

The season is progressing well with mostly average to above-average and well distributed rainfall

KEY MESSAGES

- The Intertropical Front (ITF) continues its northward migration but has been slower than usual during the month of May.
- The Sudanian-Guinean zone received mostly well distributed above average rainfall in May, resulting in continued favorable conditions for crop growth and development.
- The end of the long season (March to July) rains in the bi-modal zone is nearing and the harvest is expected to be average to above average
- Given the favorable medium-term forecast, sowing/planting is expected to expand northward into the northern part of the Sahelian zone as usual.

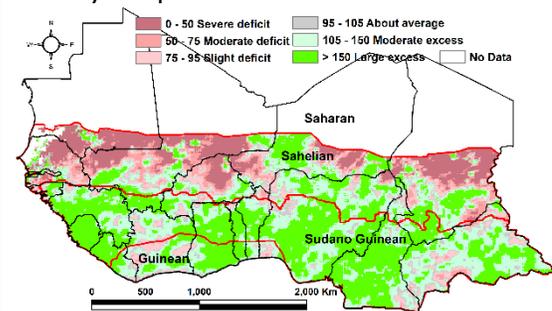
UPDATE ON SEASONAL PROGRESS

- The Intertropical Front (ITF) has been progressing northward and is now located between 13-14 degrees of latitude north, slightly behind its climatological position during the last decade of May. Despite a lag of about 2 degrees over most of the region, the ITF progressed for short periods of times past its average dekadal position, resulting in light to moderate rainfall in locations north of its current dekadal position. As a result, sowing activities have been possible in the southern part of the Sahelian zone.
- The Guinean and Sudanian-Guinean zones where the growing season is well under way, have received mostly above average (Figure 1) and well distributed rainfall (Figure 2). As a result, moisture conditions have been adequate and favorable for continued growth and development of crops over the bi-modal and Sudanian-Guinean zones where rainfall is ongoing.
- According to the short and medium term forecasts from [CHC/UCSB](http://www.chc.ucsb.edu), rainfall is expected to continue expanding northward normally and no significant dry spells are expected within the next two weeks. This forecast combined with average to above average and well distributed rainfall observed so far favors an average to above average harvest in the Guinean and the southern part of the Sudanian-Guinean zones.

FORECASTS

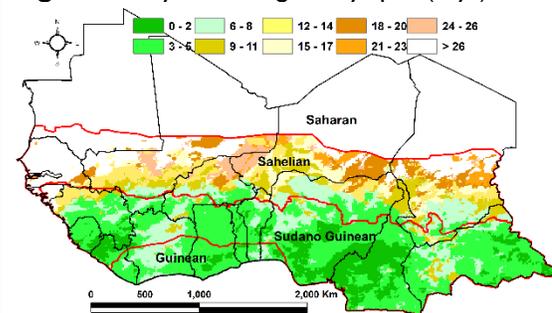
- The [NOAA-CPC](http://www.noaa.gov) Northern American Multi-Model Ensemble (NMME) seasonal forecast for the next several three-month periods (June-August, July-September and August-October) all generally predict average to above average seasonal rainfall conditions over most of the region.

Figure 1. May 2020 total rainfall estimate (RFE) anomaly compared to the 2009-2018 mean



Source: USGS/FEWS NET

Figure 2. May 2020 longest dry spell (days)



Source: USGS/FEWS NET

More information on remote sensing can be found at:
http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/african_desk/cpc_intl/ and
<http://earlywarning.usgs.gov/?!en>

SEASONAL CALENDAR IN A TYPICAL YEAR

