



Monitoring climatic indicators – Rainfall seasonal forecast for the period July-August- September 2004 in West Africa, Chad and Cameroun and potential impact on vector- borne diseases

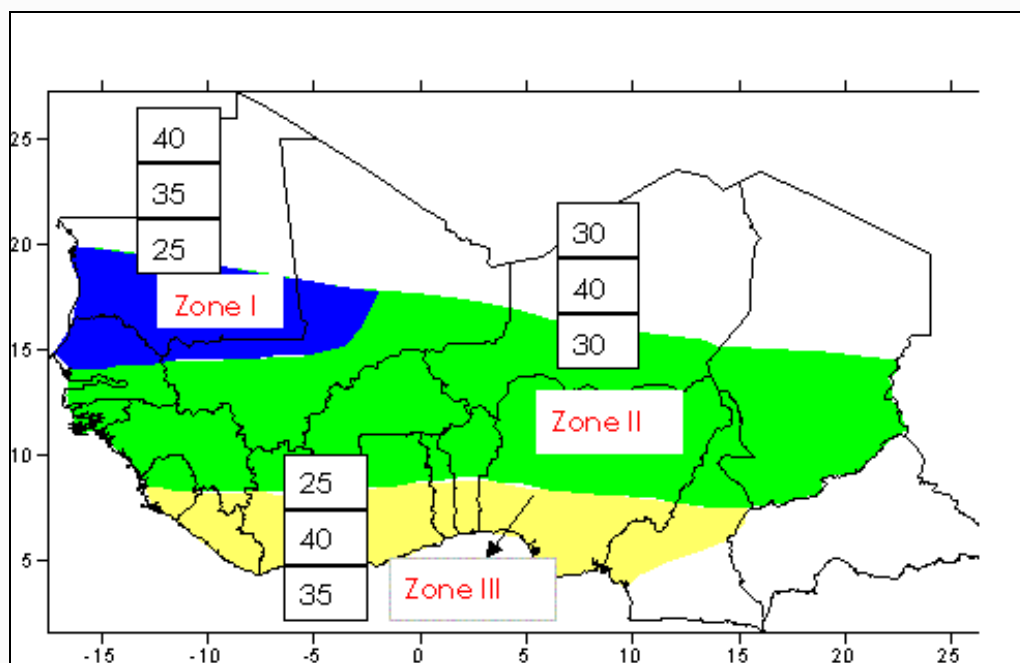
Rainfall seasonal forecast for West Africa are elaborated in Niamey (Niger) at the African Centre for Meteorological Application to the Development (ACMAD). The forecast for the period July to September 2004 was elaborated on May 20 2004 and covers the West African region, Chad and Cameroun. Enhanced probabilities for above normal precipitation have been expected for western equatorial Africa during this period of time.

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1. Climate forecast (July to September 2004)

Following consideration of consensus forecasts of those done at national level and those issued by the global Climatic Centres the chart here below was established to illustrate the seasonal forecast of rains on the sub-region.



source: ACMAD

Legend of the map:

For each zone defined by regional forecasting experts, the numbers within the 3 cases represent the probability that the seasonal rainfalls are in the category "above normal" (upper box), "near normal" (middle box) and "below normal" (lower box). Hence in zone II, there is a 30% of chance that the seasonal cumulative rainfalls will be in the category "above normal", 40% of chance that it will be in the category "near normal", and 30% of chance that it will fall in the category "below normal". The boundaries of the map should be considered as areas of transition for the forecast

1. For the Zone I, there are slightly dominant probabilities for «above normal with tendency to a near normal» conditions.
2. For the Zone II, «near normal» condition is most likely.
3. For the zone III, «below normal to a near normal» conditions are the most likely.

2. Summary of the situation (including rainfall observed in the region)

Following limited and erratic rains that delayed plantings in several countries in June, precipitation has improved significantly since July. In August and early September, rains were generally regular and widespread over most producing areas of **Burkina Faso, Chad, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal**, where crops are developing satisfactorily. **Cape Verde**, which registered its first significant rains in mid-July, is the only country where rains are still limited and where yield potential may be affected. As a result of these overall favourable conditions, an above-average harvest was anticipated, but the deteriorating Desert Locust situation continues to pose a serious threat to agricultural production across the Sahel.

Although reliable prediction systems for weather-related transboundary animal

diseases are currently not available, it was observed in the past that these conditions can be conducive to the occurrence of vector-borne diseases. It is therefore important that countries of the region, where vector-borne diseases such as Rift Valley fever are endemic, review their status of preparedness and evaluate their capacity to monitor climatic conditions at local level and take necessary precautions in order to safeguard human health and livestock trade. Active and targeted surveillance activities should also be strengthened.

3. Source of information

African Centre of meteorological applications for development (ACMAD):

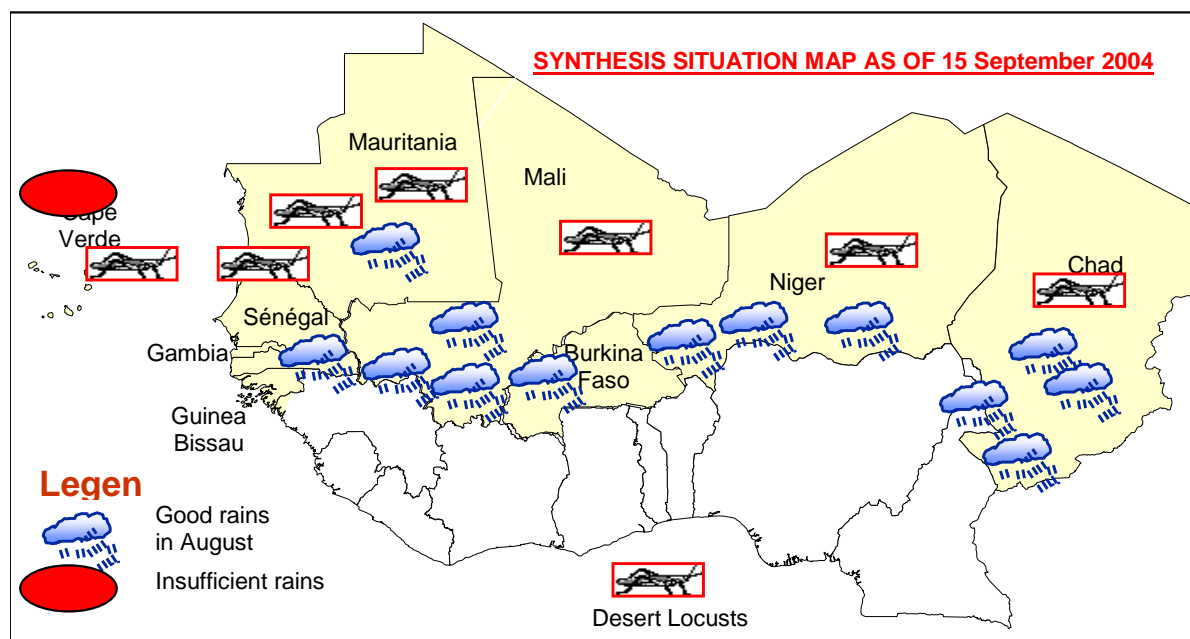
http://www.acmad.ne/en/climat/presao/presa_o07_rain.htm

http://www.acmad.ne/en/climat/presao/presa_o07_hydro.htm

International research Institute for Climate prediction (IRI):

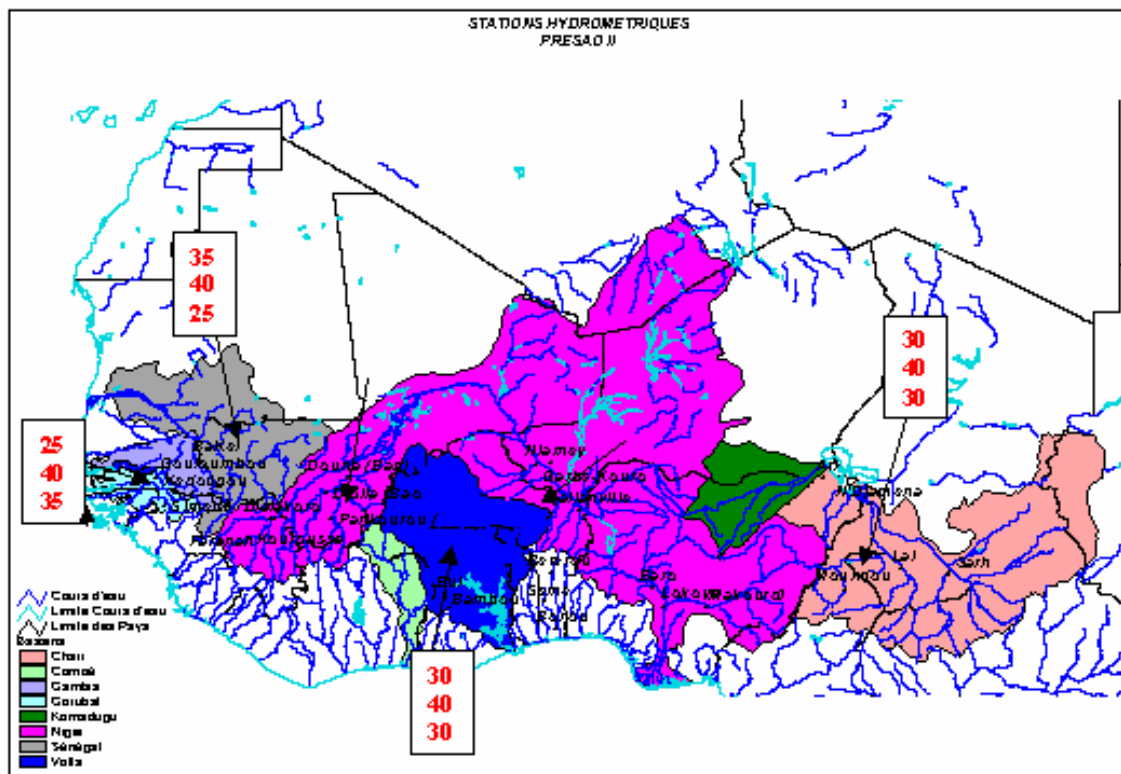
http://iri.columbia.edu/climate/forecast/net_a_smt/2004/aug2004/SON04_Afr_pcp.html

Sahel Weather and crop situation report: Report No. 4, 22 September 2004



Source: FAO/GIEWS Sahel Report No. 4 - 22 September 2004

Hydrological seasonal forecast for West Africa PRESA-AO/07: SEASON 2004 -2005

**Legend of the map:**

For each zone, numbers appearing in the 3 boxes represent the probability that the monthly hydraulicity of high waters is in the category "strong hydraulicity" (box in the top), "hydraulicity close to the normal" (box in the middle), and "low hydraulicity" (box in the bottom). For example for the basin of the lake Chad, there is 30% of chance that the monthly flow of high water is above normal, 40% of chance that this flow is close to the normal and 30% of chance that the monthly flow of high water is below normal (cf definition of the 3 categories).

AGRHYMET web site:

<http://www.agrhymet.ne/eng/index.html>

AGRHYMET monthly Bulletin No. M-07/04 and No. M-08/04

4. Related messages

Drought and Floods Hazards Assessment, April 22, 2004

FEWS NET web site:

<http://www.fews.net/resources/gcontent/gcontent.cfm?submit=y&f=al&q=1000422&d=al&l=en>

Monitoring climatic indicators - Update - February to May 2004

http://www.fao.org/ag/AGA/AGAH/EMPRES/warn_mes/warn24.htm

An increased risk of observing Rift Valley fever in West Africa:

http://www.fao.org/ag/AGA/AGAH/EMPRES/warn_mes/warn18.htm

Potential impact of climatic conditions on the emergence of arthropod-borne animal diseases (update):

http://www.fao.org/ag/AGA/AGAH/EMPRES/warn_mes/warn17.htm