The authors proposed local level seasonal predictions of precipitation in the Western Ethiopia using the statistical approach at eight homogeneous regions clustered using k-means clustering technique. Large scale climate variables are used as potential predictors in developing the statistical model and unique set of predictors were assigned for each region. Results are compared with the dynamical prediction at regional scale and reported as the statistical approach is superior. This study is timely and helpful for the study region where rainfall is highly variable in space. The manuscript is well written and easy to understand and follow. I think this study will be a nice addition however a few moderate issues need to be resolved first. Please see my comments below.

1. The statistical approach is fully data driven approach that depends on the quality and length of the data. So how efficient is this technique in the area where there is sparse and poor quality data in the case of developing country like Ethiopia? The authors did not show how good the gridded rainfall data is through either validating with gauged data for selected weather stations or previous literatures that support the quality of this data.

2. The author argue that this study gives perdition of seasonal precipitation at high resolution in the region. However, the classification of the homogeneous regions by NMA, Ethiopia, for the study region is almost equivalent (Koricha et al., 2007, pg 7685). I do not see any benefits of this study interms of the spatial resolutions at regional scale for Western Ethiopia.

3. No effort have been made on finding out the time lag between the predictor variables and the seasonal rainfall in the study area. For example which month of sea surface temperature really affects the seasonal rainfall in the study area.

4. I don't see any comparison of the result with the current operational NMA forecast in the manuscript, however, it is reported in the conclusion section asif the result is compared at the regional scale with NMA operational forecast.

5. The abstract is too short and mainly focused on the merit of conducting this study. It would be good if it is supported with some finding. There is no introduction given about the study area interms of the rainfall patter, topography etc.

Reference

Korecha, D., and Sorteberg, A.: Validation of operational seasonal rainfall forecast in Ethiopia, Water Resources Research, 49, 20 7681-7697, 10.1002/2013wr013760, 2013.