were among the seriously affected. Out of the total 1,400 cases identified 53 deaths were reported to date. Recently there was a task force established by the Regional DPFBS with line bureaus and non governmental organizations working in the region for the coordination and mobilization of resources.

Occurrence of measles in Degem Woreda of North Shoa Zone, and Daro Lebu Woreda of West Haraghe Zone in Oromiya Region was indicated by woreda and zonal level health bureaus . About 17 people were treated at woreda health centers and the disease is under control. Unidentified disease similar to Goiter was also reported on resettled population at Hawa Gelan and Gawo Kebe woredas of Kelem Zone and Amuru and Chedeti settlement areas of Horo Guduru Woreda. There is fear of spread of meningitis in western and southwestern parts of Ethiopia particularly in Benshangul-Gumuz Region from the Sudan currently as the country is part of belt of the disease that extends from West Africa to the east.

Water availability for livestock is satisfactory in many parts of the county. Exceptions are areas like lowland areas of Raitu, Legehida, Dawa Serer woredas of Bale Zone; Derar Arba kebele of Babile Woreda, Erer, Gegewu and Kumbi kebeles of Gola Oda Woreda, Fedis and four kebeles of Meyu Muluke Woreda of East Hararge Zone where shortage of drinking water was reported. The shortage particularly in localities of Babile and Fedis was so grave that it needs particular attention.

In Alaba Woreda of SNNP, death of 45 goats of communicable diseases in five midland kebeles was reported. Similarly, an expected increased incident of CCPP is reported from Derashse Special Woreda due to shortage of medicine. On the other hand, the spread of Trypanosomiasis was reported in Dawro Zone of SNNP irrespective of all the necessary measures taken to control. In addition, increasing incidence of Black leg was reported from Bonke, Keneba and Arba Minch woredas of Gamo Gofa Zone.

According to reports of DPPA field assessment teams Acute Watery Diarrhea has been reported from different parts of the country.

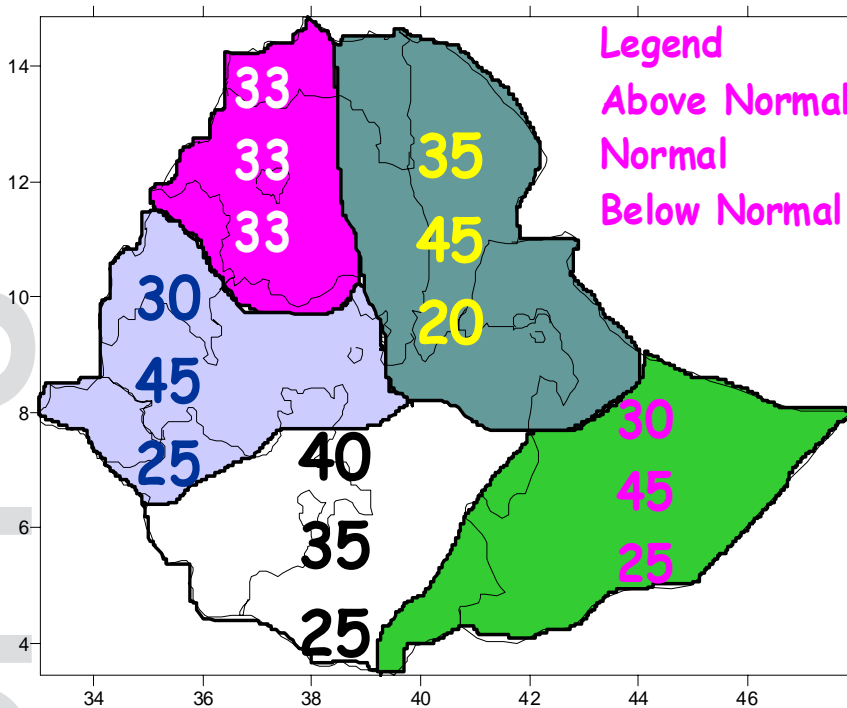


Weather Conditions

Weather Outlook for 2007 Belg Season

According to forecast made by National Meteorological Service Agency (NMSA) normal onset and cessation of Belg rains - mid February to May - is expected over most parts of the country. Under the circumstances of high variability of the rains high chance of normal to above normal rains is expected in Belg growing areas of the country. Particularly, northwestern and western parts of the country are expected to have normal rains. Considering the high variability nature of the Belg rains, there will possibly be dry spell for consecutive days in between. It is also expected that the rains could be under the influence of moderate El Nino condition. Maximum hot temperature is expected to be more or less close to normal.

Seasonal Rainfall probabilities for Belg 2007



Northwestern and portions of western parts of the country are expected to have normal rains during the current Belg. Considering the high variability nature of Belg rains, there will possibly be dry spell for consecutive days.

Performance of the Rain during February 2007

Normal to above normal rainfall conditions were noted throughout the country during the first ten days of February. However, during the rest of the month the rainfall declined in many areas particularly along the rift valley having below normal rainfall.

During the 1st dekad of February 2007, southern Afar, eastern and southern Oromiya had normal to above normal rainfall while below normal rainfall was



Weather Conditions

observed over eastern Tigray. In Amhara Region most Belg growing areas of North Shewa, Oromiya, and South Wello zones received good rain during the first dekad while the regional report indicated that North wello and Agew Awi Zone had no rain. Gurage, South Omo, Keffa, Wolayita, Hadiya, Sidama, Silte, Gedeo and Dawro zones of SNNP Region received heavy to medium amount of rainfall. Gamugofa Zone, Konso, Burji and Derashe Special woredas received some shower. On the other hand, weekly reports received by DPPA indicate that most parts of East Wollega, Jimma, Arsi, West Arsi and South West Shewa of Oromiya Region received good rain during the dekad. Again, North Shewa, East Shewa and Horo Gudru of East Wollega received shower in some few areas.

During the 2nd dekad of February 2007, most parts of central and western Oromiya, western and northeastern SNNP, all parts of Gambella, eastern and southern Amhara, eastern Benshangul-Gumuz, eastern Tigray, western Afar and northern Somali received normal to above normal rainfall. Most parts of East Wellega, Ilubabor and Kelem Zones received good rainfall and Jimma, some kola areas of Arsi, Bale, West Arsi received shower in some localities. Dawuro, Silte, Bench, Kefa and Amaro Special Woreda received medium to heavy rain. Gamugofa, Kembata Timbaro (KT), Sidama and Gurage zones had erratic rain during the dekad and the rest parts of the region had no rain.

In the 3rd dekad, that is the last ten days of the month, Dega and Woina Dega areas of Hadiya Zone, Gedeo, Konso special woreda received some shower; Sidama and Kefa zones received medium rain while the rest of the region had no rain. Pocket areas of western and northern Gambella, eastern Beneshangul-gumuz and southern Amhara received normal to above normal rainfall. The rest of the country observed below normal to normal rainfall. The counter productive aspect yet is rainfall deficiency noted throughout the third dekad over most parts of the country. In Dire Dawa and its surrounding dry and hot weather prevailed because of which vegetation was drying. The first dekad of March had been of dry spell over most parts of the country. Exceptions were Gambella, some areas of western Oromiya and pocket areas SNNP.

Weather Outlook for March 2007

According to NMSA, eastern parts of Tigray and Amhara, western and southern Somali as well as SNNP will receive close to normal rainfall, which is expected to decrease high hot temperature during March 2007 as forecasted by NMSA. Areas that are predicted to have rain include southwestern, central and northeastern highlands. Parts of the country that expect low to medium volume of rain which would favor the planted crops for their vegetative growth are SNNP, western and southern Oromiya, central Ethiopia, eastern Amhara and eastern Tigray. In northwestern, north eastern and south eastern low lands below normal rainfall is expected. On the contrary, erratic rainfall distribution

The first dekad of March had been of dry spell over most parts of the country. Exceptions were Gambella, some areas of western Oromiya and pocket areas of SNNP.



Weather Conditions

is expected over lowland areas of the country, which would negatively affect water requirements of crops over lowland areas of the country. Gambella, eastern Oromiya and northern Somali regions could receive close to normal rains. Other parts of the country are anticipated to have dry weather condition with minimal cloud cover here and there. The maximum daily hot temperature in the lowlands will continue at average level, according to NMSA prediction report.

Weather Related Hazards

In Arsi Zone 1419 ha of unharvested wheat and teff crops were damaged due to reported heavy and untimely rain in February 2007. Moreover, Arsi Negele Woreda of West Arsi Zone of Oromiya Region and Amaro Special Woreda of SNNP had heavy rain that was cause to flooding that damaged property. Similarly, during 3rd dekad heavy rain accompanied by hailstorm caused damage to false banana (Enset), coffee and fruit trees. Early planted Belg crops as well as other property damage were reported in Bolososore Woreda and neighboring areas of Wolayita Zone and Bule Woreda of Gedee Zone.

Threat of floods is also anticipated to occur in April along specific river basins throughout the country. River basins along which occurrence of floods is feared are Wabe Shebelle, Genale, Dawa Weib in southeast, Omo in the southwest and Awash in central and northeast, according to WFP report. April is the month when heaviest fall of Belg season occur. And even though Belg rainfall during February was below normal flood threats are still expected during April.



Agricultural Activities

Land Preparation and Planting of Belg Crops in Progress

Land preparation and planting activities of Belg crops had been in progress in most Belg growing areas during February 2007 under favorable condition of rainfall. However, in some pocket areas of south Tigray and north eastern Amhara where the belg agricultural activities start earlier there had been deficient rainfall during the 1st and 3rd dekad of the month. Consequently, it resulted in water stress on planted crops.

The dry, sunny and below normal rainfall condition observed at the later month February in many Belg producing areas had negative impact on land preparation and sowing activities. The situation was bad in terms of water requirement of crops planted earlier during January and first half of February 2007 and that were at early vegetative stage.

In mainly Belg growing areas of Oromiya Region land preparation and sowing of crops were under way. In North Shewa Zone sowing of Belg crops was almost finished owing to normal and above normal rainfall during 1st and 2nd dekad of the month. On the other hand, in most areas of the region threshing and harvesting of Meher crops were completed except in few areas. In Dega areas of West Arsi and Horo Gudru Z`one of east Wellega heavy rain hampered harvesting activities.

In most parts of SNNP land preparation for Belg season was in progress. Some farmers started sowing of Belg crops in Kola areas of Gamo gofa and Wolaita Zones. Moreover, farmers were also planting sweet potato in Dega and Woina Dega areas of Gamugofa, Hadiya and Wolayita zones. Similarly, in Silte Zone and Alaba Special woredas planting of Irish potato was in progress. In Dega and Woina Dega areas of Dawuro Zone maize crops were at germinating stage. Besides, in Derashe Special Woreda farmers undertook dry planting of teff.

Report from Amhara Region indicated that land preparation for Belg crops and long cycle crops was taking place. Moreover, in most Belg growing areas farmers were sowing barely and pulses. At the beginning of February the area covered by seed in North Shewa, Oromiya and South Wello zones was 4.54%, 35.59% and 32.07% of the ploughed area respectively.

Clearing of farmland for the coming Meher season was under way in Gambella Region. In a related development, in Dega areas of Godere Woreda of the region land preparation for Belg maize crop was progressing.

Using the shower of rains land preparation for Belg crops has started in the



Agricultural Activities

Belg growing areas of Oromiya and SNNP regions during the 3rd dekad of the month. In addition to this maize crop was being planted in West Wollega.

Crop Disease and Pest Situation

There were no reports of crop disease and pest infestations from all parts of the country. Under similar circumstance, FAO Desert Locust Control Bulletin No 328 indicates that no locusts were reported during the month of January. Significant development of locust in Ethiopia was also unlikely as predicted for February 2006 even before the month elapsed. The prediction until mid May also indicates that significant development of locust in Ethiopia is unlikely. But WFP reported possibility of locust infestation emerging from Red sea coastal plains during April/May the time when wet condition could be favorable for breeding of the insects.

For **Djibouti** the prediction shows locust infestation referred to as gregaring may be present along the coast between Djibouti town and the Somali border. The risk of low number of adults appearing on norther coastal plains between Obock and the Eritrean border has also been predicted. With respect to the **Sudan** increase in number of the insects on the Red Sea coastal plains between Tokar Delta was observed during December and end of February as predicted and control measures were taken except in areas referred to as technically inaccessible.

Pasture and Livestock Condition in Cropping Areas

The overall situation of pasture and livestock condition in most parts of the cropping areas in the country remained to be normal. Exceptions were Guba Koricha and Meiso woredas in West Hararghe and Fentale and Adamitulu Jido Kombolcha woredas of East Shewa zones in Oromia Region where shortage of pasture and water was reported. Physical condition of the livestock was improving in most parts of the country. With regard to the health status, no outbreak of disease at epidemic level was reported except some cases of Anthrax, Black leg and Pasteriolosis in Meiso and Doba woredas of West Hararghe, Arsi Negelle and Dodola woredas of West Arsi in Oromiya Region; Arthuma Fursi Woreda of Oromiya Zone in Amhara Region; Derashie Woreda, Kembata Tembaro, Bedewacho Woredas of Hadiya Zone, Dawro and Chenchaworedas in Gamo Gofa Zone of SNNP. Additionally sheep pox was reported from Dawa Chefa Woreda of Oromiya Zone, Tehuledere and Debre Sina woredas of South Wello Zone in Amhara region.



Market Situation

Market Condition

The price for all major grains in December 2006 increased as compared to the December average and that of December 2005 in most parts of the country. For instance, price of teff in December 2006 was 399 birr/quintal which increased by 41% from December 2005 and by 40% from December average whereas wheat was 281 birr/quintal increasing by 32% and 31%. Generally, the trend for average grain price during January to December 2006 showed slight fluctuation except for teff which showed an increasing trend till October and then started to decrease whereas wheat was showing an increasing trend. On the other hand, the trend of shoats price from January to November 2006 showed slight fluctuation and started to increase in December. The terms of trade was in favor of shoat owners by and large where an average price of a shoat buys 1.3 quintal to 1.5 quintal of maize in average in the months from January to November 2006.

With respect to Somali Region in particular, livestock price increased in Jijiga, Shinile, Liben and Degahbour zones owing to their improved physical condition. Besides, the increased demand both locally and internationally contributed to the price rise. In the other zones the situation remained stable. On the contrary, in the flood affected areas of Gode, Korahe, Shinille and Warder zones prices for cereals showed slight increment due to poor supply to the market. Contrary to this cereal prices declined slightly in Jijiga and Degahbour zones due to better harvest in these areas. Similarly, livestock price was indicated to be low in the southern zones.

Cereal prices showed a normal trend since September 2006 due to fresh harvest of maize in agro pastoral areas of Aysaita and Afambo of zone 1 together with the good harvest in neighboring Amhara and Tigray regions. On the other hand, shoat price showed improvement with the improved physical condition. So the terms of trade were in favor of the pastoralists.

In conclusion the significant increase in prices of major grains was associated with the increased cost of inputs, increased demand both locally and internationally and the reservation of farmers to supply ample amount of grain to the market with expectation for better prices.

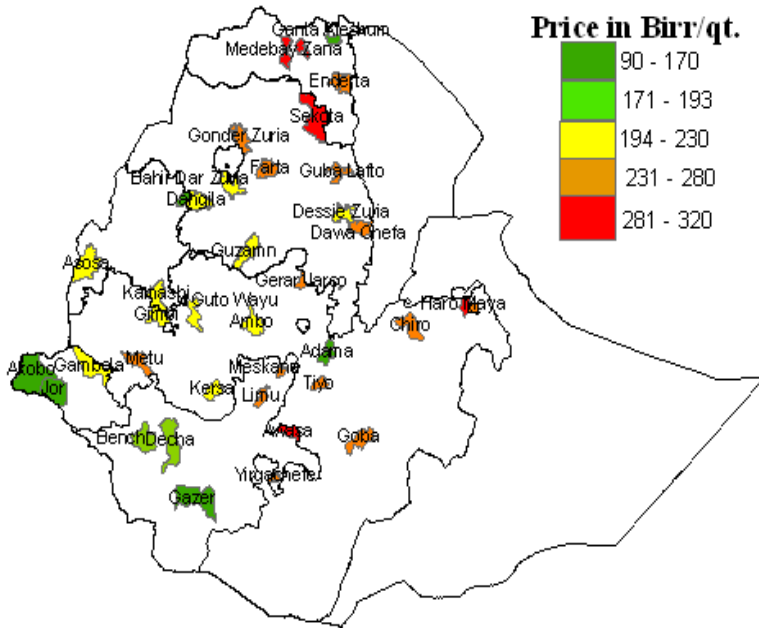
Regarding livestock, the prices remain to be higher due to the increased demand both locally and internationally together with the improved physical condition of the animals as a result of the currently improved pasture and water situation.

There has been significant increase in prices of major grains associated with the increased cost of inputs, increased demand and the farmers opting to keep the of grain with expectation for better prices. Livestock prices also remain to be higher due to the increased demand both locally and internationally together with their improved physical condition as a result of the currently improved pasture and water situation.

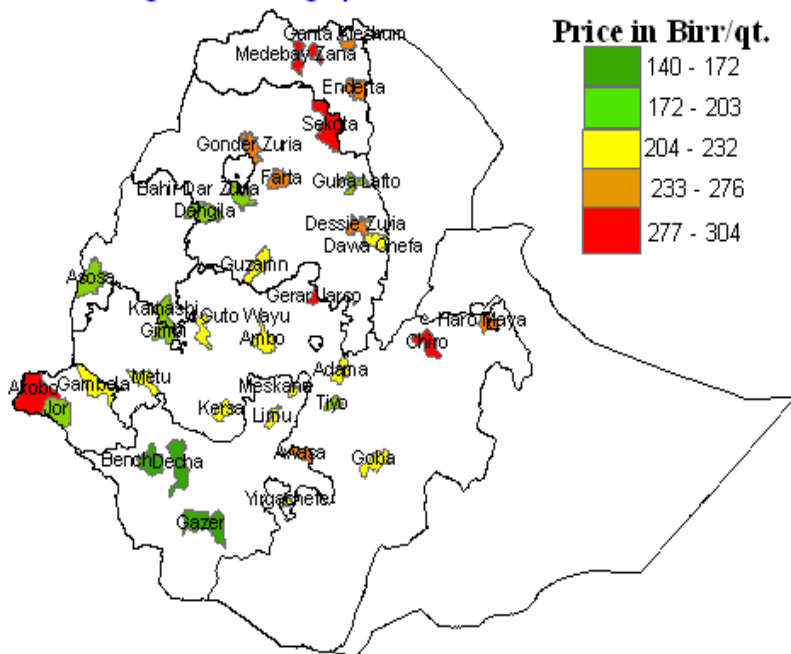


Market Situation

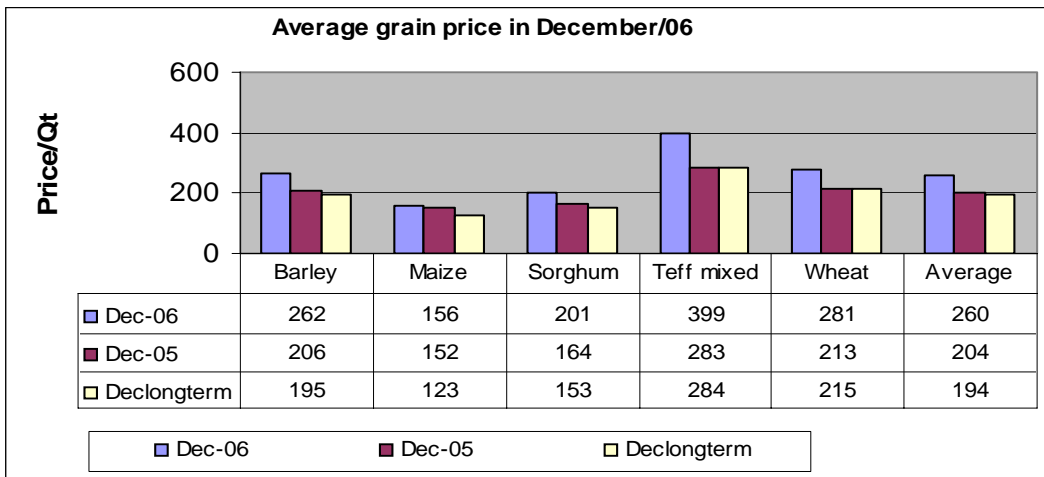
Price of maize in December 2006.



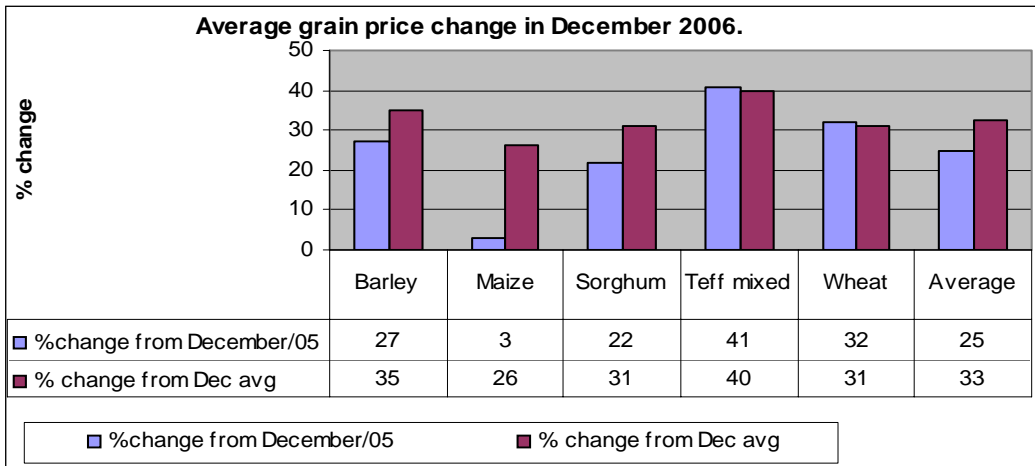
Long term average price of maize in December



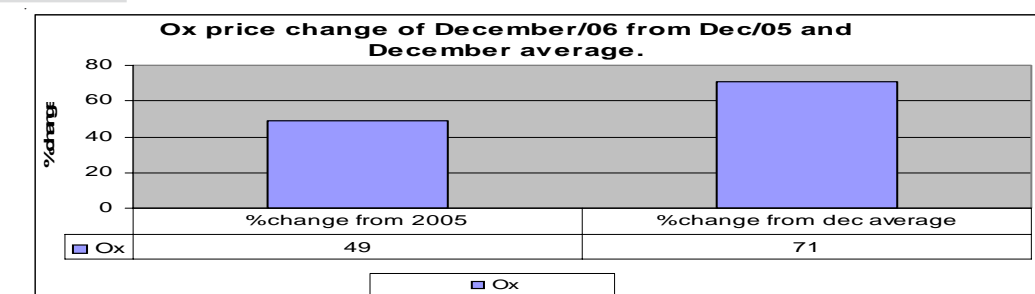
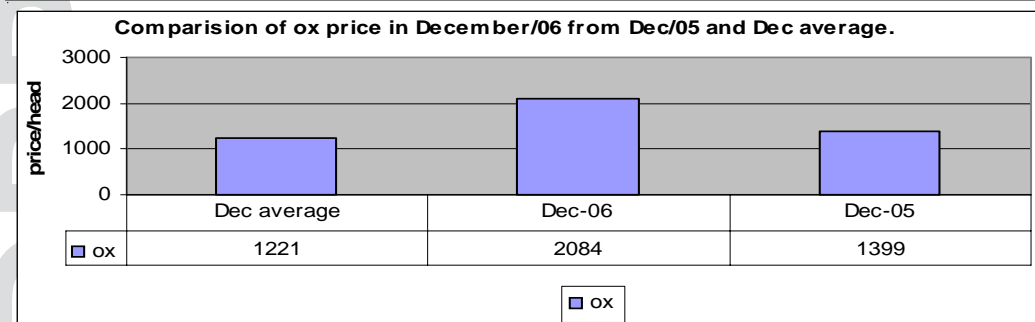
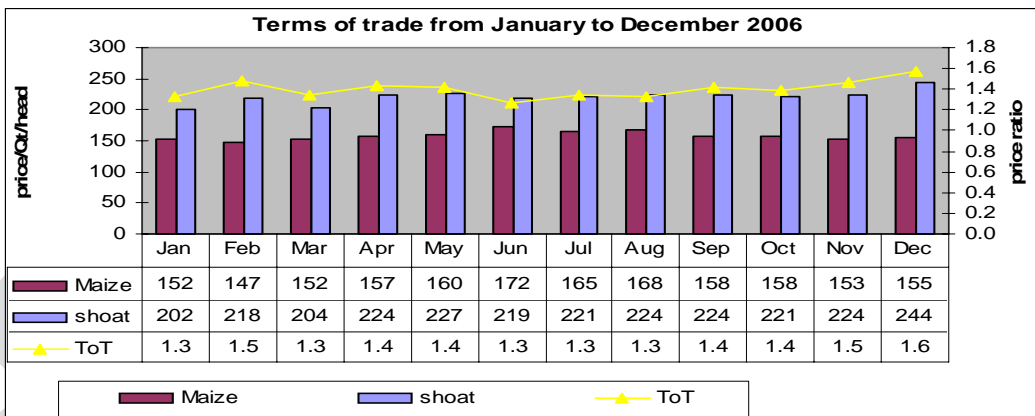
The spatial analysis of the selected markets is displayed below (map 1 and 2) by comparing the December average of 1998 -2006 maize prices. In map 1 maize price in Dec 2006 highest price (241 - 320 birr/qt) in Laelay Maichew, Medebay Zana and Sekota markets. But the long term average was higher (152 – 200 birr/qt) in Akobo, Chiرو, Gerar jarso, Sekota, Medebay zana and Laelay Maichew markets.

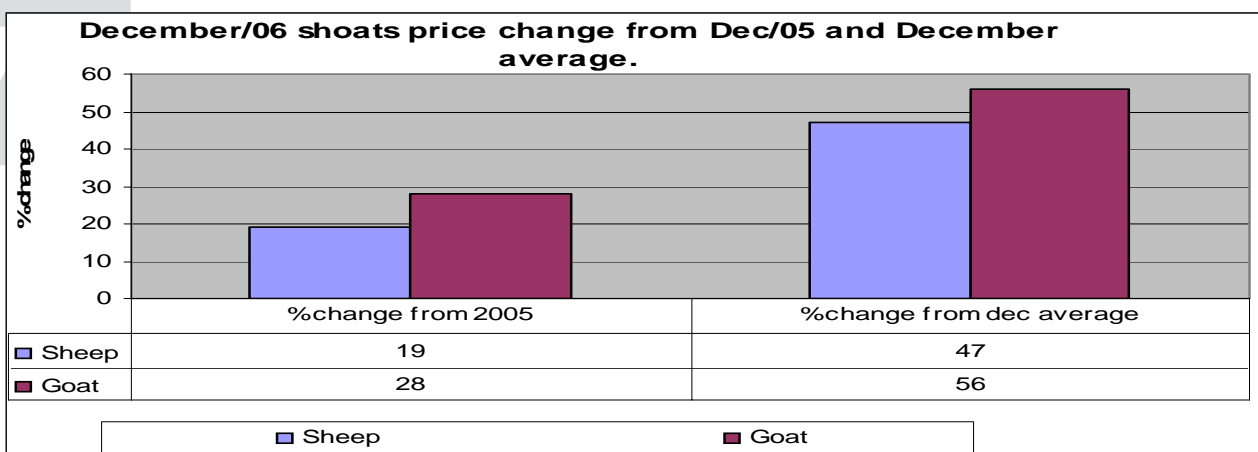
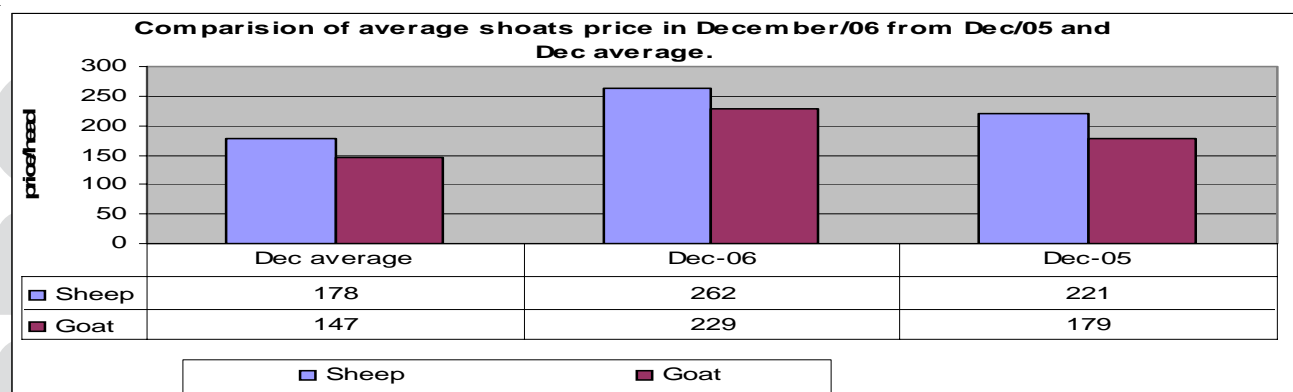
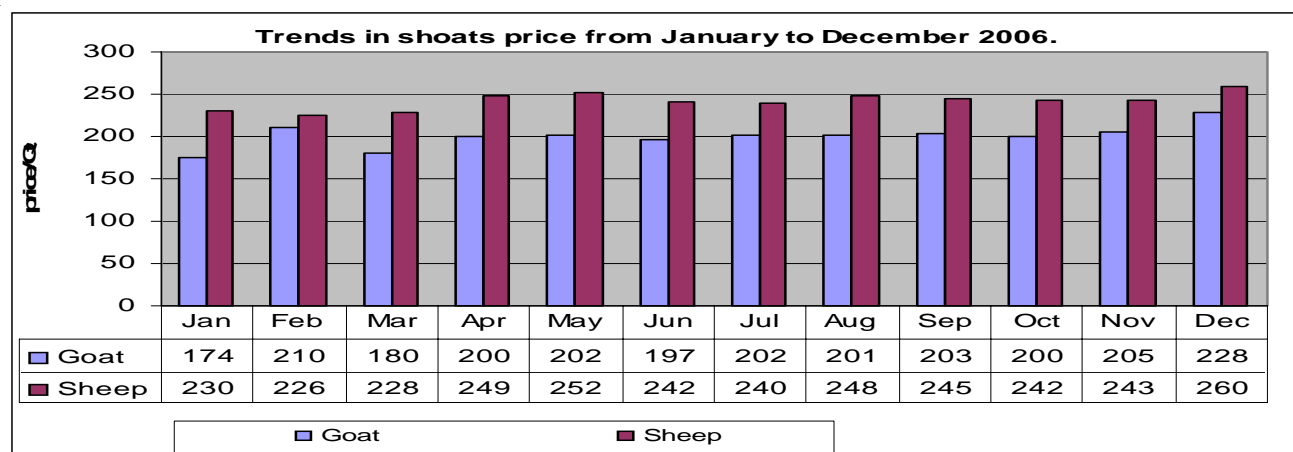
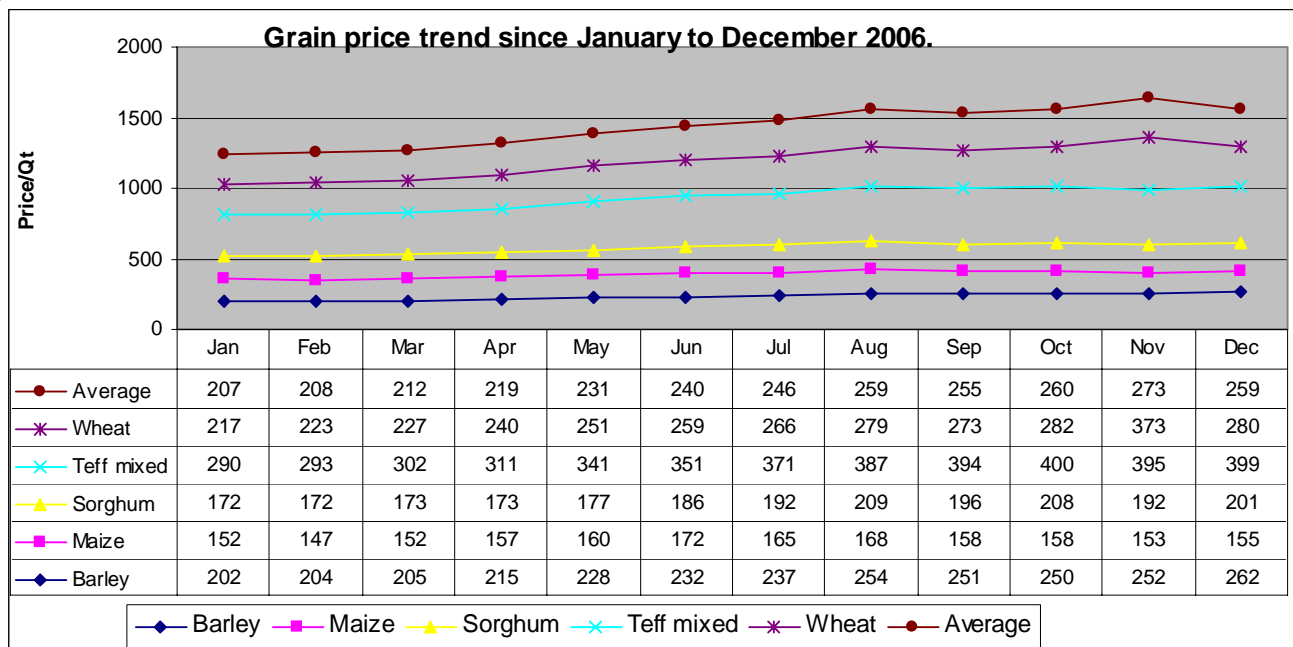


The price for all major grains in December 2006 was increasing as compared to the year before and December average in most parts of the country. (Figure 1 and 2)



Terms of trade was in favor of shoat owners. Average price of a shoat could buy 1.3qt to 1.5qt of maize during January to November 2006.(Figure 3)





Grain price in December 2006 compared to December 2005 and December Average					
Region	Zone	Woreda	Dec-06	Dec-05	Declongterm
Amhara	Agew	Dangela	208	160	142
Amhara	East Gojjam	Guzamn	250	193	144
Amhara	North Gondar	Gondar zuria	200	185	166
Amhara	North Shewa	Basona Werena	264		264
Amhara	North Wollo	Guba lafto	278		216
Amhara	Oromia	Chefe golana dewerahmedo	252	234	168
Amhara	South Gondar	Farta	233		233
Amhara	South Wollo	Dessie zuria	262		218
Amhara	Wag Himira	Sekota	275	225	206
Amhara	West Gojjam	Bahir dar zuria	255		160
Beneshangul_Gumuz	Asosa	Asosa	286	226	207
Beneshangul_Gumuz	Kemash	Kamashi	210		171
Dire Dawa	01	Dire dawa town	378	241	232
Gambella	01	Gambela	145	140	200
Harari	Harari	Hundene	293	222	242
Oromia	Arsi	Tiyo	260		158
Oromia	Bale	Goba	230	144	140
Oromia	Borena	Liben	239	176	149
Oromia	East Hararghe	Haro maya	307	270	216
Oromia	East Wellega	Guto wayu	226		226
Oromia	Illubabor	Metu	325		304
Oromia	Jima	Kersa	276		276
Oromia	North West Shewa	Gerar jarso	282		282
Oromia	West Hararghe	Chiro	264		264
Oromia	West Shewa	Ambo	218		218
Oromia	West Wellega	Gimbi	251	181	158
SNNPR	Bench Maji	Bench	298		172
SNNPR	Gedio	Yirgachefe	310	224	194
SNNPR	Guraghe	Meskanena mareko	246	171	150
SNNPR	Hadiya	Limo	272	174	148
SNNPR	Kaffa Shaka	Decha	216	142	160
SNNPR	Kambat Alaba Timbaro	Alaba	250	210	155
SNNPR	Sidamo	Awasa	315	221	203
Tigray	Central Tigray	Laelay maychew	229	258	213
Tigray	South Tigray	Enderta	239	208	186
Tigray	West Tigray	Medebay zana	284	202	197

Shoats price in December 2006 compared to December 2005 and December average					
Region	Zone	Woreda	Dec-06	Dec-05	Declongterm
Amhara	Agew	Dangela	285	195	190
Amhara	East Gojjam	Guzamn	240	192.5	140.625
Amhara	North Gondar	Gondar zuria	240	150	143.4375
Amhara	North Shewa	Basona Werena	355		355
Amhara	North Wollo	Guba lafto	276.5		207.125
Amhara	Oromia	Chefe golana dewerahmedo	325	375	210.9074
Amhara	South Gondar	Farta	170		170
Amhara	South Wollo	Dessie zuria	370		228.75
Amhara	Wag Himira	Sekota	235	145	138.4427
Amhara	West Gojjam	Bahir dar zuria	167.5		135.8333
Beneshangul_Gumuz	Asosa	Asosa	262.5	220	140.037
Beneshangul_Gumuz	Kemash	Kamashi	270		128.75
Dire Dawa	01	Dire dawa town	325	135	126.25
Gambella	01	Gambela	225	190	166
Harari	Harari	Hundene	264	241.5	140.9319
Oromia	Arsi	Tiyo	187.5		124.5
Oromia	Bale	Goba	155	165	125
Oromia	Borena	Liben	287.5	197	135.0972
Oromia	East Hararghe	Haro maya	265	270	159.9444
Oromia	West Wellega	Gimbi	190	145	123.875
SNNPR	Bench Maji	Bench	190		122
SNNPR	Gedio	Yirgachefe	325	230	184.5313
SNNPR	Guraghe	Meskanena mareko	330	245	155.4688
SNNPR	Hadiya	Limo	230	215	176.6875
SNNPR	Kaffa Shaka	Decha	215	200	159.7222
SNNPR	Kambat Alaba Timbaro	Alaba	285	185	132.6389
SNNPR	Sidamo	Awasa	270	142.5	180.4167
Tigray	Central Tigray	Laelay maychew	178.5	150	128.5238
Tigray	South Tigray	Enderta	260	180	152.5
Tigray	West Tigray	Medebay zana	205	155	135.3125

Situation in Pastoral Areas



Somali Region

The short rainy season (Deyr) in Somali Region this year was extended into the first dekad of January with normal to above normal rain received. The improved rainfall situation brought about improvement in pasture, browse and water situation along with improved or improving physical condition of the livestock. There was no abnormal migration of the livestock too even though scarcity of pasture and browse was expected in some pockets of Hudet woreda in Liben, Afer and Gode zones. Water availability was said to be sufficient in most parts of the region. But the quality is poor especially in flood affected areas of Gode, Korahe and Warder.

Afar Region

The recent Dedea rain was rated above normal except for parts of zone 1 and zone 4 as compared to the previous years where the performance of both Karma and Dedea had been below normal. With the good performance of the Dedea rain pasture condition in zones 2, 3 and parts of zone 1 showed improvements while shortage was reported from parts of zone 1 and zone 4, where the situation started deteriorating. Pasture scarcity was affecting Elidar and Chifra woredas in Zone 1 and Golina and Awra woredas in Zone 4. Physical condition of livestock was also reported to be normal particularly shoats and camels showing better improvement. Regarding the health status of the herd, no outbreak at epidemic level was reported throughout the region.

Livestock from Zone 4 migrated to Guraworke, Zobel and Kobo areas of Amhara Region; Alamata and Mehoni areas of Tigray Region due to shortage of pasture especially for cattle.

The good performance of Dedea rain contributed to the replenishment of water sources in most parts of the region. However, chronically water deficit areas such as Elidar and parts of Dubti in Zone 1; Dalol, Berhale and Erebtu weredas of Zone 2, Yalo & Teru in zone 4 and Kumame town in Zone 5 remained to be areas of concern.

Borena, Guji and Lowlands of Bale (Oromiya Region)

Rainy situation was reported from Borena Zone where almost all woredas received light shower. In Guji Zone Bure and Adolla woredas received rain for one day where as no rain was reported from lowlands areas of Bale Zone.

With the currently received rain showers in Borena and Guji zones pasture availability was reported as normal. However, shortage was reported from Sewena, Raytu and Dawe Serer woredas of Bale lowlands.

The physical condition of livestock was improving with the improved pasture and water situation in most parts of Borena and Guji zones. The health situations of the herd in all zones remain to be normal with no outbreak at epidemic level. The other concern was fear of the spread of Rift Valley Fever currently in bordering areas of Kenya and Somalia.

