

Prolonged dryness continues for affected areas in southern Haiti

KEY MESSAGES

- Dry conditions persist over southern Haiti during the Second season, affecting crops in Baintet, Côtes-de-Fer, La Vallée, and Jérémie (Figure 1).
- Good distribution of rainfall and adequate levels of soil moisture favor the development of crops in Central America in the Second season.
- Rainfall forecasts indicate that the rainy season will extend beyond its typical end dates in the Pacific basin of Guatemala and El Salvador.

SEASONAL PROGRESS

In Haiti, the Second rainy season is expected to be normal to above-normal. However, a delay in the start of season (20 days or more late) and persistent dry conditions in the Sud-Est, in lower portions of the Nord-Ouest, and in upper Artibonite (Anse Rouge), could affect crop development in these areas (Figure 2).

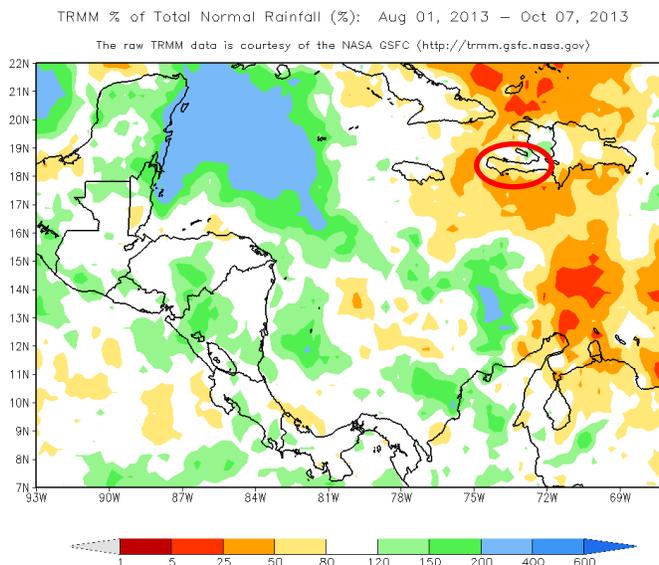
Despite the low rainfall levels in southern Haiti, the 2013 season maize harvest is estimated to be significantly higher than last year's, which was considered to be a notably below-average production year to due multiple shocks. According to FAO, maize prices have decreased 25 to 50 percent in the past three months, due to the increased supply from the *Primera* harvest. Prices have been well below September 2012 levels in most markets.

In Central America, the Second season typically has an even distribution of rainfall in terms of timing and quantity; this will favor crop development for production areas.

In Guatemala, subsistence farmers located in the south-central region who were affected by the dryness in the *Primera* Season, are expected to have a good *Postrera* production of black beans. As a way to recover some of the maize lost in the *Primera* season, some (a minority) of these farmers have received white maize seeds provided by the government.

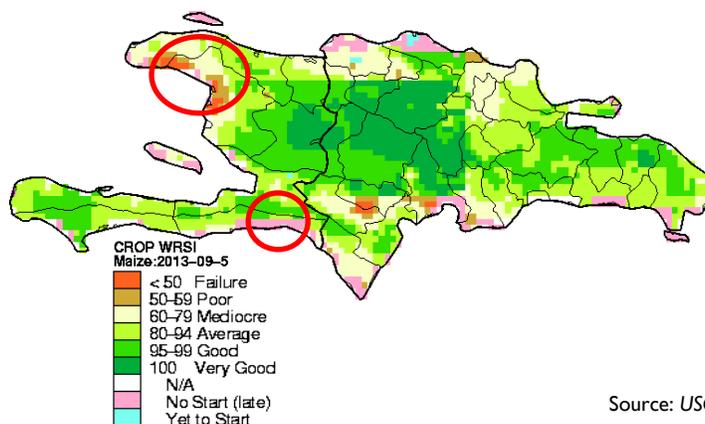
Field reports from the Ministry of Agriculture in Guatemala indicate losses in white maize crops due to floods in the departments of Escuintla, Retalhuleu, Izabal, and Suchitepéquez. Total crop losses on riverbanks are not significant in terms

Figure 1. Total Rainfall Anomaly in Percent (%) (August 1 – October 7, 2013).



Source: NOAA

Figure 2 Water Requirement Satisfaction Index (WRSI) Map. Primera Season. Pentad I (September 1 to 5).



Source: USGS

Please see http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/african_desk/cpc_intl/ and <http://earlywarning.usgs.gov/?l=en> for more information on remote sensing.

of local production. Other losses due to strong winds have been reported in the departments of Huehuetenango, San Marcos, Chimaltenango, and Quetzaltenango, but the effects will not impact local production either.

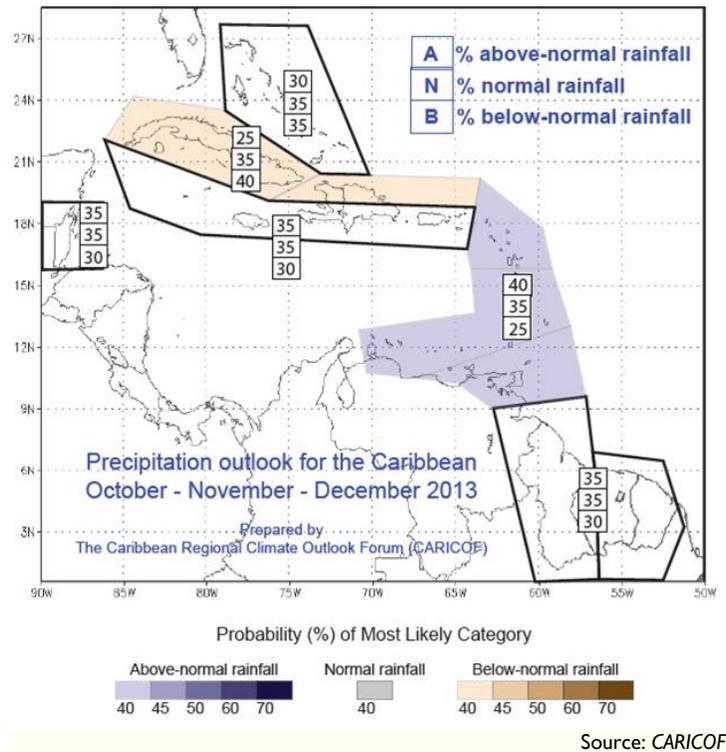
Honduran producers of staple grains have begun to harvest the 2013 production and, according to preliminary estimates, national production will be between 10 and 15 percent lower than last year. These losses are due to the lack of rain during May, June and July, causing damage to maize fields in the south, west and east of the country. Despite the rainfall deficit, sufficient supply is assured for the domestic market, both for human consumption and agribusiness.

The harvest of staple grains in Nicaragua has been above normal this year due to favorable climate conditions. Red and black bean production will be 11 percent above last year (2012/2013). Nicaragua’s increased production will afford them a three percent increase in exports to Venezuela, still leaving an adequate balance for national consumption. White maize production is expected to be 12 percent above average according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAGFOR). These conditions will create ample availability for grains throughout the country.

SHORT-TERM FORECAST

Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras will start to observe a seasonal reduction in rainfall throughout the Pacific areas. Yet, the meteorological services for these countries, with the exception of Honduras, have forecast an extended rainy season that is expected to surpass its typical end dates. As a result, the *Postrera* staple grain harvest, principally beans, is expected to be normal. The cold fronts will begin mid October, and some seasonal losses in vegetable plants in areas of high altitude in Guatemala are expected due to low temperatures.

Figure 3. Climate Outlook Forecast for the Caribbean from October to December 2013.



The rainfall forecast for Haiti during the October to December period (Figure 3) indicates normal to above-normal rainfall in southern areas, and normal to below-normal in the north. A below-normal forecast could negatively affect crops in the Nord-Ouest department (Baie-de-Henne, and Bombardopolis) and Artibonite (Anse-Rouge).