



WFP Bangladesh Report on

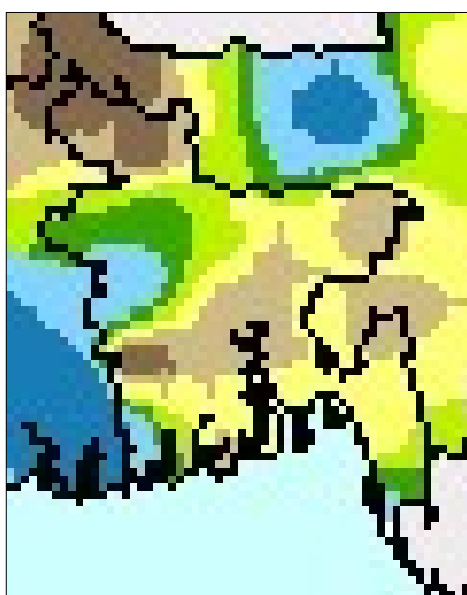
**EARLY WARNING and
 MONITORING**

Issue 2

16 May 2006

HIGHLIGHTS

- § Rainfall was below average for much of the country during the period 1st thru 10th May.
- § There were no reports of significant rain-fed flooding within Bangladesh during the period 6th – 15th May. However rainfall was particularly heavy at a few locations within the Meghna basin.
- § The rainfall forecast for the coming period (16th May thru 23rd May) shows highest expected rainfall in the Northernmost part of the country along the border with India.
- § According to a recent forecast for the coming monsoon period June-August, there is a 45% probability of above normal rainfall, a 35% probability of a near-normal season, and a 25% probability of below normal rainfall.



Dekadal Percent of Normal Rainfall (1 - 10 May 2006)



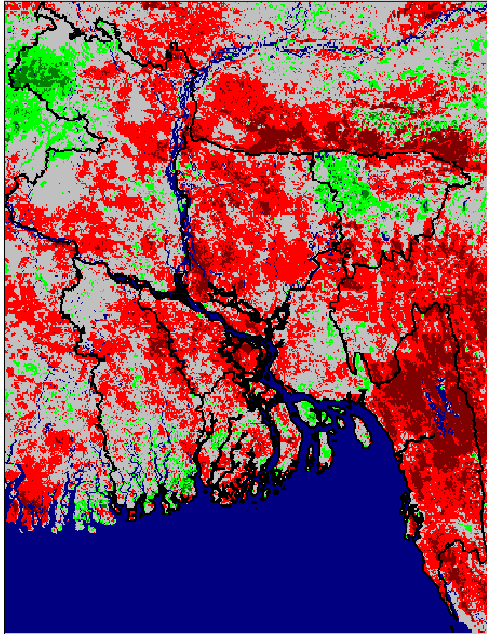
**RAINFALL DISTRIBUTION/
 MONSOON SEASON**

Rainfall during the 1st dekad (1st – 10th May) was below average for much of the country. Conditions were particularly dry in the extreme Northwest near Rangpur, Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Nilphamari, and Lalmonirhat; where rainfall was estimated at less than 50% of average. On the other hand, in the West of the country near Kushtia, Pabna, and Meherpur; above average rainfall was estimated.

The map featured in this section is taken from the United States Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service website, where related and more detailed information is available:

<http://www.pecad.fas.usda.gov/cropexplorer/imagview.cfm?regionid=sasia>.

Disclaimer: The data and views expressed in this report do not represent the official position of the United Nations, the World Food Programme, nor any other United Nations member state.



NDVI 2006 vs 2005 (1 - 10 May)

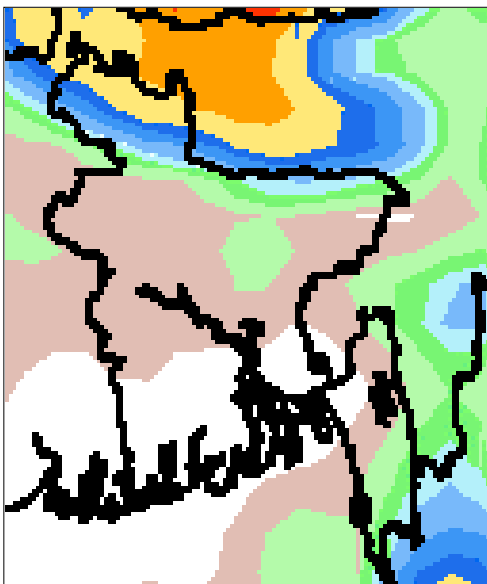
■ Large Decrease	■ Large Increase	■ No Change
■ Small Decrease	■ Small Increase	■ Water

VEGETATION STATUS

Vegetation and growing season conditions during early May (1st – 10th) were less favorable as compared to the same period for 2005. The status of vegetation is derived from a vegetation index which measures the “greenness” and photosynthesis of plants on the ground. The vegetation index shown in the map on the left is known as the Normalized Differenced Vegetative Index/NDVI and is captured through satellite imagery. Numerous studies have established a positive relationship between NDVI values and cereal crop yields.

Red areas on the map indicate unfavorable growing season conditions this year as compared to last year, while green indicates the opposite. Unfavorable conditions are seen throughout most of the country. This was particularly true in the Chittagong Hill Tracts with NDVI values showing large decreases for the areas of Khagrachari and Rangamati districts.

The featured map is from the FAO Global Information and Early Warning System website where more detailed information is available: <http://www.fao.org/gIEWS/workstation/page.jspx>



Cumulative Rainfall Forecast (16 - 23 May 2008) in mm

RAINFALL FORECAST

The rainfall forecast for the period 16th May thru 23rd May is depicted on the map on the left. According to the forecast, cumulative rainfall is expected to be highest in the northern border districts of Panchagarh, Nilphamari, Rangpur, and Lalmonirhat. Precipitation for much of the rest of the country is expected to be light.

The data used to generate the rainfall map originates from the US based NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) Climate Prediction Center (CPC). More detailed information is available from the CPC website at: <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>

FLOOD MONITORING

Based on the Flood Forecasting and Warning Center (FFWC) rain gauge data, there were no obvious signs of significant rain-fed flooding within Bangladesh during the period 6th – 15th May. The FFWC uses a general indicator of 300 mm or more rainfall in 10 consecutive days (a dekad) to indicate that drainage could be impeded leading to a rain fed - flood within a local area. Additional information is available from the FFWC website at: <http://www.ffwc.gov.bd>

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