The Agricultural Stress Index (ASI) combines vegetation condition and temperature variables to illustrate the level of water stress experienced by crops in specific geographic areas. The compiled results are analysed longitudinally by comparing current values to the long-term minimum and maximum values and by spatially aggregating agricultural areas by administrative area.

### Analysis

April rainfall totals in Syria were largely above average to average compared to the long-term average (LTA) of 2001-2016. However, below average precipitation was observed in large areas of eastern and southern parts of Al-Hasakeh; parts of Rural Damascus, As-Sweida and Homs; and pockets of Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, Idleb and Deir-ez-Zor governorates. Rainfall amounts were mostly near to below their levels the same month last year across all governorates apart from Quneitra and Tartous where precipitation totals were predominantly higher.

Winter wheat and barley crops, which were planted from November through January, are expected to be harvested from May to July 2017. The ASI shows improvement in vegetation conditions in crop-growing areas of Aleppo, Idleb, Hama and Al-Hasakeh compared to the first and second dekads of March when 40-70% of crops in large areas of these governorates were affected by moisture stress. Signs of moisture stress were still present in these governorates throughout three dekads of April although with some gradual improvements seen throughout the month as a result of good monthly rainfall.

By the last dekad of April, signs of severe moisture stress, affecting 55-85% of crops, could still be observed in cropland areas across the southern part of Idleb and in some parts of central and northern Aleppo.

### Rainfall Difference

2017 April - 2016 April

2017 April - Long-term average

REF Data Sources:
RFE 2.0: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Climate Prediction Center (CPC) Rainfall Estimator (RFE). Daily data is downloaded from CPC and monthly 15 year averages and monthly anomalies are processed by RFSAN.

Date of Production. 16.05.2017

Please note that the ASI is based on remotely sensed data only, there is no confirmation on what crops have been planted.