Seasonal precipitation predictions in the Desert Locust winter/spring breeding areas (January – June 2024)
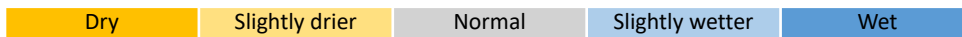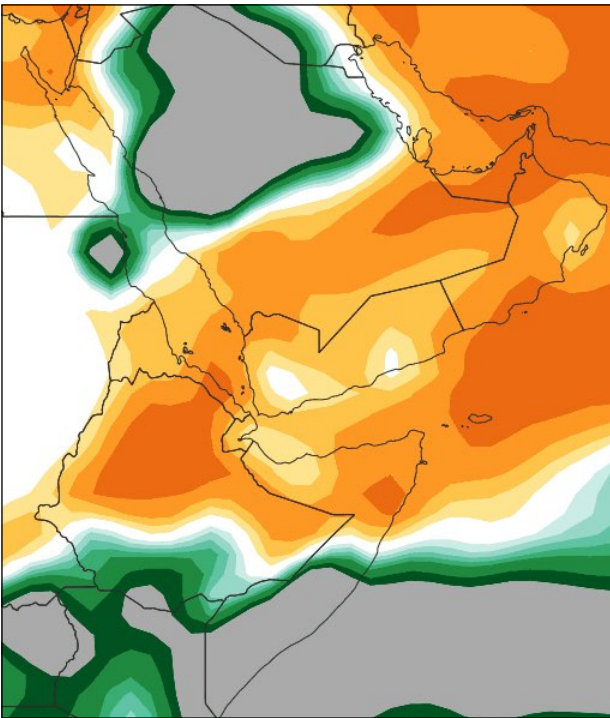
The latest models predict a drier than last month's forecast for January to March in the Red Sea coast and Arabia interior with below-normal rainfall. Nevertheless, there might be enough rain for Desert Locusts in parts of the winter and spring breeding areas. In the Gulf of Aden and the Horn of Africa, the wet signal remains essentially unchanged with a rather high probability of above-normal rain from southern Yemen and northern Somalia to southern Ethiopia and Kenya due to El Niño. As a result, a second generation of breeding is likely to begin at the end of January, especially in the southern Red Sea and Gulf of Aden coasts with high temperatures.

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

Dry	Slightly drier	Normal	Slightly wetter	Wet

Desert Locust seasonal breeding areas

Source: FAO/DLIS, Esri
Dotted or dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries.
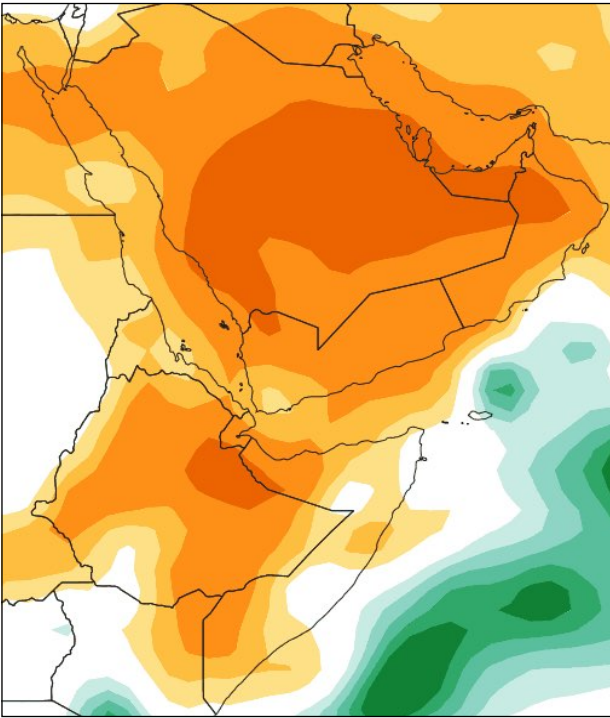
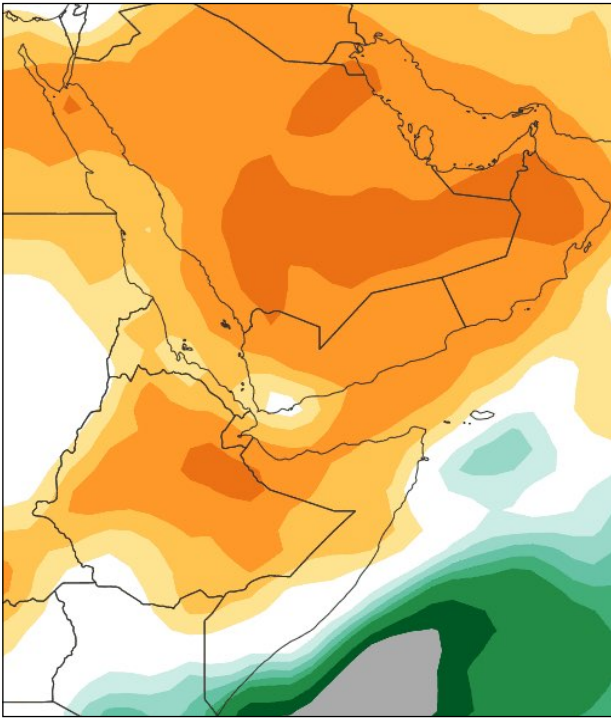**Subseasonal forecast multi-model precipitation – WCS maps (four weeks)**

27 December 2023 – 2 January 2024
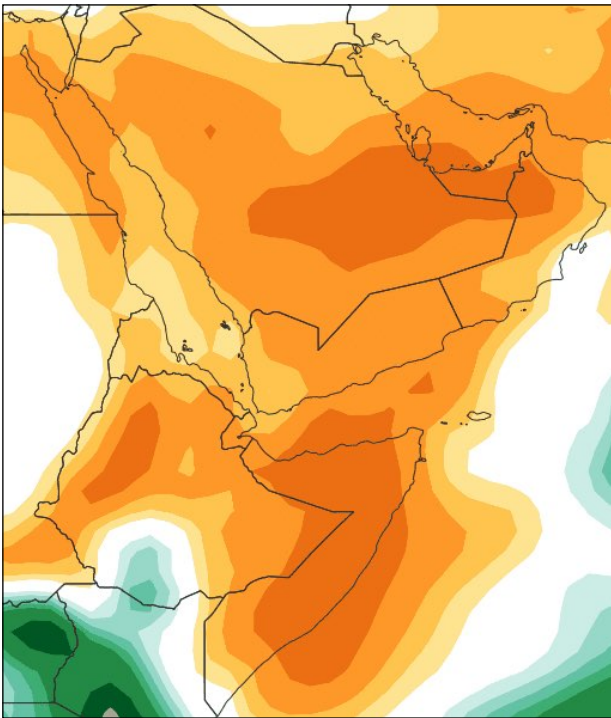
3–9 January 2024

10–16 January 2024
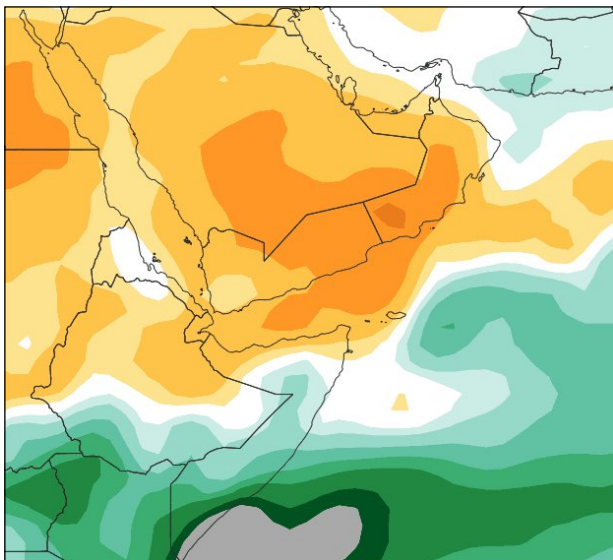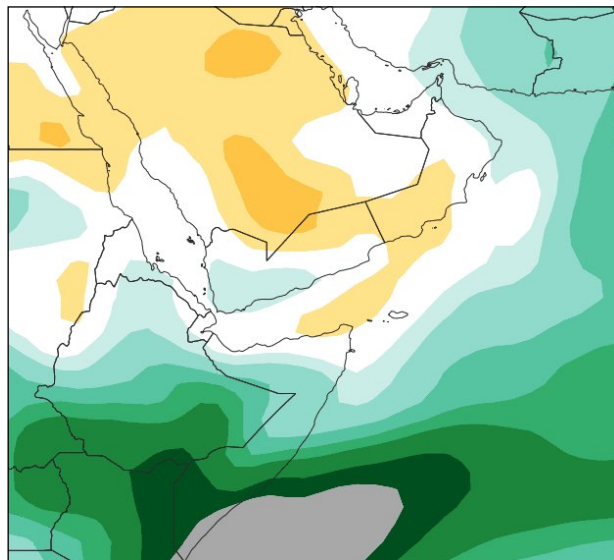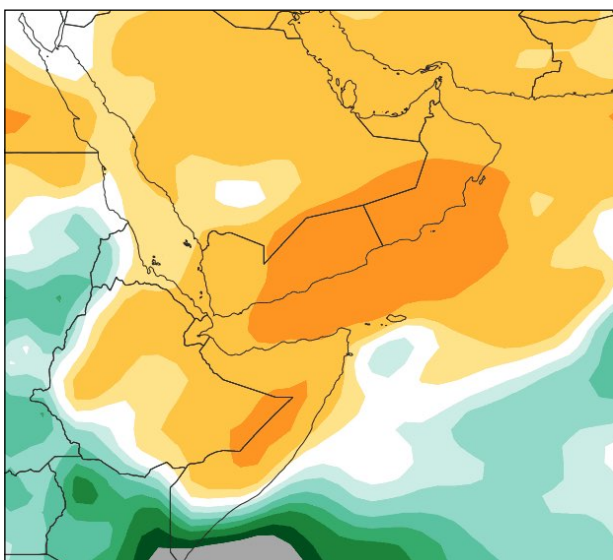
17–23 January 2024

% of Normal
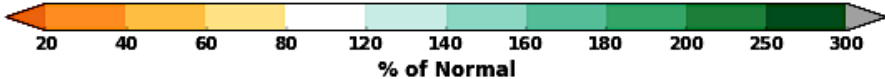
Seasonal forecast multi-model precipitation – WCS vs. Copernicus maps (three months)
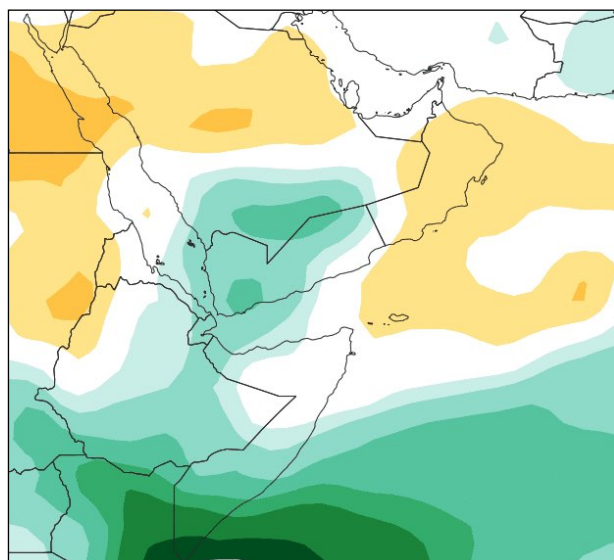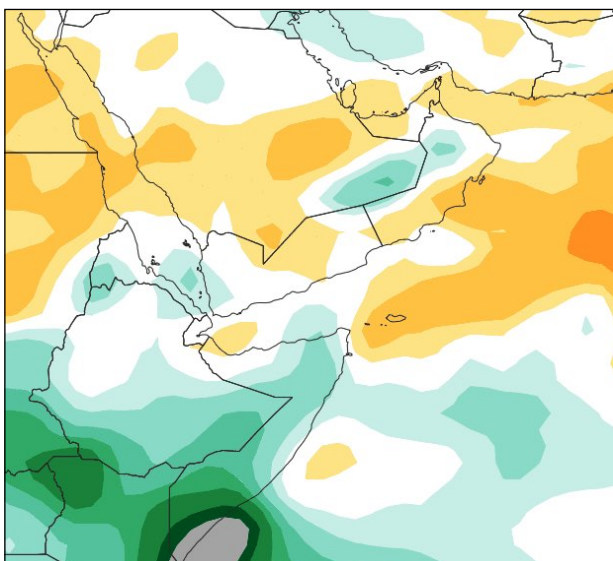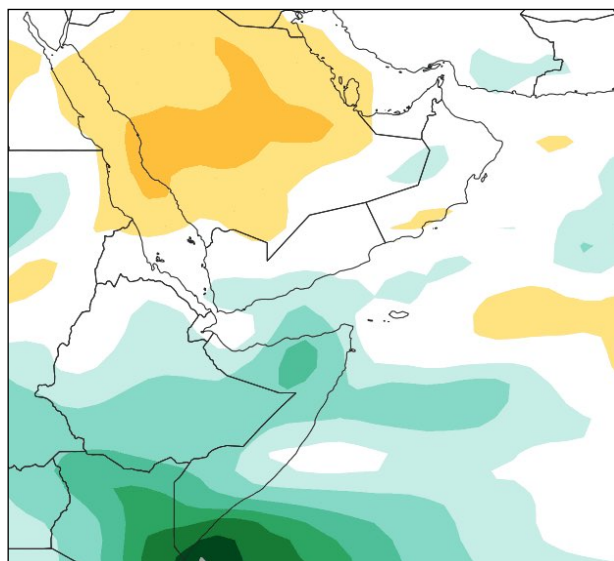

Jan 2024 WCS
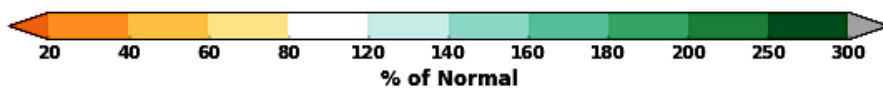
Jan 2024 Copernicus

Feb 2024 WCS

Feb 2024 Copernicus

Mar 2024 WCS

Mar 2024 Copernicus

% of Normal

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, Méteo-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.
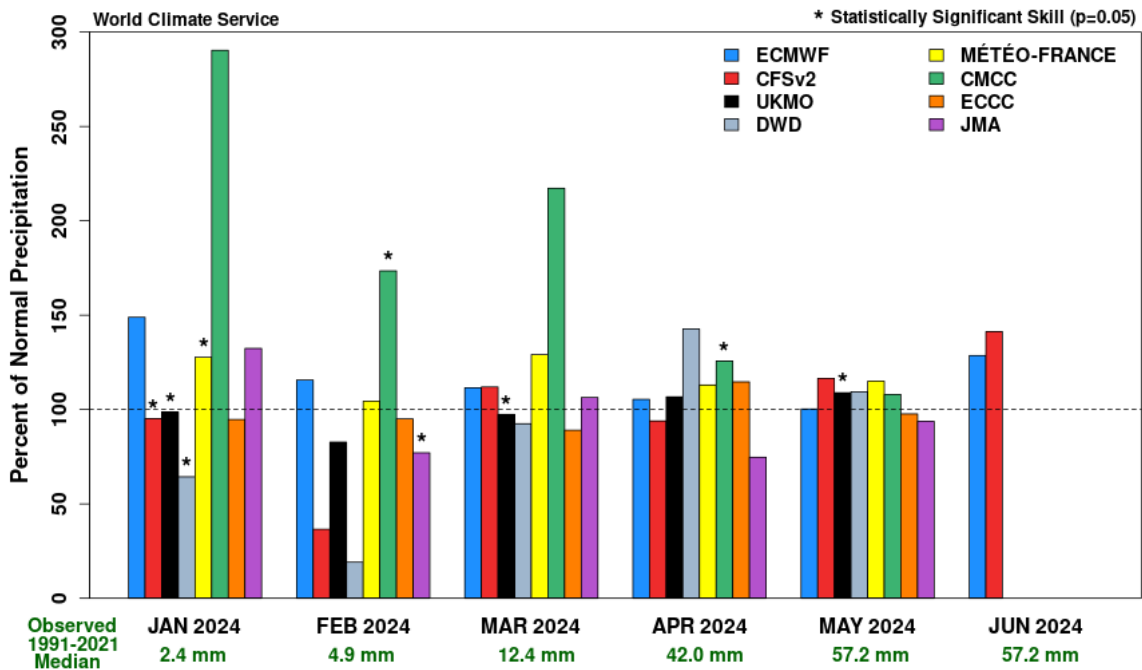

Winter breeding, January–March/April (Red Sea / Gulf of Aden)
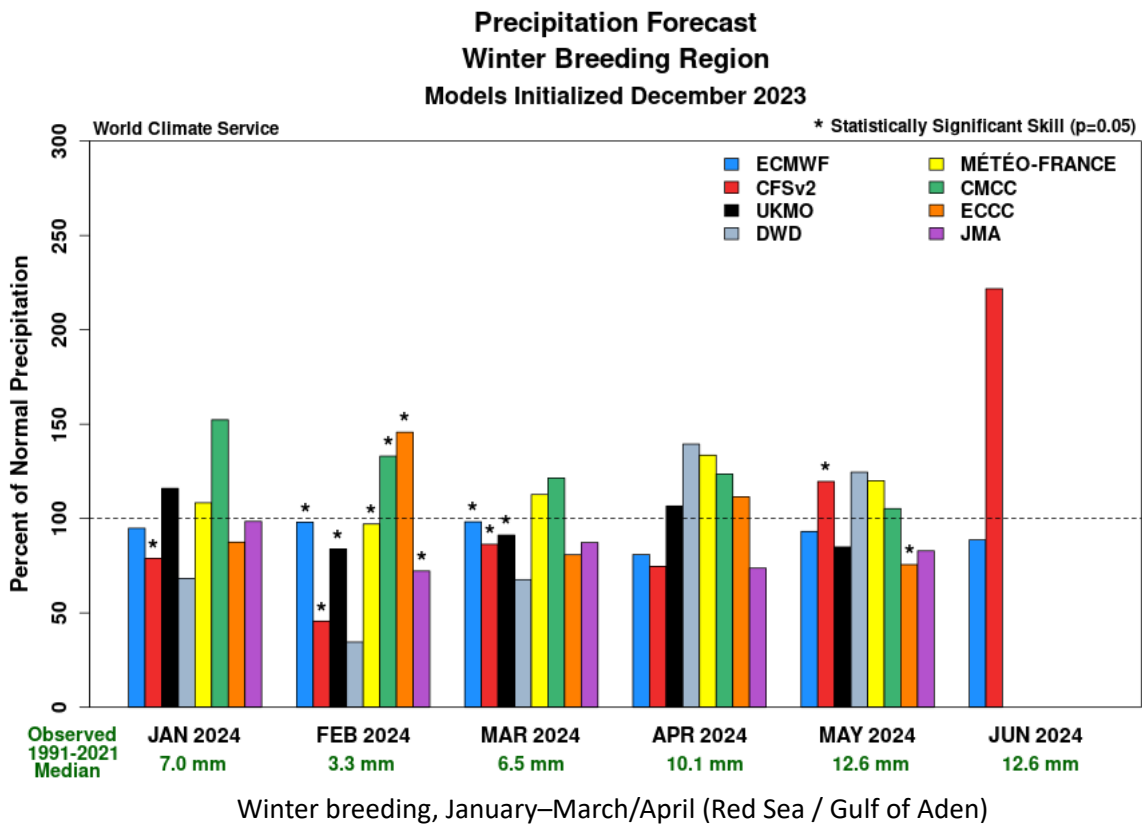
Precipitation Forecast
Spring Breeding Region (Central)
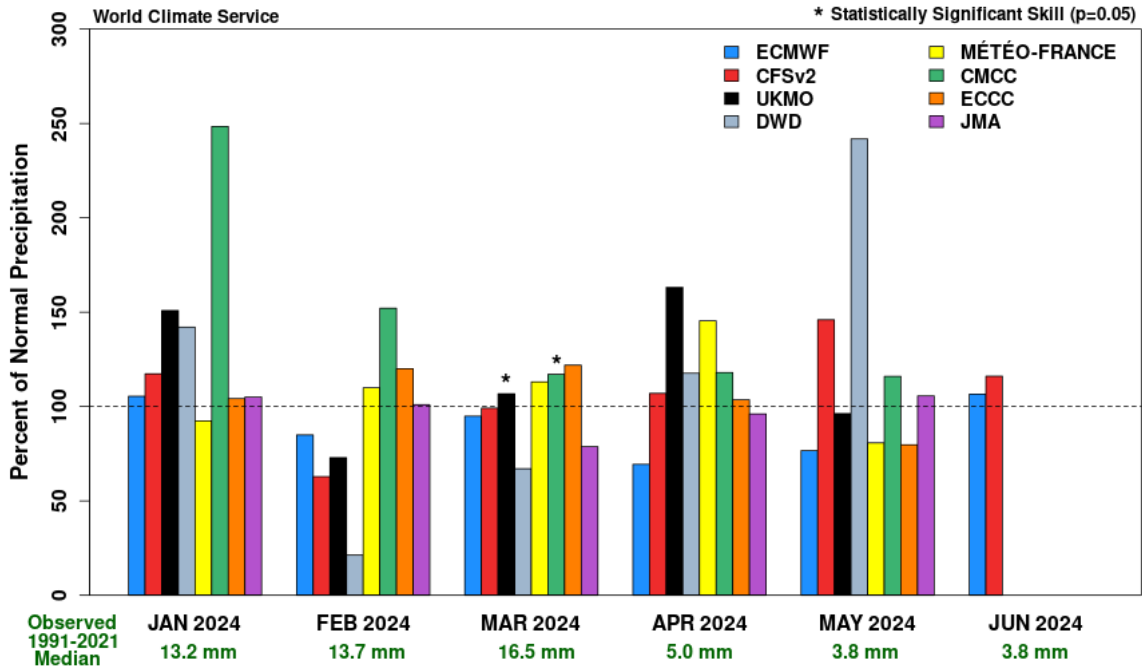**Models Initialized December 2023**
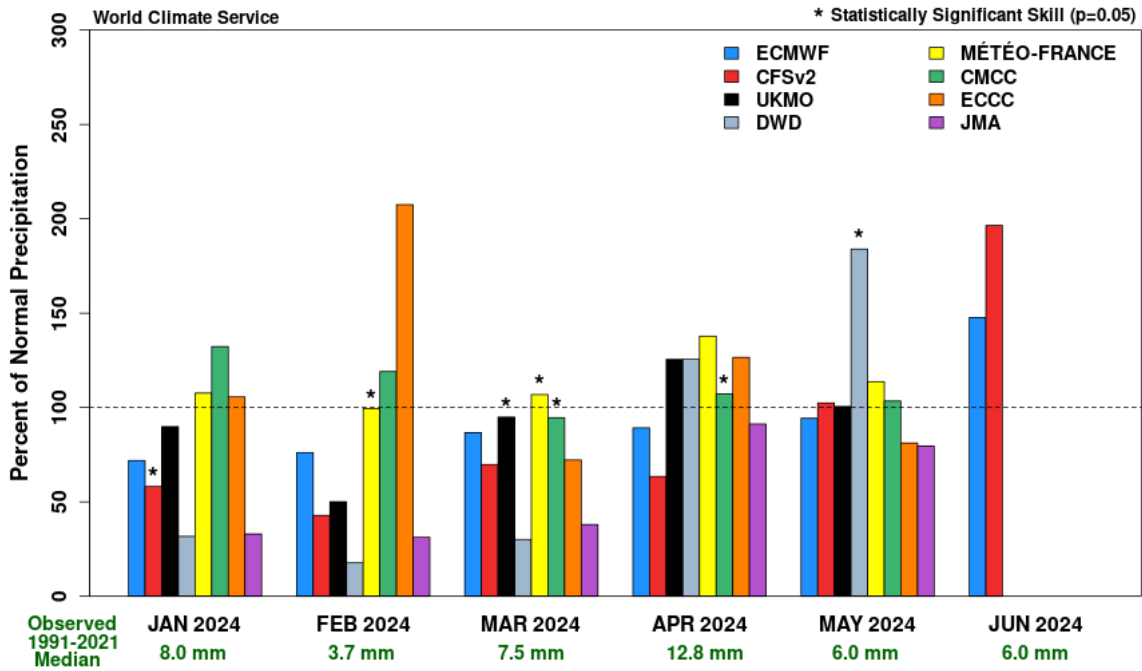
Spring breeding, March–May/June (Arabian Peninsula)

Precipitation Forecast
Spring Breeding Region (Northeast Africa)
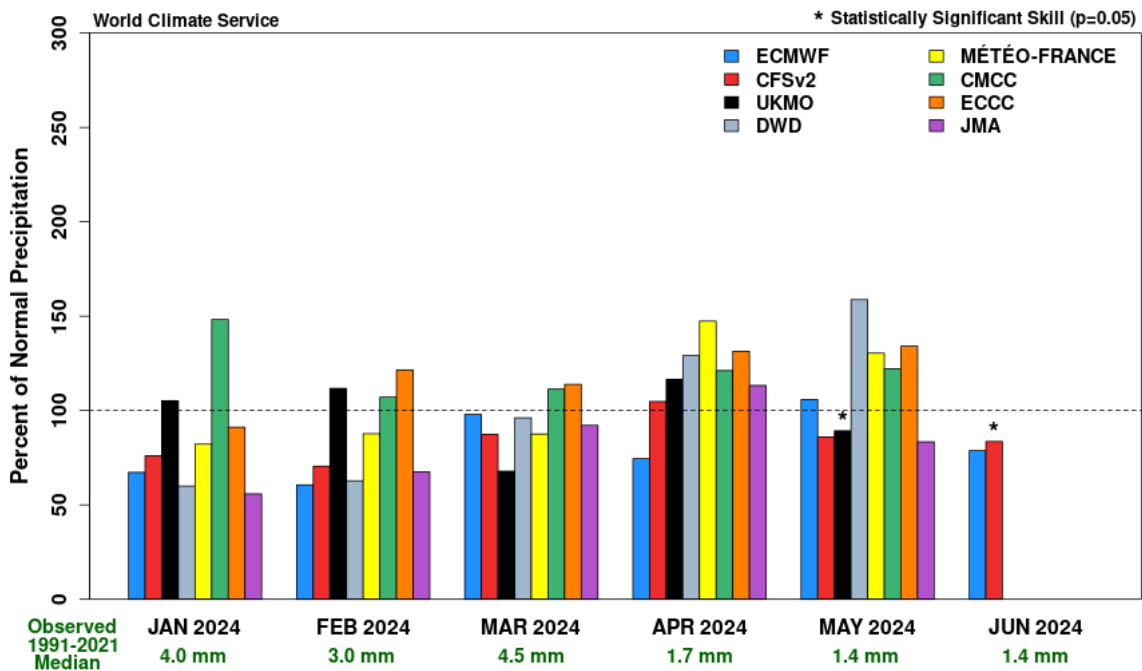**Models Initialized December 2023**

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

Precipitation Forecast
Spring Breeding Region (Eastern)
Models Initialized December 2023

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

Precipitation Forecast
Spring Breeding Region (Western)
Models Initialized December 2023

Spring breeding, March–May (NW Africa)