EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Joint Research Centre
MARS AGROMETEOROLOGICAL Bulletin
Monitoring Agriculture with Remote Sensing

FORECASTS UPDATE

CEREALS forecasts figures
Including data until 30th June 2005

SPI.05

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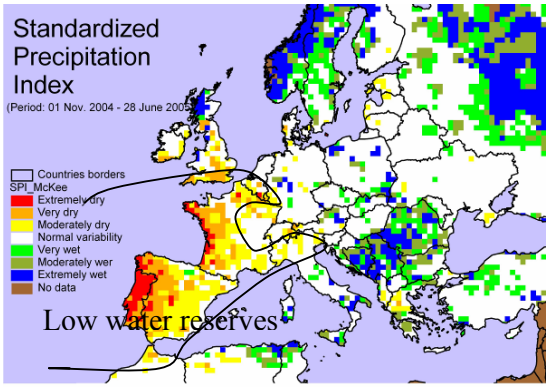
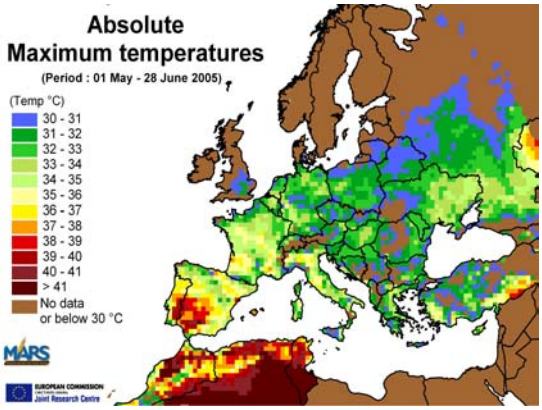
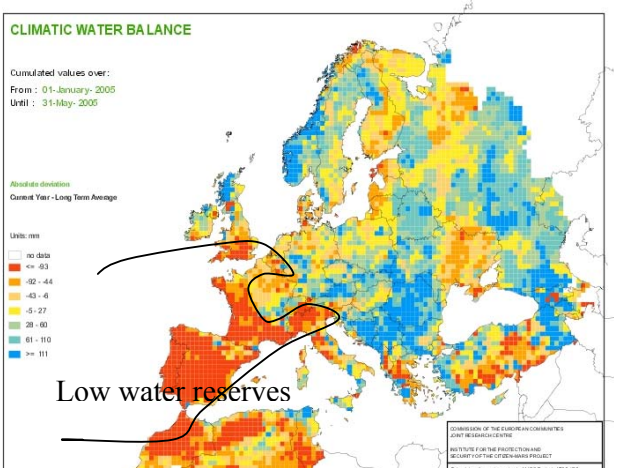
Report Number: FU2005/01

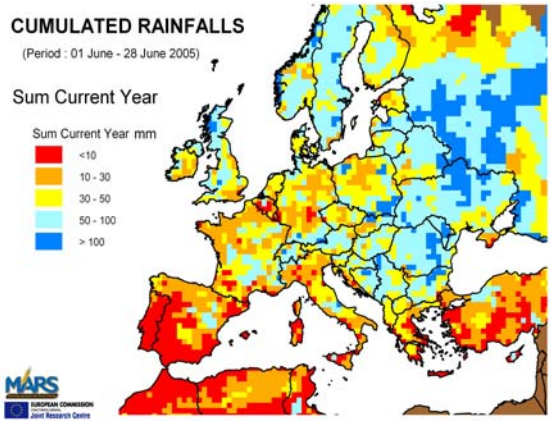
EU cereals crop prospective are decreasing according to the continuation of droughty conditions on western Atlantic and western Mediterranean regions

In those areas, since the earlier stages of development, the crops suffered due to insufficient rain supply. Since November 2004 the rains have been constantly largely below the normal amount (see the SPI index on the right: The water balance map at the bottom and the cumulated rainfall map of June). Besides in Spain the winter was unseasonable cold (between January and February the lowest temperatures in the last 30 years were recoded) with damages on the winter crops canopy.
From April the thermal conditions drastically changed with temperatures significantly above the seasonal values (in average 5-6°C, with picks at 8°C), which boosted both the crops developments and their water requirements especially in the Iberian Peninsula.
In May-June the straw cereal crops were progressively hit more intensively due to the combination of several elements: appearance of the most sensible reproductive stages of development (i.e. flowering, grain filling); the acute and rapid depletion of the already limited soil water reservoirs; and the very high temperatures (above 33-35°C) recorded. Maize started in the same areas under dry conditions and the from very low to low water reserves available for irrigation.









Editorial staff: G. Genovese, F. Micale, M. Bettio, B. Baruth, G. Narciso, R. Confalonieri, I. Cerrani AGRIFISH Unit – MARS STAT Action /JRC. **Data production**: AGRIFISH Unit – MARS STAT Action /JRC and Alterra (NL), Meteoconsult (NL), MeteoFrance (Fr).

The impact of the drought on EU total cereals production: the total cereal level is forecasted at 266.481 Mt i.e. about 23.2 Mt below the 2004 level (-8%). Still this is above average by 2% thanks to more favourable conditions in central and eastern areas. The crop yields themselves contribute to the production decrease by about 7%. The loss could increase according to the capacity of irrigating Grain Maize in summer which will be likely below average.

EU25 Total cereals yield forecasts - 4th July 2005

	Yield t/ha				
Cereals***	2004*	**MARS 2005 forecasts**	Avg 5yrs	%05/04	%05/5yrs
cereals (total)	5.5	**5.1**	5.0	-6.8	3.6
total wheat	5.9	**5.6**	5.3	-5.8	5.3
soft wheat	6.5	**6.2**	5.8	-5.2	5.5
durum wheat	3.0	**2.3**	2.5	-24.3	-9.2
barley	4.780	**4.3**	4.3	-10.0	-0.7
grain maize	8.4	**7.9**	7.9	-6.0	1.0
other cereals	3.7	**3.3**	3.3	-8.7	1.0

* Source EUROSTAT New Cronos and EES: last update June 2005
*** Note: Countries with areas below 10000 ha are not counted in

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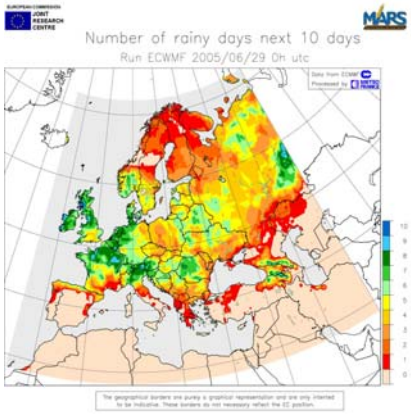
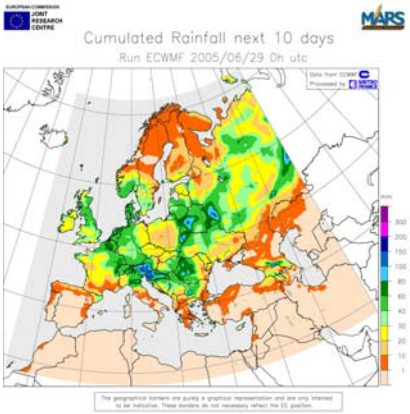
What show weather forecasts for the next ten days

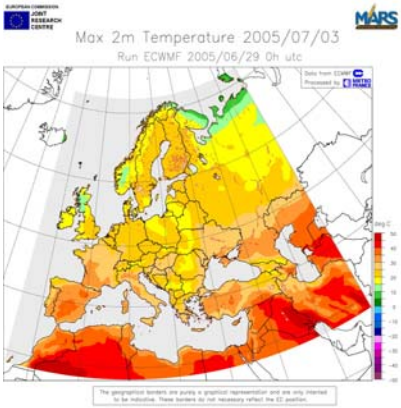
Low or absent number of rainy days in the already affected areas: i.e. western and southern France, whole Iberian Peninsula, north-western and central Italy



Low level of precipitations in the same affected areas: i.e. western and southern France, whole Iberian Peninsula, north-western and central Italy.

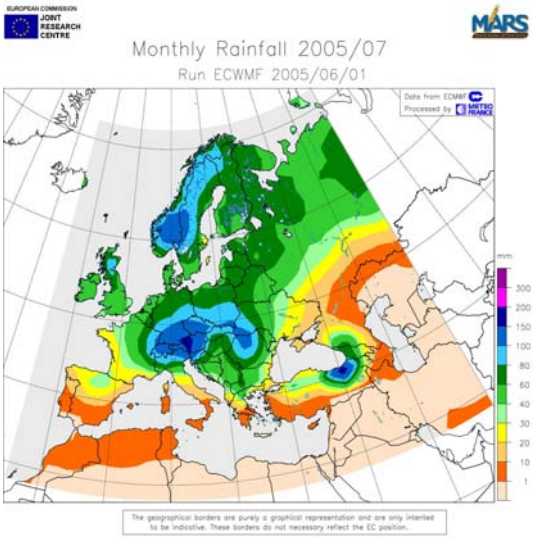


Still peaks of temperatures between 2-3 July. With highest anomaly of hot temperature expected in Castilla Leon (not in this picture)

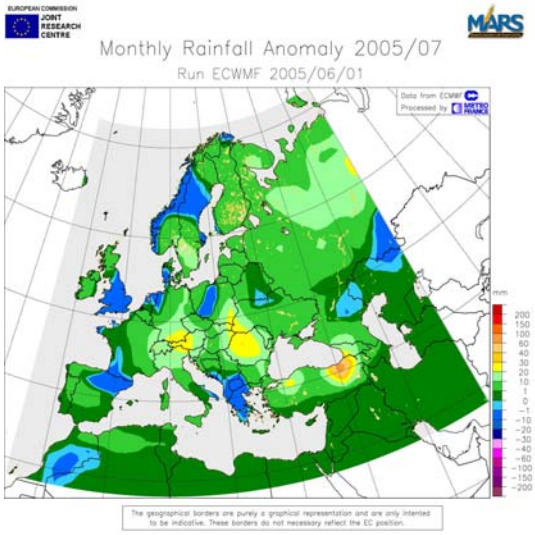


What show weather forecasts for the next month (CAUTION!!)

Still low levels of rain expected in Spain, Portugal, western France and Italy



With negative anomalies expected in south western France and north eastern Spain



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