

Despite a late start, cumulative rainfall in the Sahel is mostly average to above-average

KEY MESSAGES

- The southward retreat of Intertropical Front (ITF) continues in a timely manner, which augurs a timely end of season in the region.
- Despite long dry spells of over 15 days observed at the beginning (June-July) and toward the end (September) of the season in the Sahelian zone, crops will reach full maturity over most of the Sahelian zone in late September-early October.
- Very severe September dryness affected areas in Mali and Niger are likely to suffer from crop pest attacks.
- Persisting dryness in the area extending from Far North Cameroon to northern Chari Baguirmi in Chad is likely to affect crops and pastures performance.

UPDATE ON SEASONAL PROGRESS

- The ITF continues its southward retreat and is located between 15.4 degrees of latitude north in eastern Chad and 19.5 degrees in Mauritania as of the second dekad of September. It is at or close to its climatological position over the whole region (Figure 1).
- The end of the season in the Sahelian zone is nearing and the ITF being at its climatological position suggests the season end will be on time. It also means crops will reach maturity over most places in the Sahelian zone.
- Severe dryness in September has affected the Mopti region in Mali, part of Tillaberi, Tahoua and Maradi regions in Niger (Figure 2). The southwestern part of the region of Mopti and the northeastern part of Segou in Mali and the Maradi region in Niger are, in addition to severe rainfall deficit, also affected by long dry spells of over 15 days. The region of Tahoua only experienced rainfall severe deficits without dry spells.

- September dryness normally creates favorable conditions for crop pest outbreaks. Therefore, dryness affected areas of Mali and Niger are likely to suffer from crop pest attacks.
- The seasonal cumulative rainfall from May 1st to September 25 has been above average over most of the region. However, negative impact of dryness on crop and pasture development over areas where dryness has persisted for a very long time such as Far North Cameroon and Lake Chad is expected.

FORECASTS

Figure 1. ITF position and RFE accumulated precipitation (mm), September 2021, Dekad 2

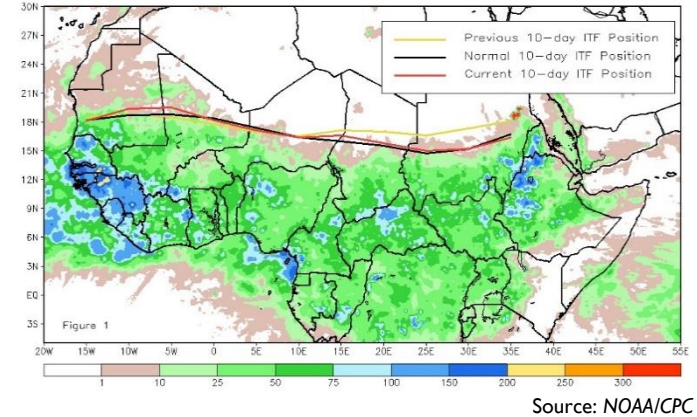
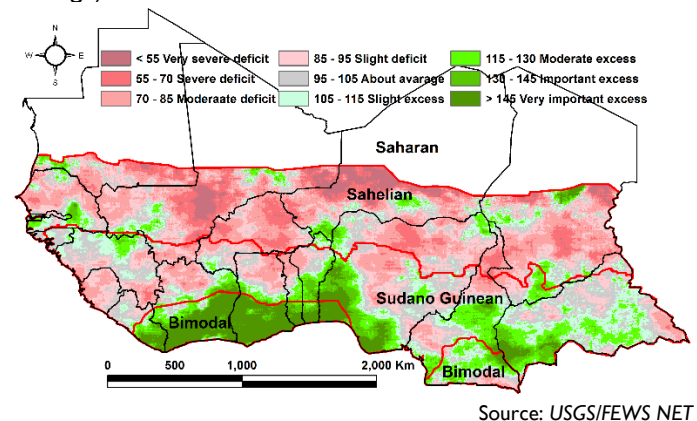


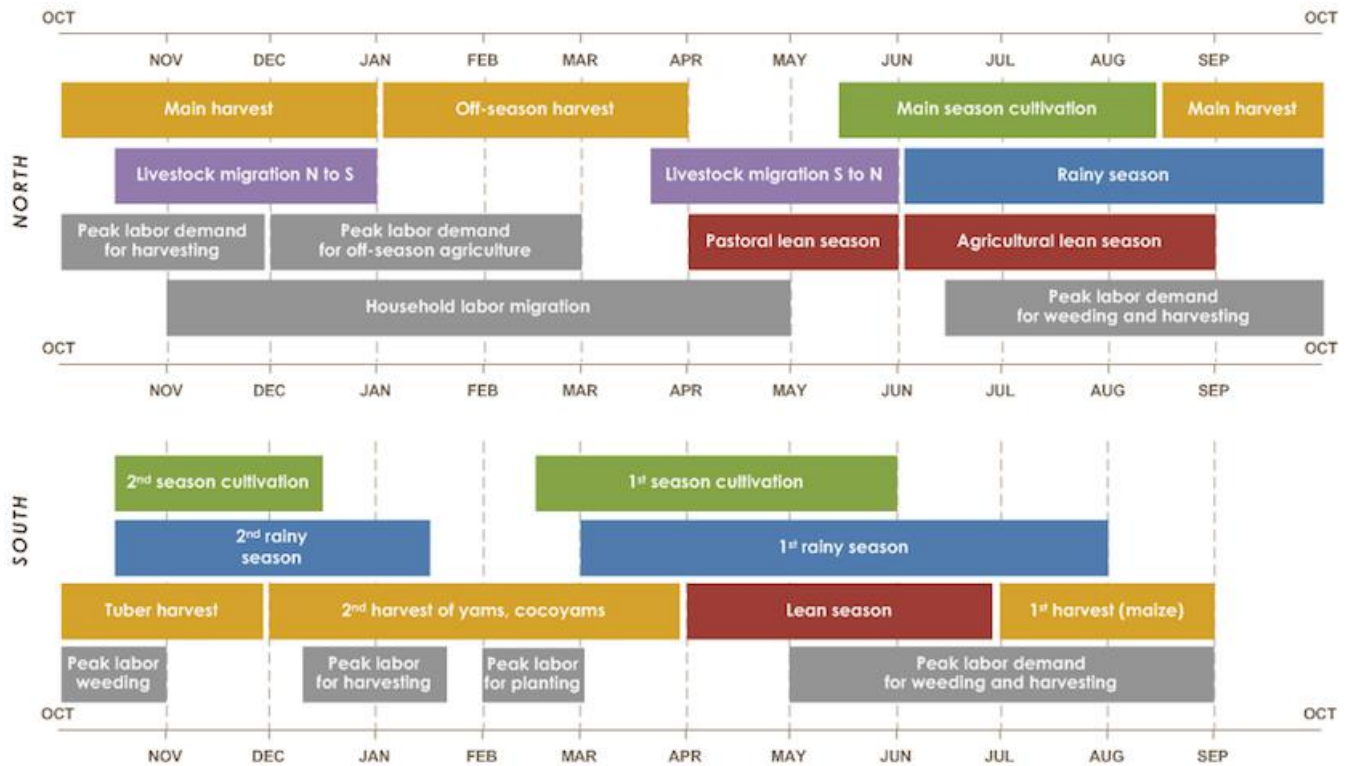
Figure 2. 1-25 September total CHIRPS anomaly (% of average)



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/?l=en> and <https://chc.ucsb.edu/monitoring/>

- According to the short and medium term forecasts from [NOAA-CPC](#), no rainfall in the Sahelian zone. This means that the season will end in the Sahelian by early October.
- The [NOAA-CPC](#) Northern American Multi-Model Ensemble (NMME) monthly forecast for October generally predict below average rainfall over the Guinean and Sudano-Guinean zones.

SEASONAL CALENDAR IN A TYPICAL YEAR



FEWS NET: West Africa Seasonal Monitor, October 2021: Despite a late start, cumulative rainfall in the Sahel is mostly average to above-average, October 28, 2021