Damage to cropland categories due to the conflict in the Gaza Strip as of 20 May 2024

A cropland category mask was prepared using very high-resolution satellite data from SPOT and Pléiades and high-resolution data from Sentinel-2 to analyse the damage to cropland. Sentinel-2 data from the month of May from 2017 to 2023 was used as a baseline for comparison with May 2024 data to conduct cropland change analysis of the cropland category mask area.

A reduction in cropland greenness was considered as an abrupt change and an indication of damage. The severity of the impact on cropland was determined by calculating the percentage and hectares of the damaged area by governorate. The grid depicts the severity of damage in localised areas; in each tile the area of damaged cropland was divided by the total cropland area.

Key messages

1. 5 233 ha (59.1%) of orchards and other trees**, 1 675 ha (52.2%) of vegetables and 1 751 ha (59.3%) of field crops were damaged.

2. 1 542 ha (72.7%) of orchards and other trees were damaged in the governorate of Gaza.

* To convert to the locally used unit of dunums, divide by 10 (1 ha is equal to 10 dunums).
** The land area estimate for the class “orchards and other trees” includes trees in agriculture, orchards and plantations, and is different from the class “tree horticulture” from the Agriculture Census (Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2021).

This assessment was conducted by the Geospatial Unit at the Land and Water Division (NSL) of FAO and will be further complemented with additional field assessment and use of very high-resolution imagery.

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