

Rainfall & Vegetation Assessment of July 1999

A significant increase in rainfall activities was observed over most parts of the country. Hence wide spread rain shower was observed over most summer rain benefiting parts of the country during the month of July. The rainfall distribution over the whole country for June 1999 is depicted in Figure 1. The spatial patterns indicate that above 60mm of rain was received over the high-grounds and western lowlands of the country. The temporal distribution of rainfall during this period was very good over most stations.

As compared to the long year average this year's monthly rainfall during July was above average over most parts of the high-grounds and western lowlands of the country. Figure 3 shows rainfall amounts during July 1999, 98, 97 and the long year average. Rainfall amounts during this month and the percentage of Normal (long year average) for selected stations is as follows: Asmara (199mm = 117% of the long year average), Adi Caih (168mm = 106%) Adi Quala (272mm=121%), Mendefera (345mm=203%) Keren (152mm=134%), Afabet (117mm=161%), Nakfa (166mm=176%), Agordat (231mm=212%), Barentu (215mm=157%), Tessenei (152mm=153%), Ghinda (63mm=87%).

As depicted in the greenness of vegetation, NDVI image for July 1999 (Fig.2), medium vegetation levels was dominant over south western lowlands of the country with observation of high vegetation levels over pocket areas. While low vegetation levels prevailed over most parts of the high-grounds, Eastern Escarpments and central part of western lowlands of the country.

Fig. 1 Distribution of Rainfall for July 1999

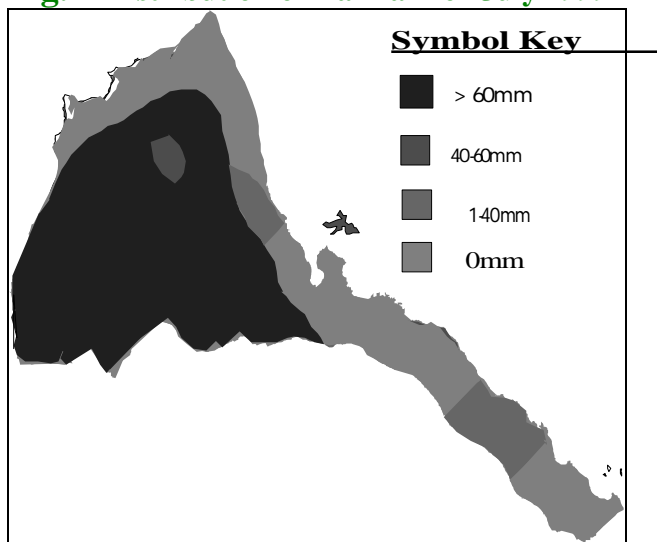


Fig. 2 Vegetation Map for July 1999

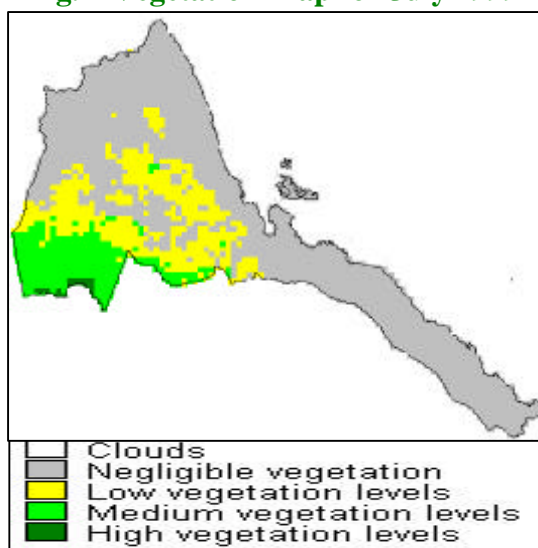


Fig 3. Comparison of Monthly Rainfall in July 1999, 98, 97 & long year Avg.

