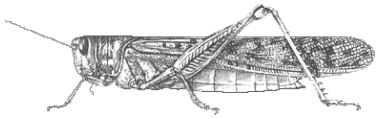
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



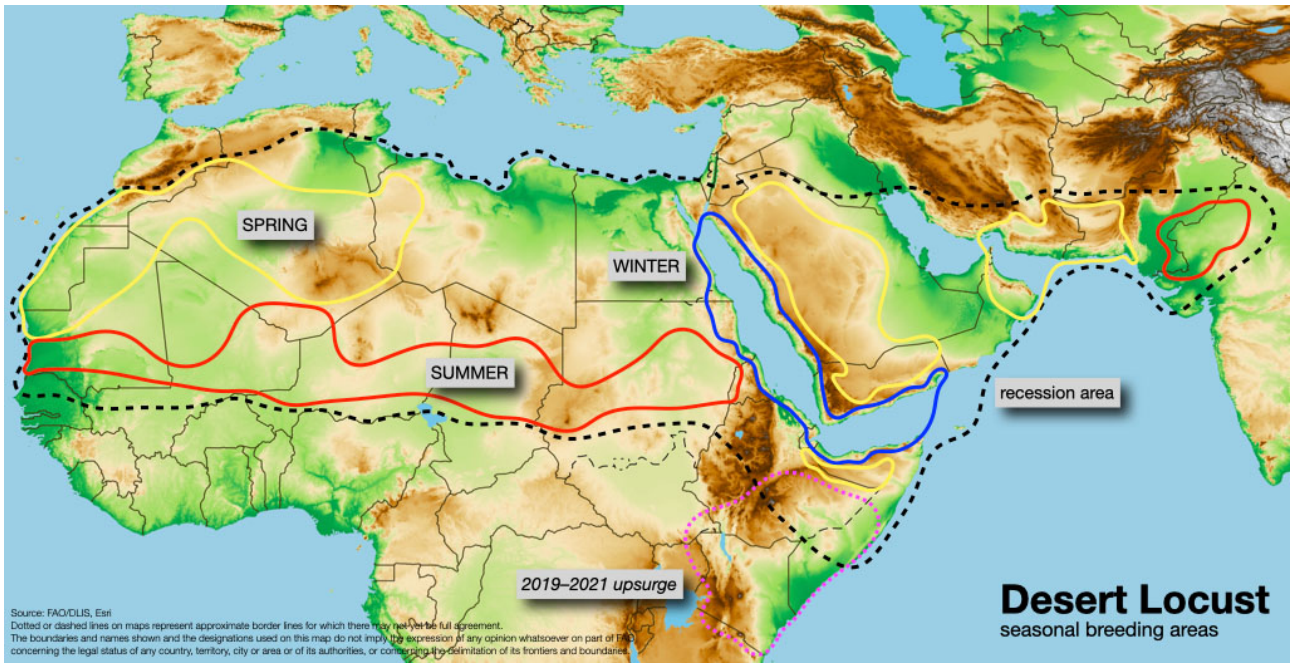
22 January 2025

Seasonal precipitation predictions in the Desert Locust winter/spring breeding areas (February–July 2025)

The latest seasonal dynamical models for February through April suggest dryness across the Central Region from the southern Arabian Peninsula to southwest Asia. In February, both subseasonal and seasonal predictions highlight unusually dry conditions across North Africa and the Near East. A second generation of winter breeding will persist along the Red Sea coasts. As noted last month, northwestern Africa tends to receive ample rains in late winter during La Niña, followed by wetter spring in the Sahara. Above-normal rainfall and warmer temperatures in spring are expected to support breeding from March along parts of northern Mali, Niger, Chad, Morocco, southern Algeria, and southwest Libya. Below-normal rainfall is expected in southeast Iran and southwest Pakistan during the spring, while pre-monsoon rain could occur in June along the Indo-Pakistan border.

PRECIPITATION ANOMALY	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Algeria (central/south)						
Chad						
Djibouti						
Egypt (SE Red Sea–winter, Nile–summer)						
Eritrea (western–summer, coastal–winter)						
Ethiopia (Somali–spring, Afar–summer)						
India (Rajasthan, Gujarat)						
Iran (south–spring)						
Libya (southwest–spring)						
Mali (northeast)						
Mauritania (south–summer, NW–autumn)						
Morocco (W Sahara–autumn, Atlas–spring)						
Niger (Tamesna, Air)						
Oman (spring)						
Pakistan (southwest–spring, east–summer)						
Saudi Arabia (Red Sea, interior–spring)						
Somalia (N coast–winter, N interior–spring)						
Sudan (interior–summer, coastal–winter)						
Yemen (interior–summer, coastal–winter)						

Dry | Slightly drier | Normal | Slightly wetter | Wet



Desert Locust and precipitation predictions

Western Region

According to the subseasonal models, southern Algeria and southwestern Libya can expect dry conditions until mid-February. In the next two weeks, there may be rainfall near the border of Morocco, western Algeria and northern Mauritania. Central Algeria and western Libya could receive above-normal rains during the second half of February and the beginning of March.

According to the next six-month seasonal models, above normal rainfall may occur from March to May in northern Mali, northern Niger, south and central Algeria and southwest Libya. Northern Chad may also receive anormal rains in April. Consequently, spring breeding is anticipated primarily in Algeria and southwest Libya, with lesser activity in northern Mali, Niger and Chad. The summer season in the Sahel may commence in July with above-normal rainfall in Chad, Niger and Mali.

Central Region

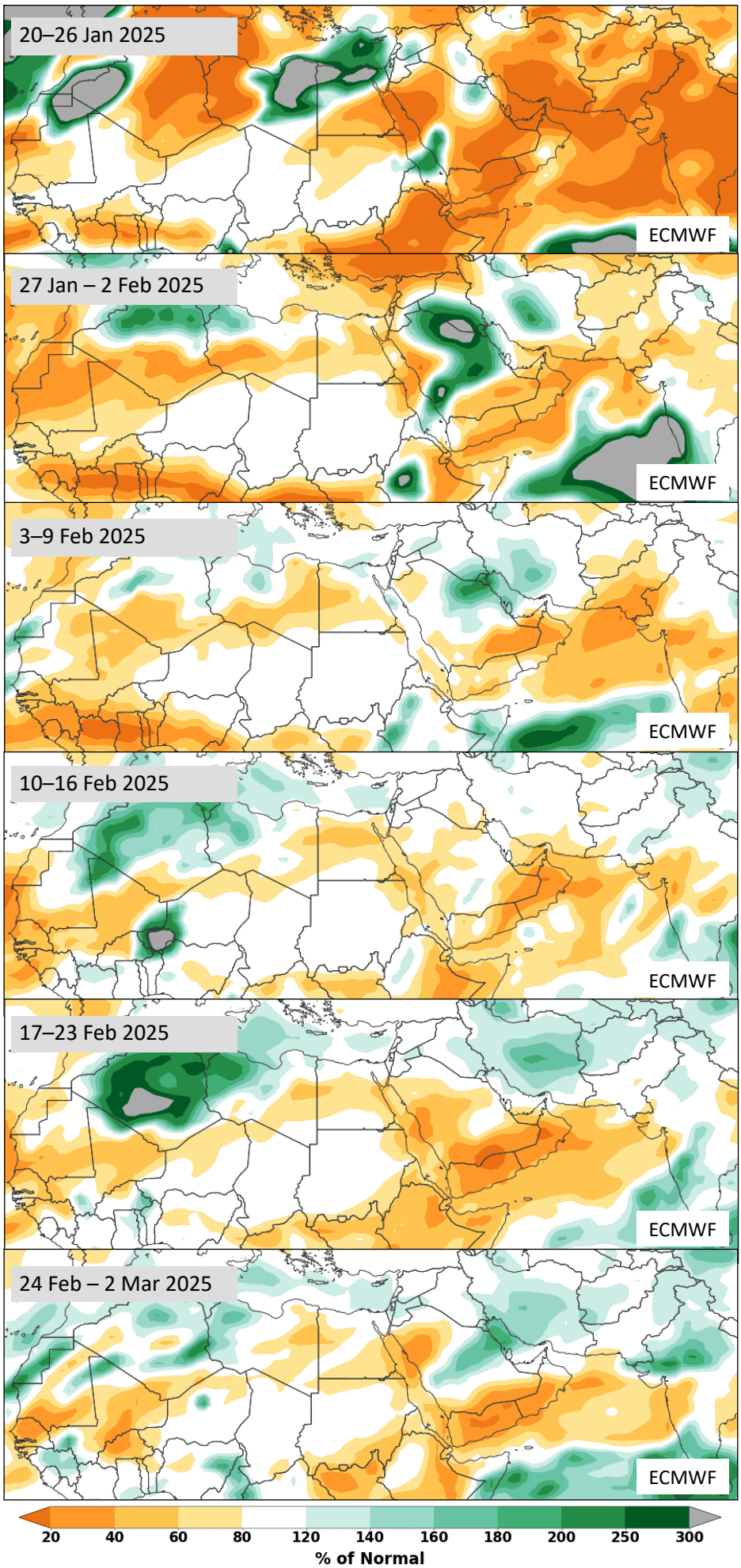
Subseasonal models indicate that rains are expected over the next two weeks along the southern Red Sea coast from Sudan to Eritrea as well as the southern Red Sea coast of Saudi Arabia. Dry conditions are anticipated in most other winter breeding areas for the next six weeks.

Seasonal models predict less rainfall in February compared to subseasonal models. From March to April, normal to above-normal rainfalls are expected in central Saudi Arabia and south Egypt. In April, the interior of Sudan may receive above-normal rains for spring breeding. However, dry conditions are forecasted in Egypt and Saudi Arabia in May and June. Somalia will remain mostly dry through the end of winter and spring. Oman may receive some spring rains in May and June, while the interior of Yemen could receive late spring rains in June. As a result, only small-scale breeding should continue in the Central Region during winter, with minimal breeding anticipated in spring. The summer season may begin in July with above-normal rainfall in Sudan, Eritrea, and Yemen.

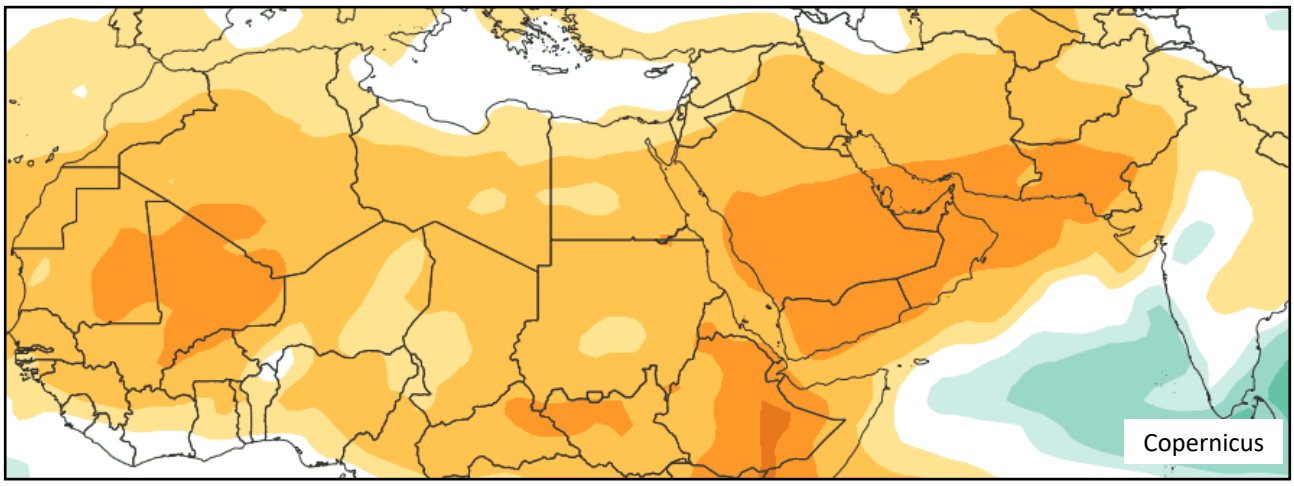
Eastern Region

Seasonal models for the next six months predict below-normal rainfall across southeastern Iran and southwestern Pakistan during the spring season from March to May, while above-normal pre-monsoon rainfall along the Indo-Pakistan border in June. As a result, very little breeding is expected.

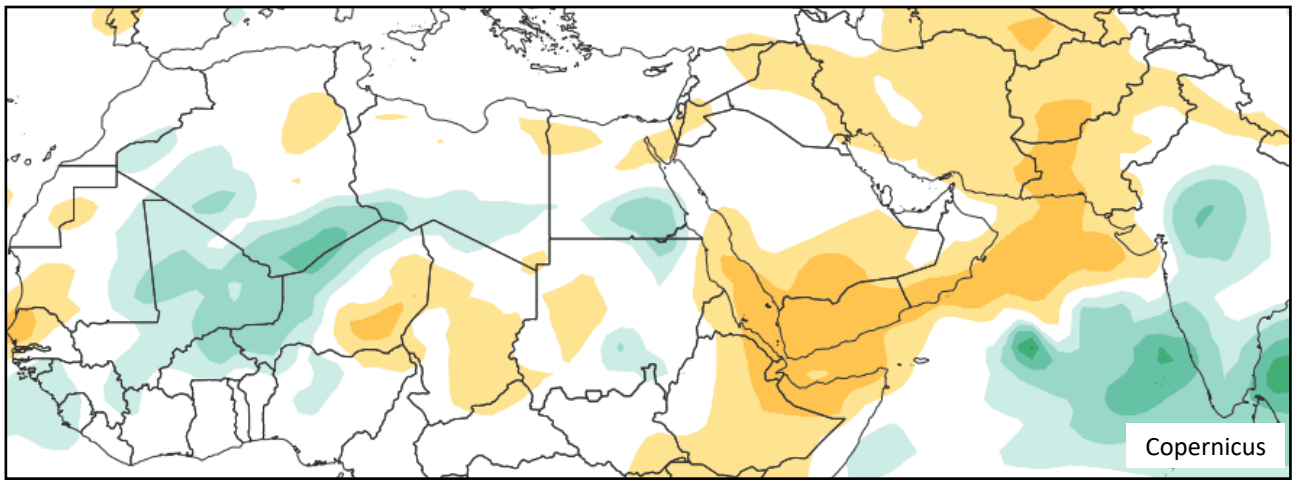
Subseasonal forecast multi-model precipitation (the next six weeks)



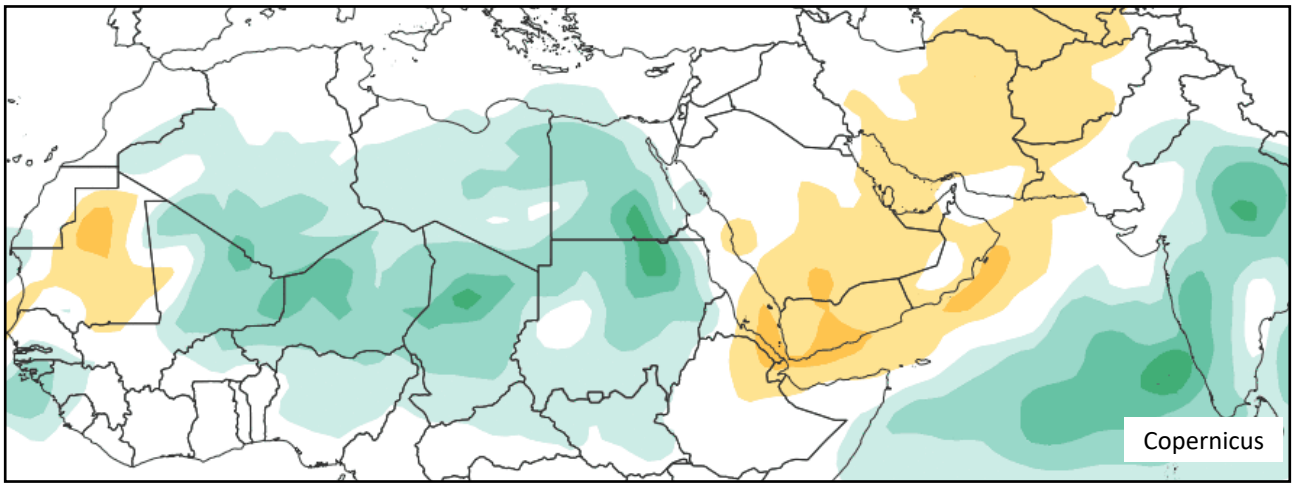
Seasonal forecast multi-model precipitation (February–July 2025)



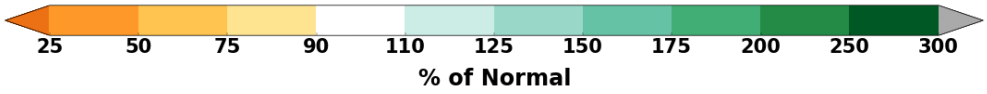
February 2025



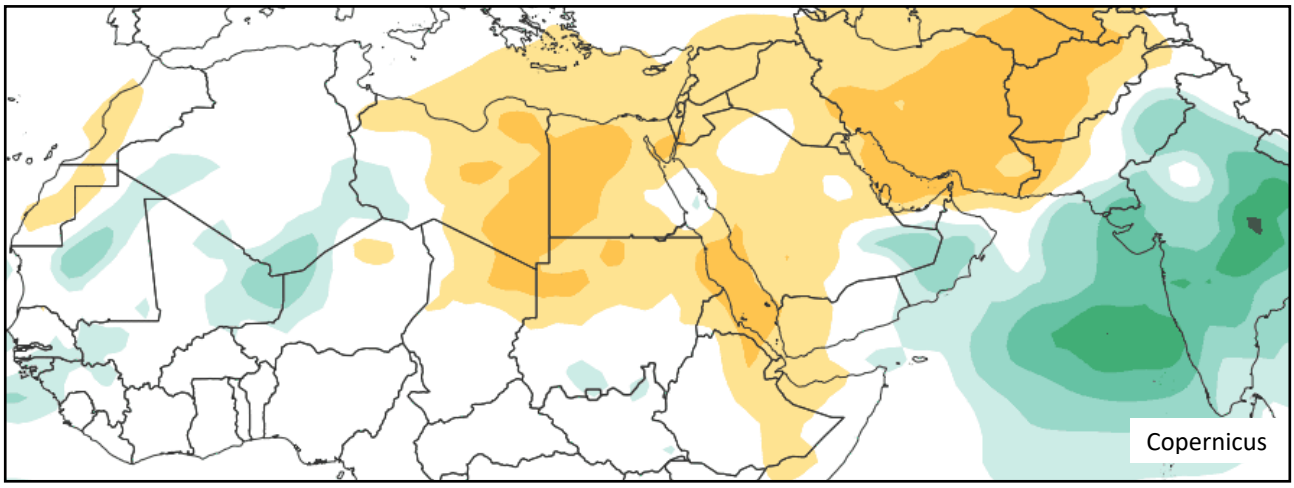
March 2025



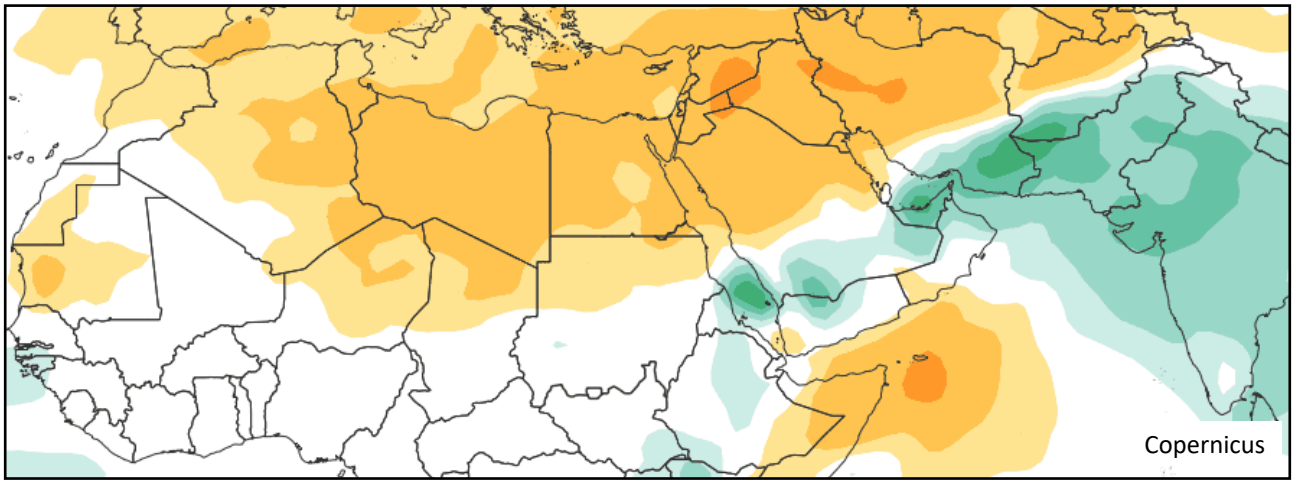
April 2025



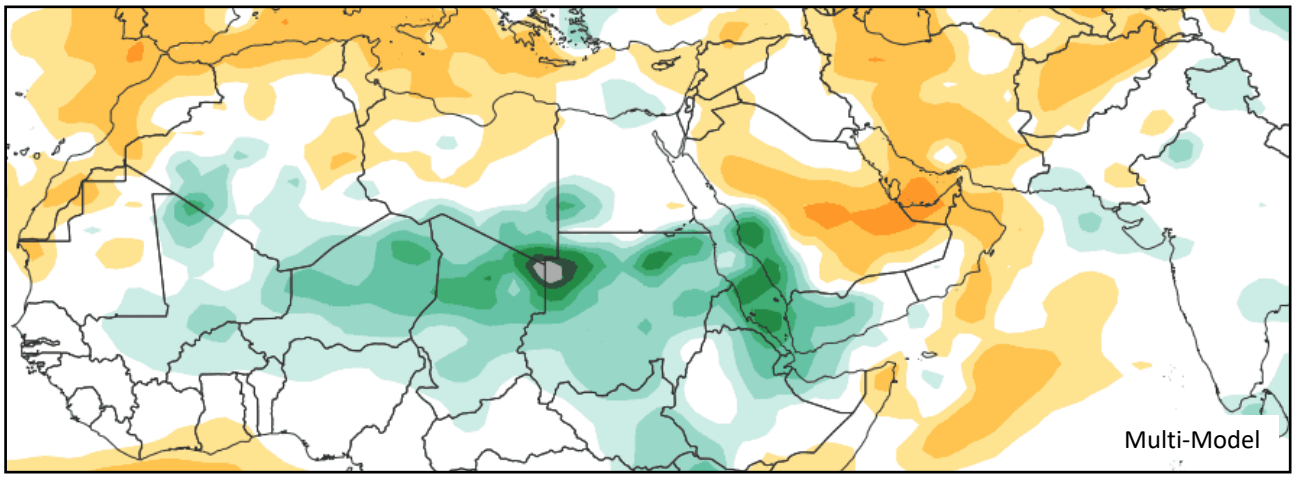
Seasonal forecast multi-model precipitation (continued)



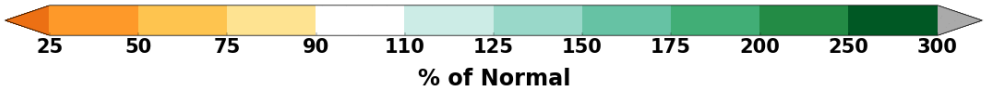
May 2025



June 2025

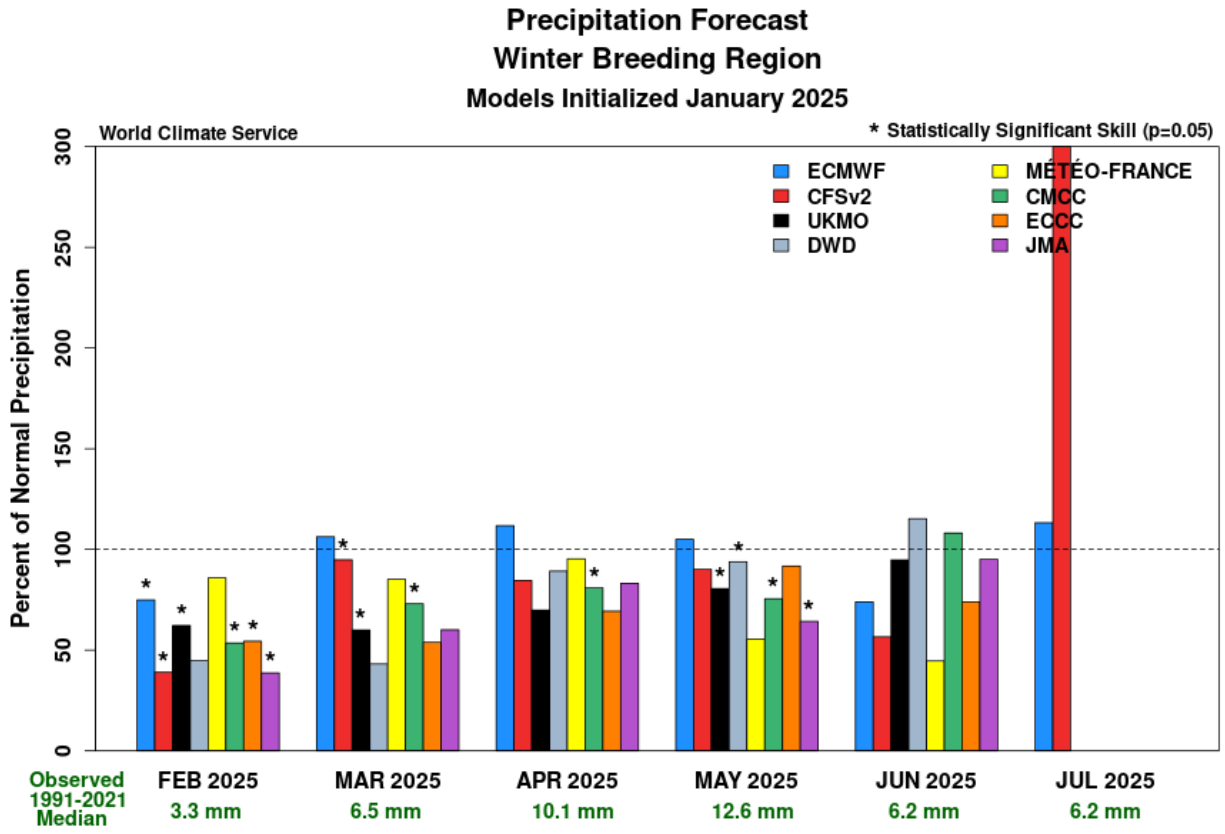


July 2025

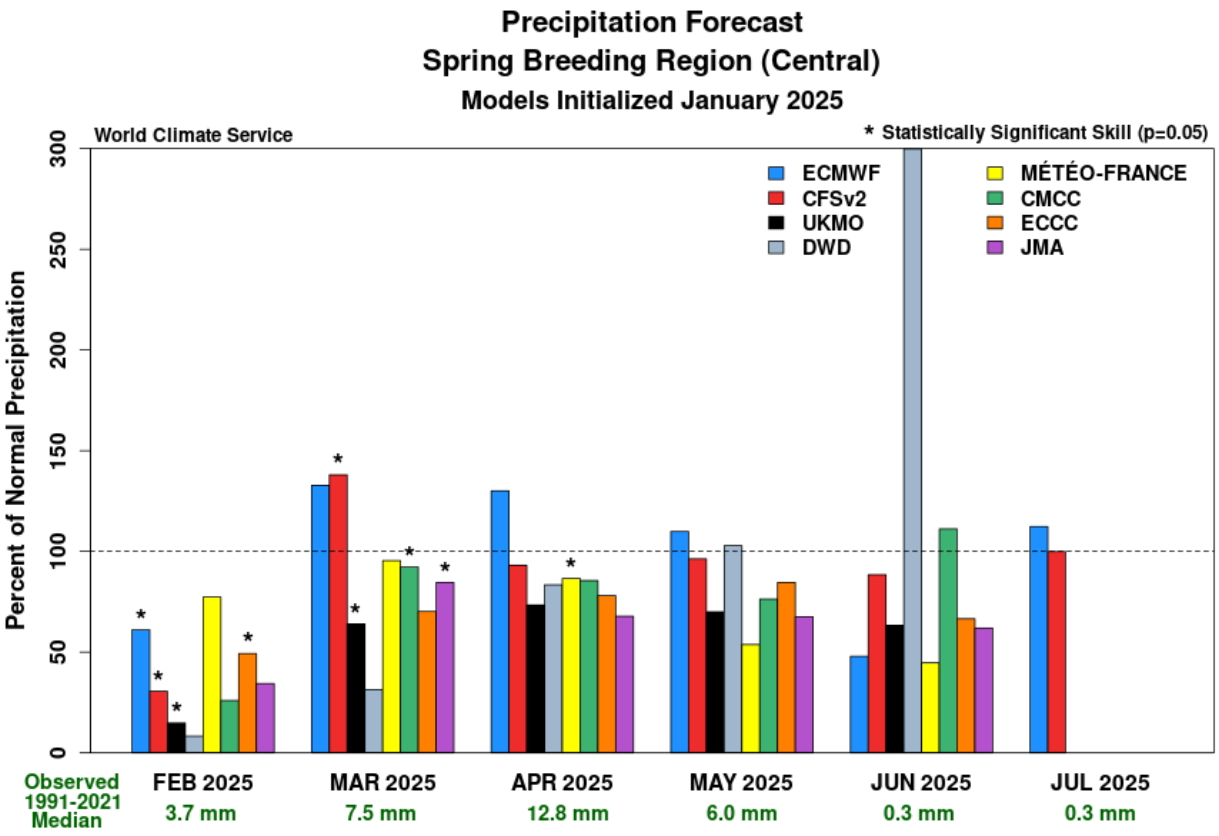


Model forecast charts. The latest seasonal precipitation predictions provided by the World Climate Service (WCS) cover the spring, summer and winter breeding areas of the Desert Locust. This is one of the most sophisticated products available, derived from **eight** models: CFSv2, ECMWF, and Copernicus (CMCC, DWD, ECCC, JMA, Météo-France, UKMO). The results of each model are presented below.

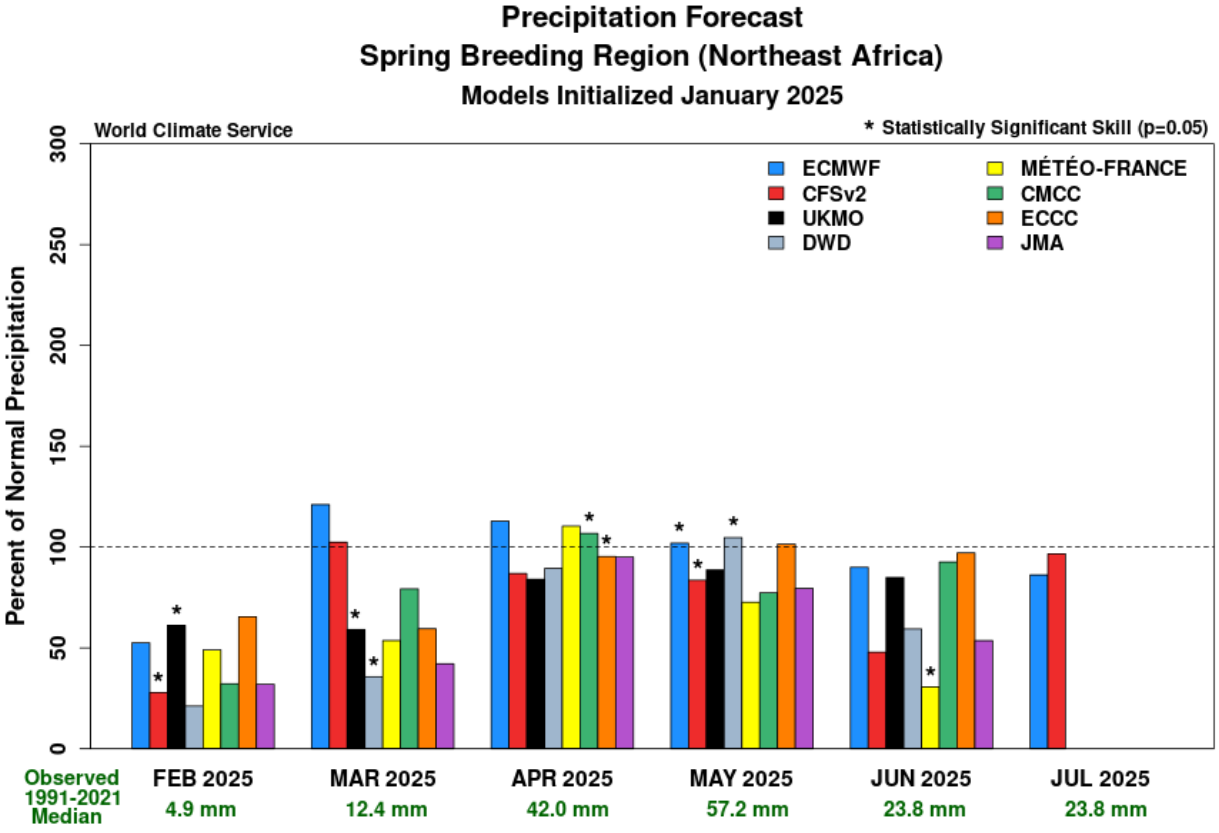
How to interpret the precipitation forecast charts. A value of 100 on the left axis indicates normal rainfall; values less than 100 indicate drier than normal conditions; more than 100 indicates wetter than normal. Little variation between models suggests greater confidence and reliability. An asterisk indicates the most reliable model in each month. When available, the historically best model during the entire forecast period in the region is indicated in the caption.



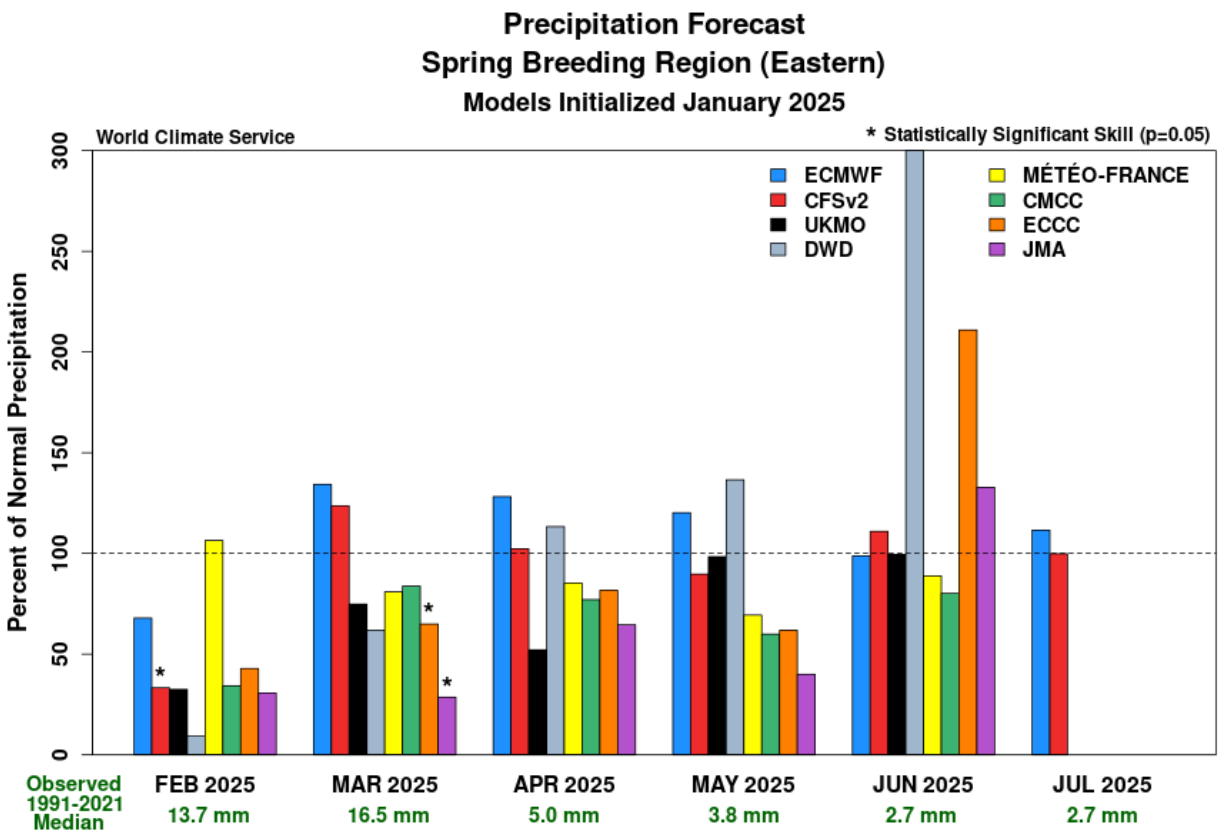
Winter breeding, February–March (Red Sea / Gulf of Aden)



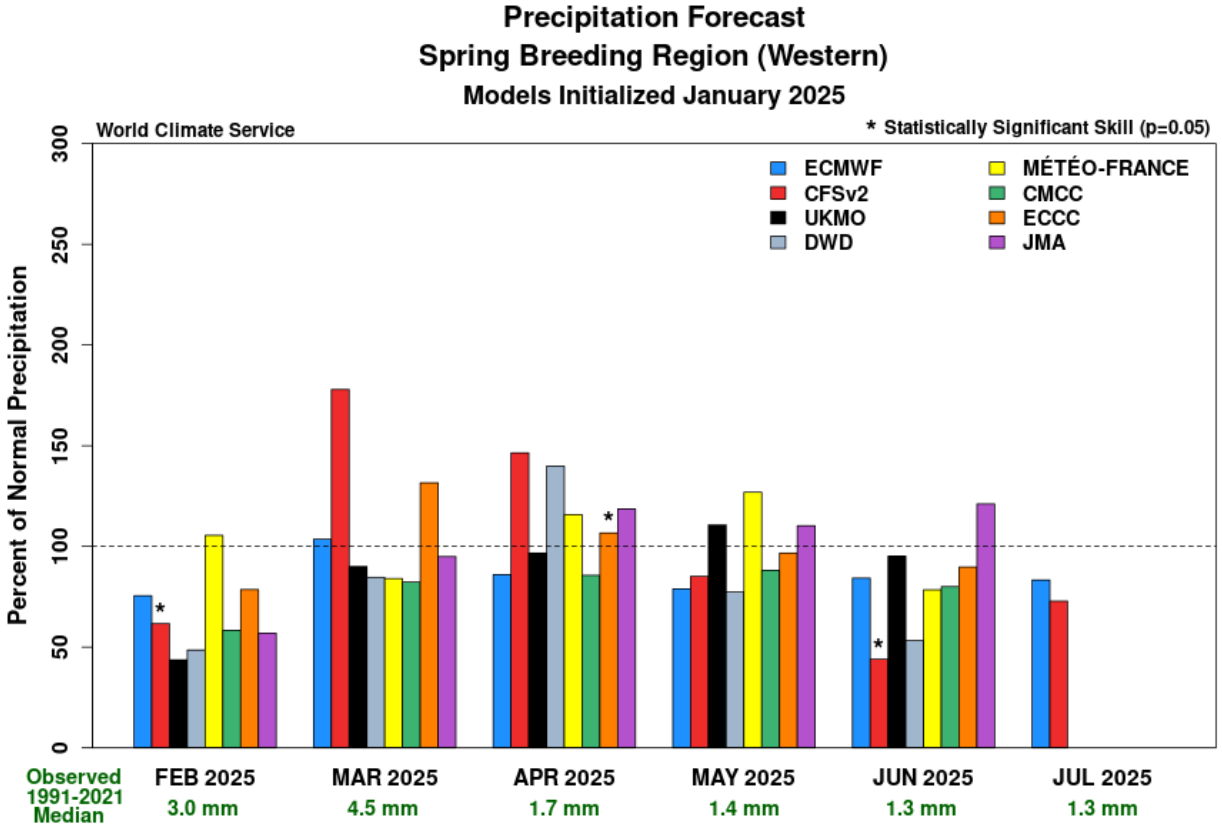
Spring breeding, March–May/June (Arabian Peninsula)



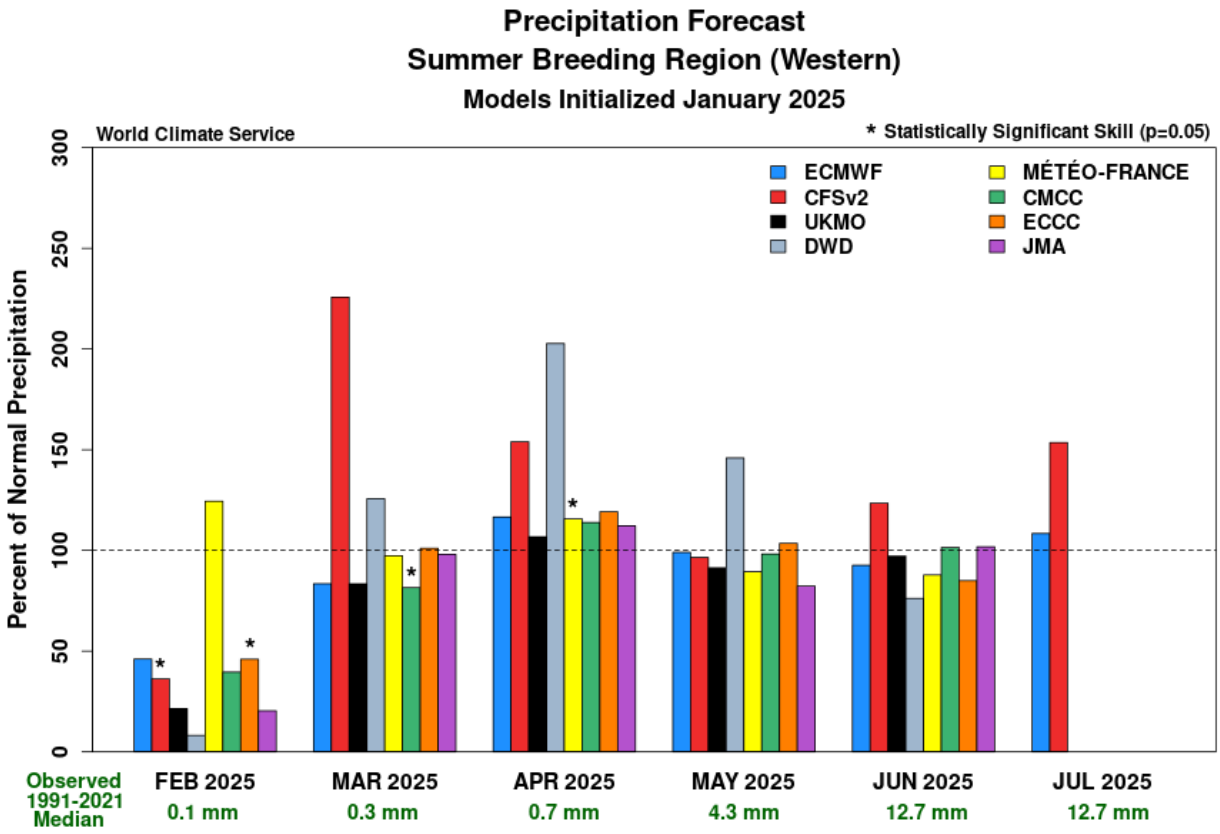
Spring breeding, March–May/June (Horn of Africa)



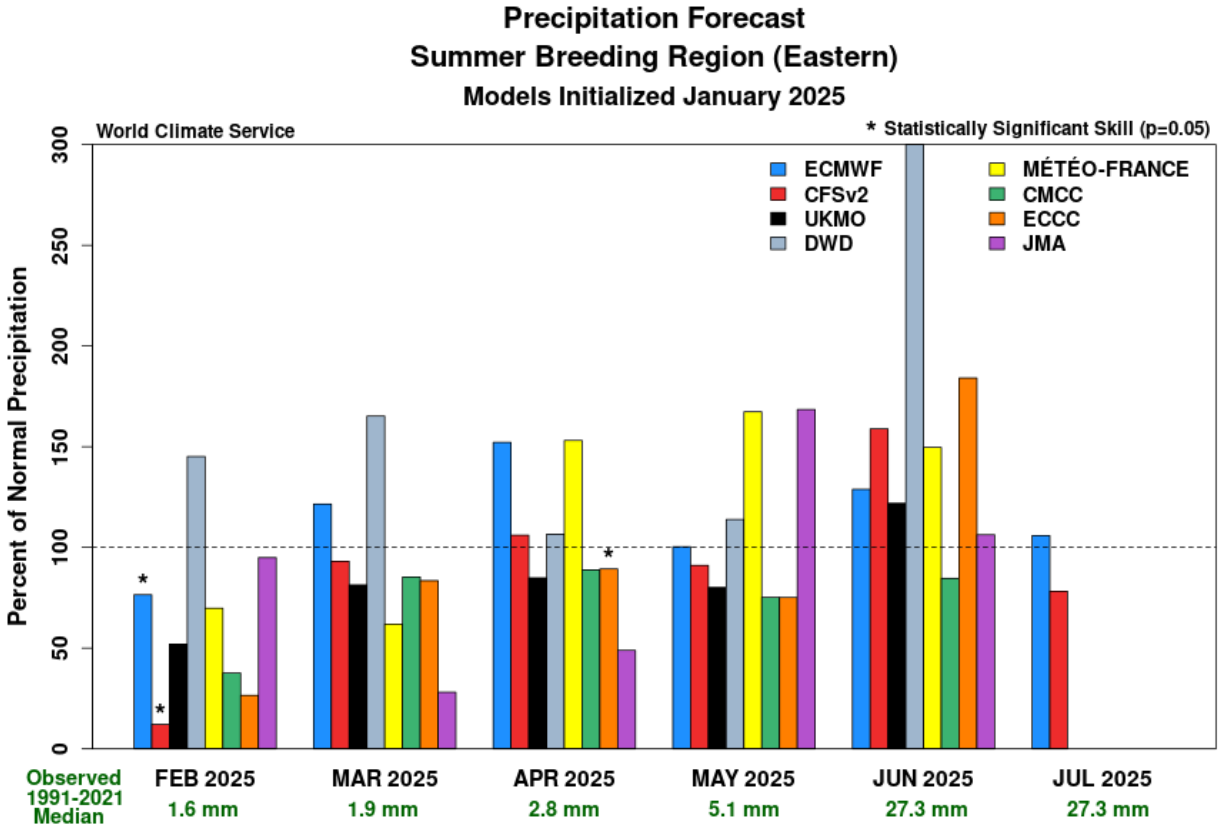
Spring breeding, March–May (SE Iran / SW Pakistan)



Spring breeding, March–May (NW Africa)



Summer breeding, July (Sahel of W Africa to Sudan/Eritrea)



Summer breeding, July (India/Pakistan)

Weather and breeding forecast summary

Western Region

Subseasonal outlook (January–February)
- Below-normal rains in southern Algeria and Libya, above-normal rains in central Algeria and western Libya at the end of February

Six-month seasonal outlook (February–July)
- February: dry conditions from northern Mali, Niger and Chad to Algeria and Libya
- Spring: above-normal rains in northwest Africa from March to May

Breeding outlook
- Breeding in Algeria, southwest Libya and to a lower extent in the northern Sahel during the spring

Central Region

Subseasonal outlook (January–February)
- Rains in limited parts of southern Red Sea coast of Sudan, Eritrea, and Saudi Arabia

Six-month seasonal outlook (February–July)
- Winter: below-normal rains in February, above-normal on the southeast of Egypt in March
- Spring: normal to above-normal rains on the interior of Saudi Arabia and Egypt in March/April and interior of Yemen in June

Breeding outlook
- Small-scale breeding during the winter; very limited breeding in the spring

Eastern Region

Six-month seasonal outlook (March–July)
- Spring: below-normal rainfall in southeast Iran and southwest Pakistan
- Summer: above-normal pre-monsoon rainfall along Indo-Pakistan border in June

Breeding outlook
- Very limited breeding in southeast Iran and southwest Pakistan during the spring
- Limited breeding starting in July along the Indo-Pakistan border