



REGIONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM

PRESASS-01

Bamako, Mali 28th April – 02nd May, 2014



THEME: *“Seasonal forecast: Climate Service for better management of risks and opportunities related to climate variability and change for sustainable development”*

SEASONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK BULLETIN
VALID FOR JUNE –JULY-AUGUST AND JULY-AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2014
OVER THE SOUDANO-SAHELIAN REGION OF AFRICA,
(BAMAKO, 30th APRIL 2014)

Produced by

The African Centre of Meteorological Applications for development (ACMAD) in collaboration with National Meteorological and Hydrological Services of the Gulf of Guinea countries with support of WMO designated Global Producing Centers for Long Range Forecasts and the International Research Institute for Climate & Society at Columbia University in New-York USA.

This is a product of the Institutional Support to African Climate Institution Project (ISACIP) funded by the African Development Bank group.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Given the current Seas Surface and Sub-surface Temperature patterns and trends, models outputs and expert judgment, the precipitation outlooks for June-July-August and July-August-September 2014 are as follows:

- Precipitation amounts for 2014 are expected to be lower compared to 2013 with significant reduction over much of the westernmost part of the region;
- Below average precipitation is very likely over Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Senegal, The Gambia and parts of Mali and Mauritania from June to September 2014;
- Below to near average precipitation is very likely along the coast from Ghana to southwestern Nigeria for July-August-September 2014;
- Near to below average rainfall is expected over central and parts of eastern Sahel in Mali, much of Burkina Faso, southern Niger and northern Nigeria from June to September 2014;
- Near to below average rainfall is very likely from June to August 2014 along the coasts from Cote d'Ivoire to southwestern Nigeria;
- Near average precipitation is very likely for the remaining part of the region;
- Irregular distribution of precipitation during the season is very likely with dry spells, abnormal onset and/or cessation particularly over areas expecting below average precipitation;
- ✓ Water managers and stakeholders of the agriculture sector particularly over the westernmost side of the region are advised to prepare for precipitation deficits.

Countries and regional organizations are advised to strengthen capacity for climate monitoring, update of seasonal outlooks and sub-seasonal forecasting for better management of expected risks related to local precipitation deficits and irregular distribution of rainfall during the season. Agriculture extension workers and water managers will be important contributors to mitigation of precipitation deficits and related risk by collecting climate information from climate service providers and deriving relevant impacts and advices for users.

RECENT CLIMATE CONDITIONS AND OUTLOOK

I- STATE OF THE TROPICAL OCEANS AND TRENDS

- Equatorial Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) were above-average near the International Date Line and near-average in the East-central Pacific during the past month. ENSO-neutral is favored for Northern Hemisphere spring in 2014. El Nino is very likely during summer 2014.
- The tropical North Atlantic SSTs have been below average off the coast of West African countries from Mauritania to Liberia during the past month. Below to near average conditions are suggested over much of Tropical North Atlantic during summer 2014.
- The tropical South Atlantic SSTs have been near average during the past month. A persistence of this pattern is very likely during the coming months.
- The Mediterranean Sea SSTs have been near to above average during the past month. Models outputs and expert judgment are favorable for a persistence of this pattern for the coming months.
- The eastern and western tropical Indian Ocean SSTs have been close to average during the past month. The persistence of this pattern is more likely during the coming few months.

II- PRECIPITATION OUTLOOK

Given these SST anomalies, sub-surface temperature patterns and trends, knowledge and understanding of seasonal climate variability over the Sudano-Sahelian region of Africa, and available long range forecasts products, the following outlooks are provided for June-July-August (JJA) and July-August-September (JAS) 2014 seasons in the region (see figures 1 and 2 below):

- **Below average precipitation is very likely over Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Senegal, The Gambia and parts of Mali and Mauritania from June to September 2014;**
- **Below to near average precipitation is very likely along the coast from Ghana to southwestern Nigeria for July-August-September 2014;**
- **Near to below average rainfall is expected over central and parts of eastern Sahel in Mali, much of Burkina Faso, southern Niger and northern Nigeria from June to September 2014;**
- **Near to below average rainfall is very likely from June to August 2014 along the coasts from Cote d'Ivoire to southwestern Nigeria;**
- **Near average precipitation is very likely for the remaining part of the region;**

- Irregular distribution of precipitation during the season is very likely with dry spells, abnormal onset and cessation particularly over areas expecting below average precipitation.
- Precipitation amounts for 2014 are expected to be lower compared to 2013 with important reduction over much of the Western part of the region;

III-ADVICES

Over Western Parts of the region and other locations where below average precipitation is very likely the following advices are provided for stakeholders:

- ✓ prioritize low land areas for planting;
- ✓ use water conservation techniques;
- ✓ Choose crop varieties resistant to rainfall deficits;
- ✓ Plan for irrigation to manage possible rainfall deficits;
- ✓ Plan an early start of transhumance;
- ✓ prepare or rehabilitate water points for animals;
- ✓ Increase vigilance from the end of the year 2014 to cope with possible reduction of pasture and water for animals in early 2015;
- ✓ prepare for possible deficits in the water in reservoirs;
- ✓ prepare for emergency assistance in case of crop failure;
- ✓ Increase vigilance for conflicts between farmers and pastoralists.

NB: Users are strongly advised to contact National Meteorological and Hydrological Services for further expert advices and assistance.

SEASONAL PRECIPITATION FORECAST FOR JUNE-JULY-AUGUST 2014
ISSUED ON APRIL 30 2014
PREVISION CLIMATIQUE SAISONNIERE DES PRECIPITATIONS
DE JUIN-JUILLET-AOUT 2014, ELABOREE LE 30 AVRIL 2014

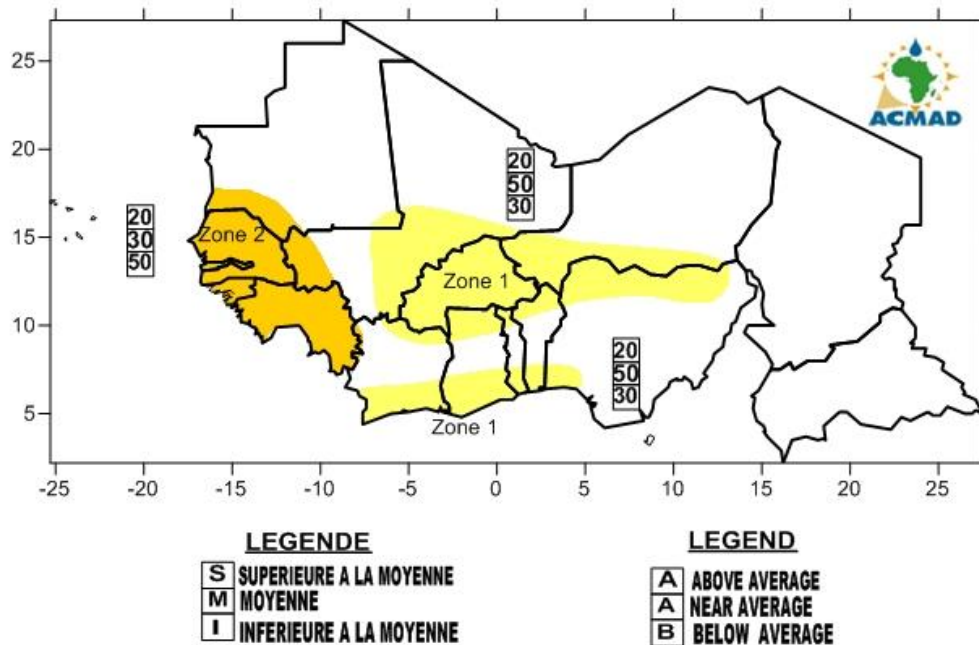


Figure 1: Seasonal forecast of precipitation for June-July-August 2014

SEASONAL PRECIPITATION FORECAST FOR JULY-AUGUST-SEPT 2014
ISSUED ON APRIL 30 2014
PREVISION CLIMATIQUE SAISONNIERE DES PRECIPITATIONS
DE JUILLET-AOUT-SEPT 2014, ELABOREE LE 30 AVRIL 2014

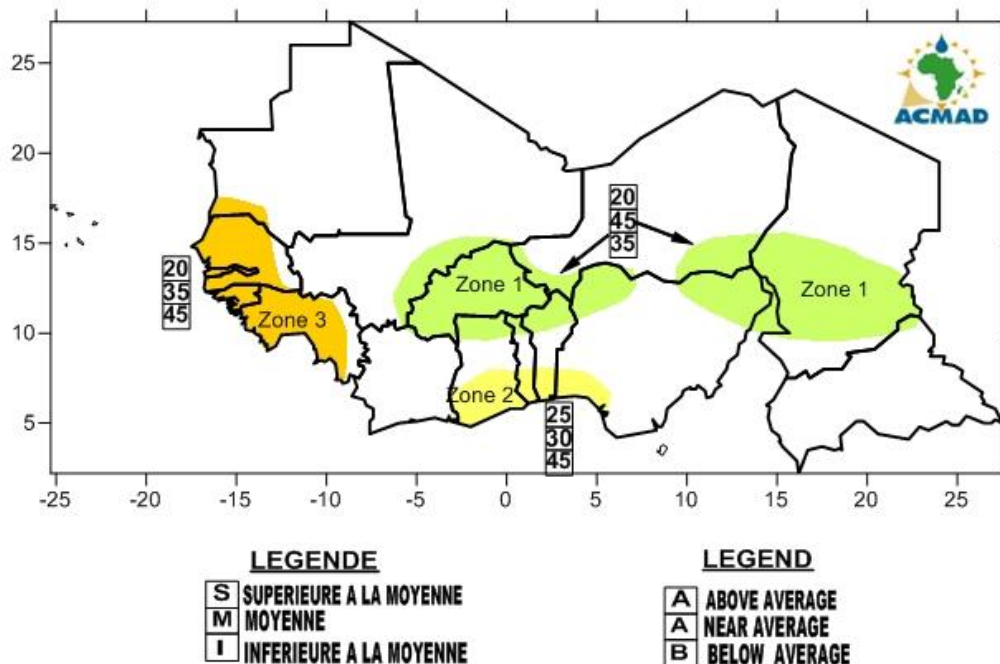


Figure 2: Seasonal forecast of Precipitation for July-August-September 2014

This outlook is produced at the regional scale. Thus, its interpretation should be for regional use. For local and/or country adaptation and applications needs, it is highly recommended to consult the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services for local details.