Agrometeorological Monitoring Bulletin April 2017 Iraq

RFSAN

The Agricultural Stress Index (ASI) combines vegetation condition and temperature variables to illustrate the level of water stress experienced by crops in specific geographic areas. The compiled results are analysed longitudinally by comparing current values to the long-term minimum and maximum values and by spatially aggregating agricultural areas by administrative area.

ASI

% of cropland area affected by drought

<10 | 10-25 | 25-40 | 40-55 | 55-70 | 70-85 | >=85 | Off season

Non-cropland pixels excluded - METOP-AVHRR

ASI Data Provided by:
FAO Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS)
http://www.fao.org/giews/earthobservation/

Analysis

Large sectors of Iraq received above average precipitation in April when compared to the monthly long-term average (LTA) of 2011-2016. However, below average rainfall amounts were observed in crop-growing governorates, including most areas of Dahuk, Kirkuk and Babil, as well as parts of Ninewa. Salah al-Din, Sulaymaniyah and Anbar. Precipitation levels in these areas were generally lower compared to the same month last year.

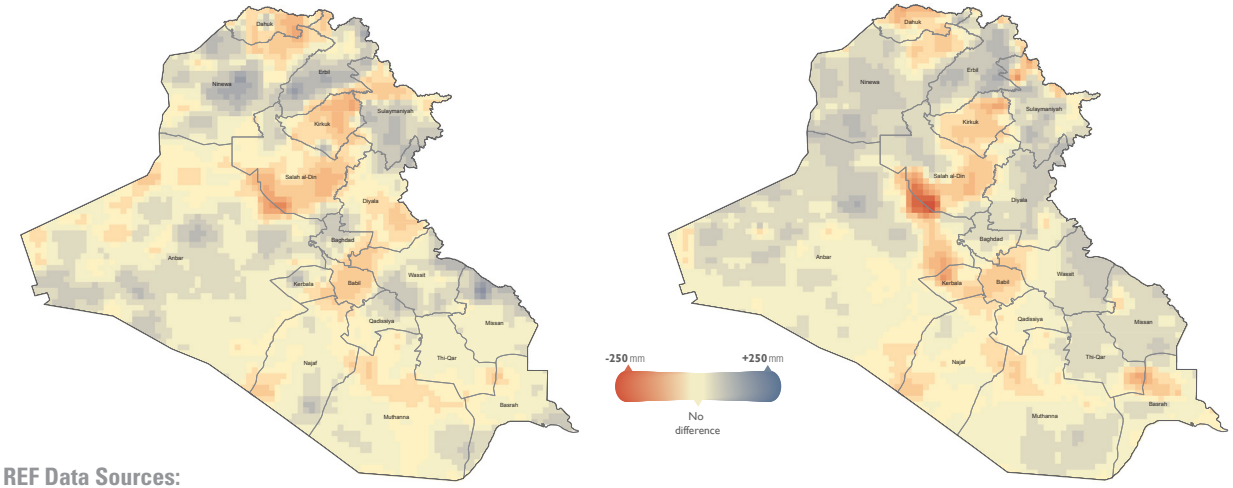
Harvesting of winter barley and wheat planted in November-December, generally occurs in late April-early May. The April ASI indicates increased greenness in cropland areas of the country with the exception of the major cereal-growing governorate of Ninewa and parts of Anbar. The impact of crop stress in the latter areas may be in fact less than expected as crops are already ripening, and close to harvesting. Reduced greenness could also be observed in parts of northern governorates, including Dahuk, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah. The ASI depicts signs of first harvesting in crop-growing areas of Babil and Bagdad as from the first dekad of April.

Please note that the ASI is based on remotely sensed data only; there is no confirmation on what crops have been planted.

Rainfall Difference

2017 April - 2016 April

2017 April - Long-term average



REF Data Sources:
RFE 2.0: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Climate Prediction Center (CPC) Rainfall Estimator (RFE). Daily data is downloaded from CPC and monthly 15 year averages and monthly anomalies are processed by RFSAN.

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