



Summer rainfall outlook

July-August-September 2013

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Overview

There are several seasonal rainfall prediction products estimating the probability that precipitation will be above or below the long-term average during a particular season. Each product employs a slightly different methodology; hence, the results often differ amongst products. A general analysis of the main products is presented for July to September 2013, which corresponds to the summer breeding period for the Desert Locust.

Western Region

- Average rainfall throughout the summer except for slightly above average (20-40%) rains in August (N Chad, SW Mauritania) and September (N Mali, NW Mauritania). The UK Met Office predicts a 68% chance that rainfall will be above average in the Sahel during the period while IRI suggests up to 40% chance, mainly in W Mauritania, NE Niger and N Chad. PRESAO predicts average to slightly above average rains for Mauritania and in W and C Niger during the period; rains may commence slightly late in some places.

Central Region

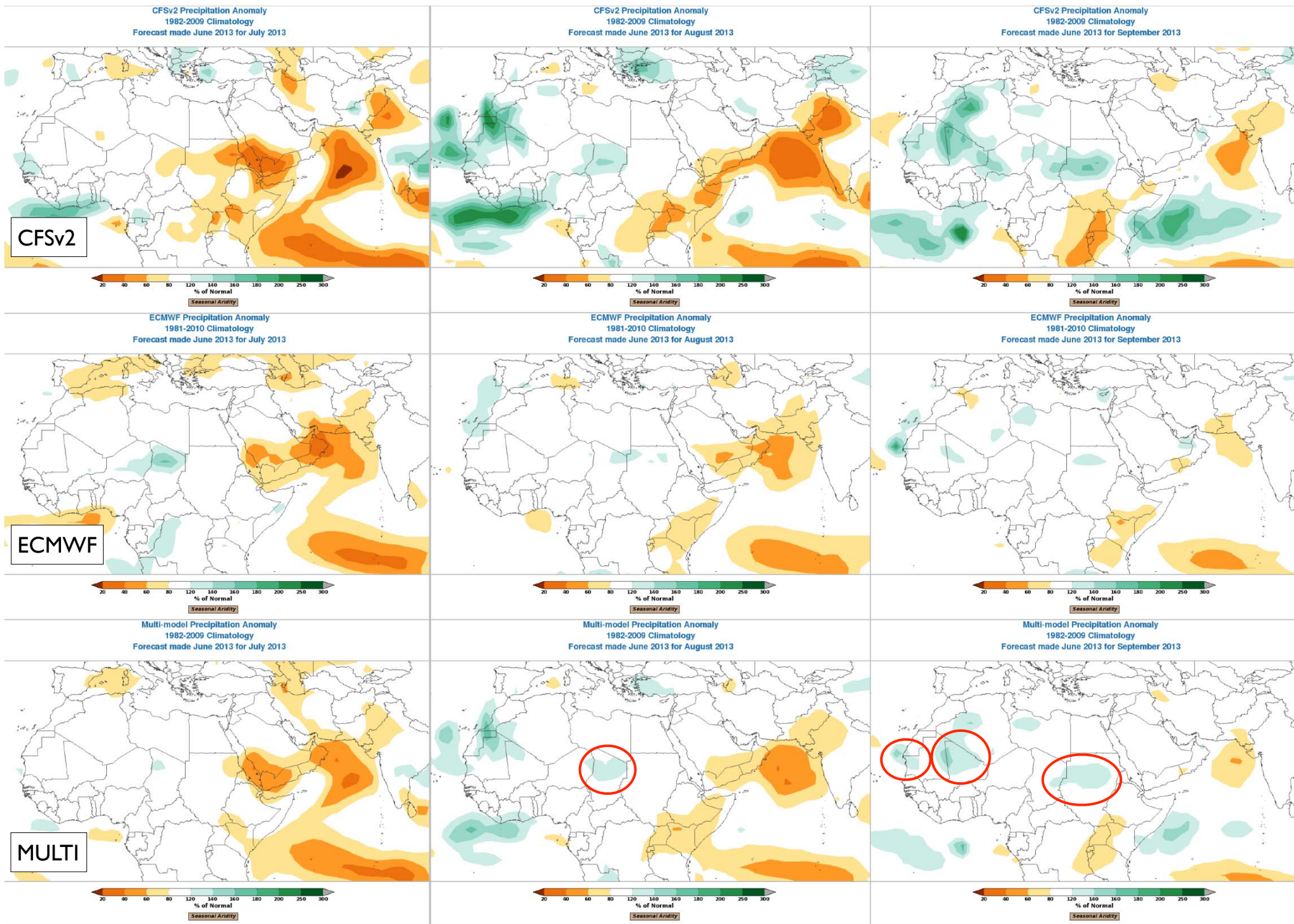
- Summer breeding areas in the interior of Sudan: average rainfall during July and August with slightly above average (20-40%) rains in September. The UK Met Office predicts a 68% chance that rainfall will be above average during the period.
- Yemen interior: below average rains in July (40-60%) and August (20-40%).

Eastern Region

- Slightly below average (20-40%) rainfall along the Indo-Pakistan border in July and August, continuing into September in Tharparkar, Pakistan.

Sources

1. World Climate Service (USA) uses three models that often produce very different results; the multi-model is somewhat more reliable than the individual CFS and ECMWF models.
(Latest forecast issued June 2013 - www.worldclimateservice.com)
 - a. Climate Forecast System (CFS), National Weather Service (USA)
 - b. Seasonal Forecast System of the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMFW), Reading (UK)
 - c. World Climate Service multi-model forecast created by a Bayesian combination of CFSv2 and ECMWFv4 forecasts
2. Met Office (UK) uses its own dynamical model, GloSea5 forecast system, based on the HadGEM3 atmospheric-ocean coupled climate model. Latest forecast issued 3 May 2013
(<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/climate/seasonal-to-decadal/gpc-outlooks/glob-seas-prob>)
3. AGRHYMET/CILSS/CEDEAO PRESAO seasonal forecast issued on 31 May 2013 (Abuja, Nigeria)
(<http://www.agrhymet.ne/portailCC/images/pdf/presaoeng.pdf>)
4. The International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI, Columbia Univ., USA) uses coupled-atmospheric model predictions of sea surface temperatures and global atmospheric general circulation models, combined with information from NASA's seasonal to interannual prediction project and seasonal prediction research at the Center for Ocean-Land-Atmosphere Studies (COLA). Latest forecast issued May 2013
(http://iri.columbia.edu/climate/forecast/net_asmt/limits/T33/Afr_JJA_Prec.html#JAS)



source: World Climate Service

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