

Crop yield monitoring in Eastern Africa

Bulletin for rain-fed maize yield prospects in 2006



March 2006

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LOCALISED DELAYS IN PLANTING FOR THE 2006 MAIZE CROPING SEASON

Overall, the 2006 maize crop season started on time in the southern part of the region (Uganda and Kenya). In Amahara and eastern Oromiya regions of Ethiopia maize planting is having a delay of 4 dekads. In Rift Valley, the most important maize production province of Kenya, maize was planted with more than 2 dekads of delay (Fig. 1).

The delays are due to erratic and below normal rainfall in those areas (Fig. 2). Vegetation in south Somalia, north-eastern Kenya and southern part of Ethiopia has not recovered from the negative impact of the 2005 drought. This fact is clearly shown by the decrease in vegetation activity captured by the SPOT VGT sensor (Fig. 3).

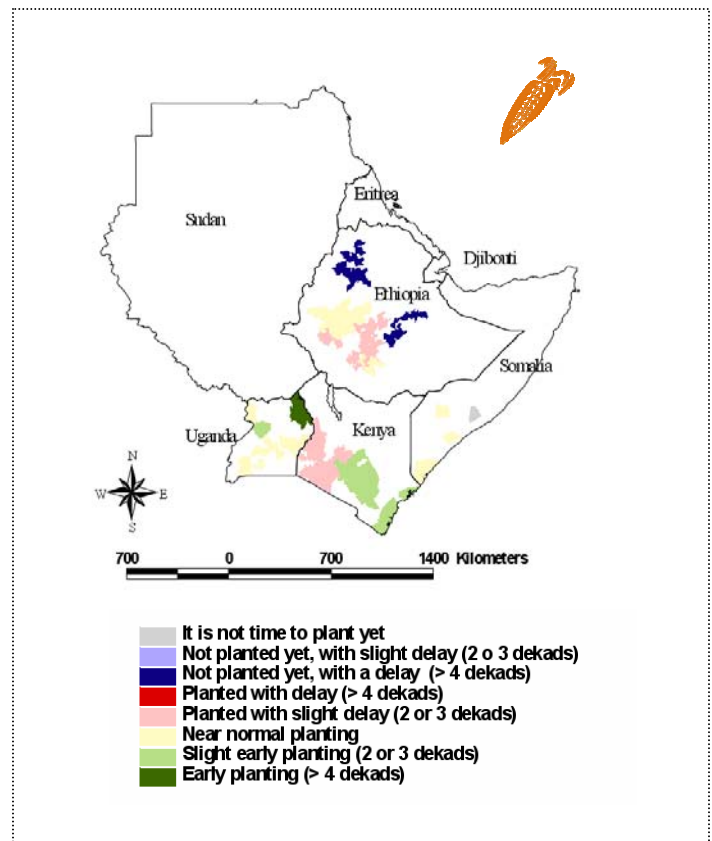


Figure 1. Maize areas: in violet the areas that have not been planted yet, but present a delay of 4 dekads compared with normal planting dates.



Rainfall analysis

The cumulated rainfall (from 1st dekad January to 3rd dekad March 2006) is below normal in northern part of Ethiopia and central areas of Eritrea (Fig. 2).



Vegetation index analysis

The difference in vegetation index (NDVI) between March 2006 and the same month of the previous year, shows negative areas located mainly in Kenya and southern part of Somalia (Fig. 3).

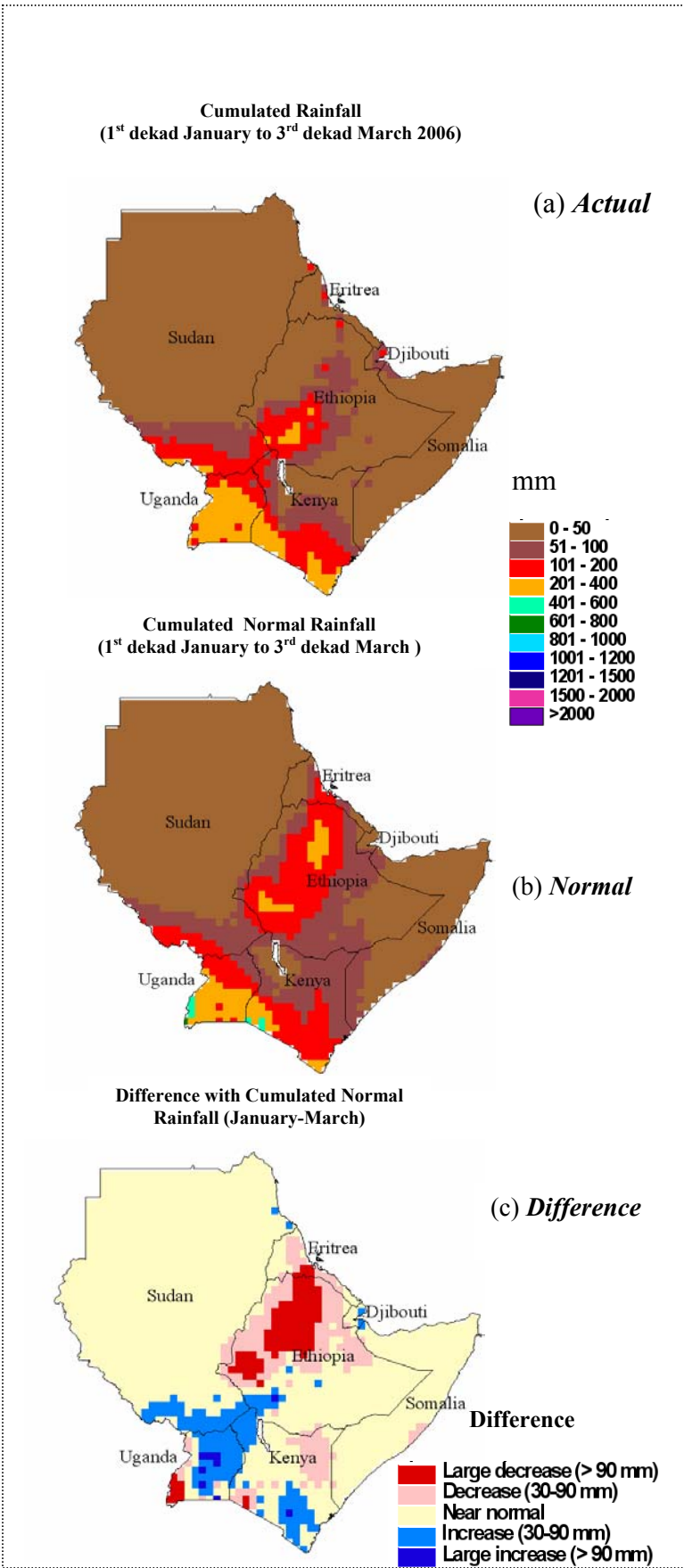


Figure 2 Rainfall analysis up to 3rd dekad of March 2006. Data from ECMWF model. (a) shows the actual values in mm. (b) shows the normal values for the same period (c) shows rainfall difference with normal. A decrease in cumulated rainfall as compared to normal in most parts of Ethiopia and Eritrea.

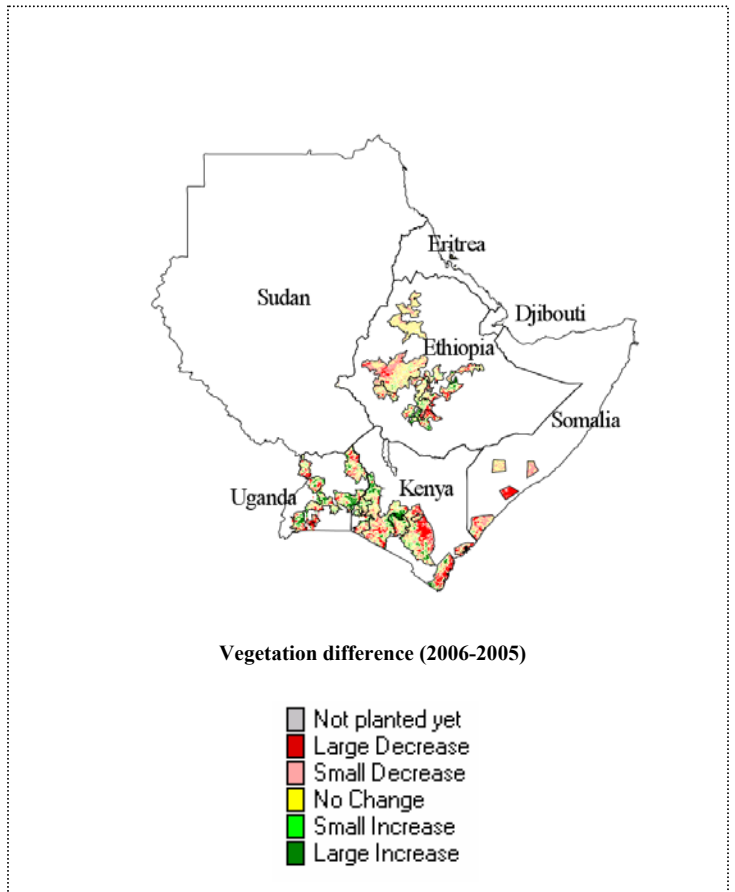


Figure 3. Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI). Absolute difference between March 2006 and the same month of the previous year.

The JRC, in collaboration with FAO is pleased to present this issue of "Crop yield monitoring in Eastern Africa" for the 2005 crop season.

MARS-FOOD will provide regular monthly updates on the progress of the 2004 crop season. The bulletin will be available in the "Crop and Rangeland Monitoring Network for the Greater Horn of Africa": <http://agrifish.jrc.it/Africa/> or <ftp://agrifish.jrc.it/bulletin/> Also MARS-FOOD crop monitoring products will be available through the JRC Digital Map Archive: <http://dma.jrc.it>.

Another useful product for Somalia and Eritrea is available on: <ftp://agrifish.jrc.it/Bulletin/Somalia> <ftp://agrifish.jrc.it/Bulletin/Eritrea>

Comments and remarks for improvement of this bulletin are welcome.