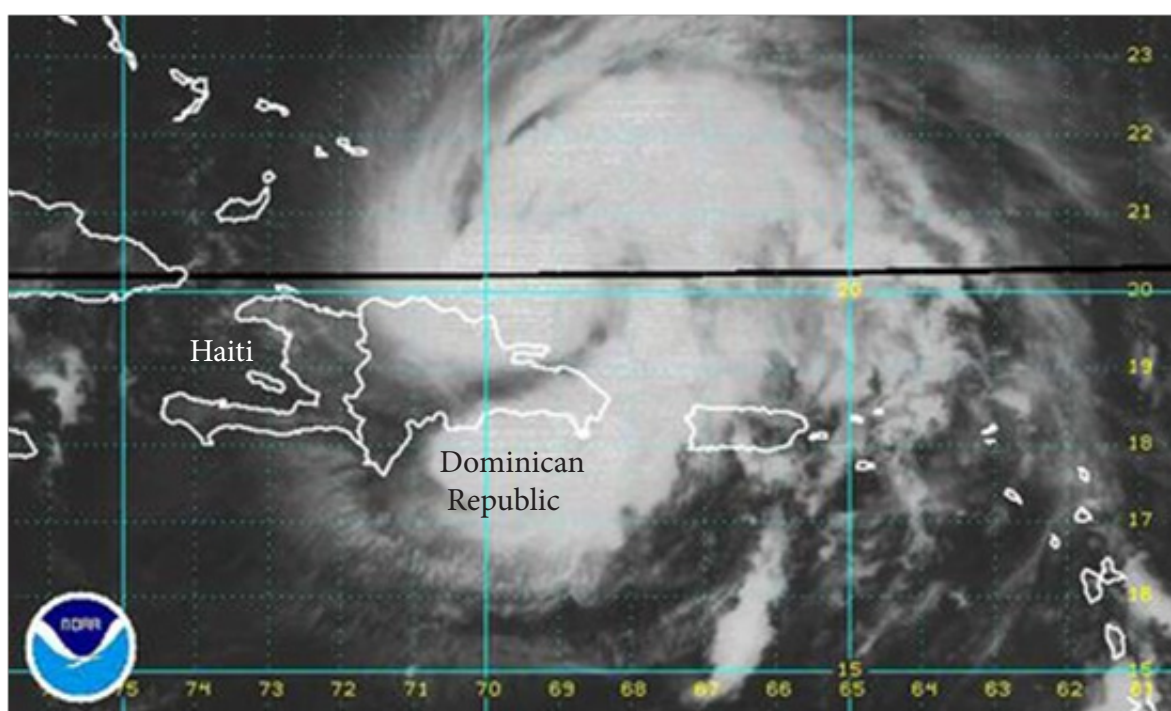


Hurricane “Irene” lashes parts of the Dominican Republic and Haiti

24 August 2011

Hurricane “Irene”, the first of the Atlantic hurricane season (June - November), hit northern parts of the Dominican Republic and Haiti as a Category 2 storm Tuesday 23 August 2011. Early reports indicate that most areas have been spared massive damage but approximately 11 000 people in the Dominican Republic were displaced by the storm, which felled trees and flooded some roads.

In the Dominican Republic, harvesting of the 2011 main season paddy crop is about to be completed while planting of the second season paddy crop is underway. Northern parts of the country are the main paddy growing areas and although no reports of serious crop damage are yet available, heavy rains and strong winds associated with the hurricane could have negatively affected the harvesting and/or planting activities. Similarly, in Haiti, extreme weather conditions could have a negative impact on the already uncertain production prospects of the 2011 first season cereal crops, mainly maize, towards the end of harvesting period and planting of the second season paddy and sorghum crops.



Irene position on 23 August 2011. Source: NOAA