

Rainfall mostly below average during the last two weeks of March

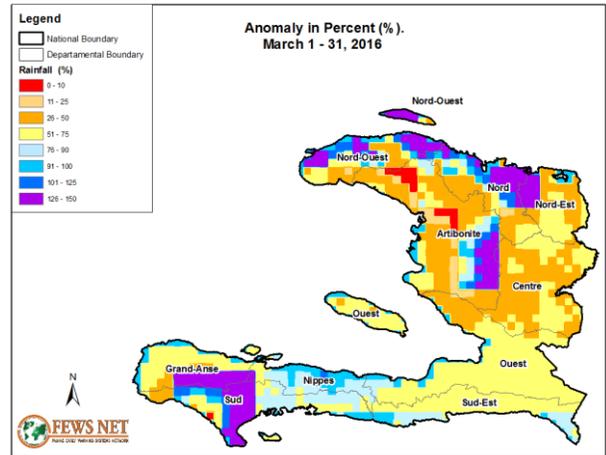
KEY MESSAGES

- Rainfall was irregularly distributed during the month of March, starting with above-average rainfall during the first 10 days, followed by below-average rainfall during the next two weeks. While the *Printemps* rainy season does not usually get underway until late March or early April, March cumulative rainfall was still below average across most of the country (Figure 1). Rainfall deficits were highest in focalized areas of in Nord-Ouest, Artibonite, and Centre Departments.
- Dry conditions observed during March have the potential to affect crops already planted, or to delay some planting activities. Moreover, higher than normal temperatures could reduce soil moisture and further impact crops already planted. NDVI images show lower than normal vegetation levels in parts of Artibonite and Centre Departments.
- The GFS Forecast indicates an increase in rainfall during the next week, compared to previous several weeks. Between 25 and 75 millimeters of cumulative rainfall are expected in much of Haiti, including the dry areas of Centre and Arbonite Departments.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

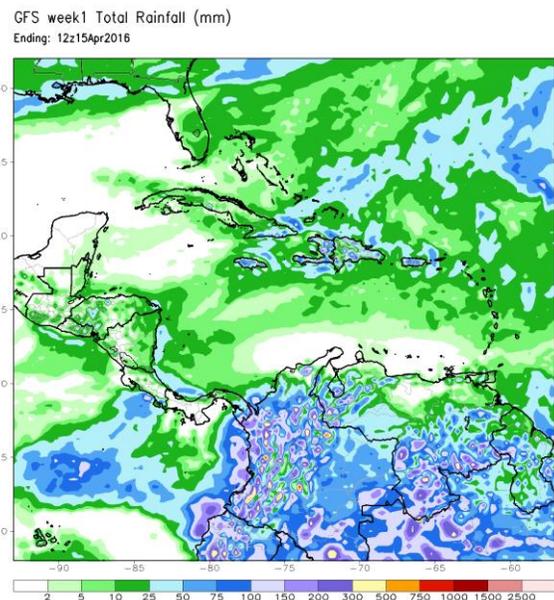
The seasonal monitor, produced by the FEWS NET USGS regional scientist and FEWS NET Regional Technical Manager, updates rainfall totals, the impact on production, and the short-term forecast. It is produced every 20 days during the production season. Find more remote sensing information [here](#).

Figure 1. CHIRPS Rainfall Anomaly, Percent-of-Normal March 1-31, 2016.



Source: USGS/FEWS NET

Figure 2. GFS Rainfall Forecast, through April 15, 2016



Source: NOAA

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