UN World Food Programme
Bangladesh Country Office
Disaster Preparedness & Response Section

WFP Bangladesh Report on

E A R L Y W A R N I N G a n d M O N I T O R I N G

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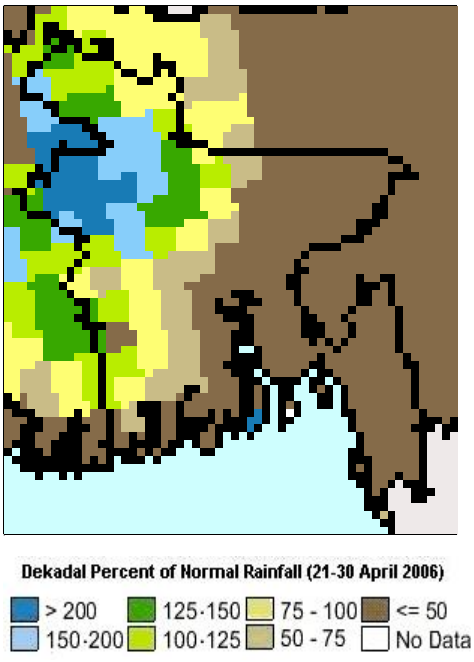
HIGHLIGHTS

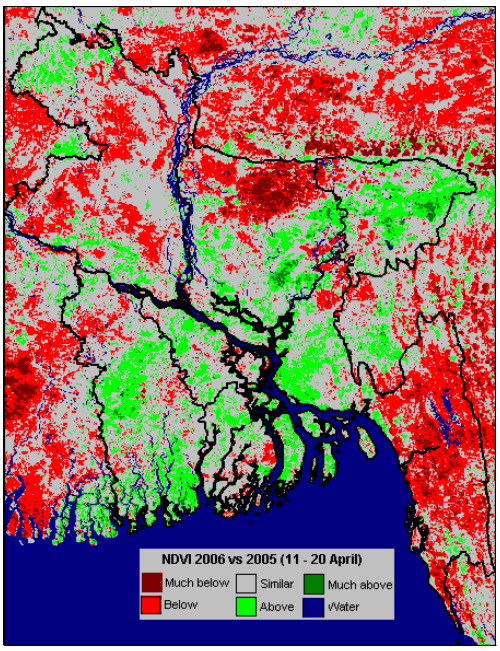
- Rainfall was below average for much of the country during the period 21st thru 30th April. Dry conditions prevailed for much of the East and South of the country. The dry conditions in the South are a continuation from the preceding April 10th - 20th period, and thus further monitoring is warranted.
- The rainfall forecast for the coming period (1st May thru 14th May) shows highest expected rainfall in the Northeast of the country. Considerably less rain is expected in the West of the Country along the Indian border.
- There were no reports of significant rain-fed flooding within Bangladesh during the period 21st – 30th April.



RAINFALL DISTRIBUTION/ MONSOON SEASON

Rainfall during the recent period (21st – 30th April) was generally below average for much of the country. Eastern Bangladesh, the Southern Coastal Belt, and the Chittagong Hill Tracts were particularly dry where less than 50% of average rainfall was estimated. Notable exceptions to this pattern included parts of the Northwest near Rajshahi and Naogaon where estimated rainfall was much above average.

The actual Satellite-derived precipitation is estimated from both surface observations and satellite data, while long-term monthly precipitation normals (1961-1990) were derived from the IIASA and FAO climate maps. 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/imageview.cfm?regionid=sasia.

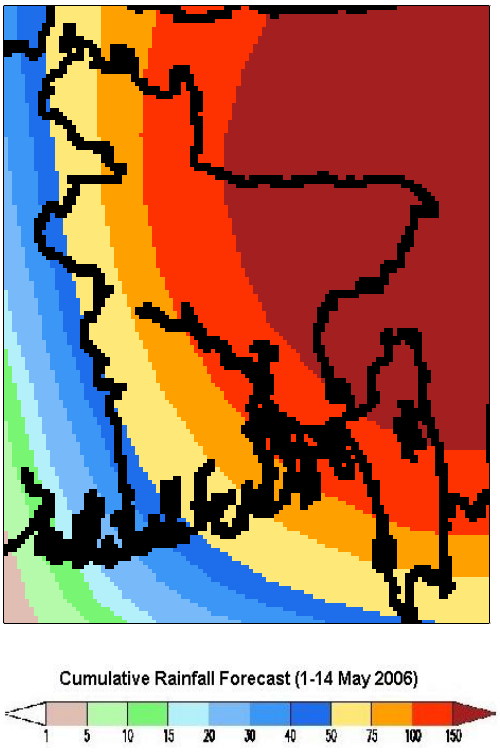


VEGETATION STATUS

Vegetation and growing season conditions varied during mid April (11th – 20th) when 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.

Green areas on the map indicate favorable growing season conditions this year as compared to last year, while red indicates the opposite. Favorable conditions are seen for much of the South and far Northeast of the country (near Sylhet). On the other hand, unfavorable conditions are seen near Mymensingh, Sherpur and Netrakona and within the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

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



RAINFALL FORECAST

The rainfall forecast for the period 1st May thru 14th May is depicted on the map on the left. According to the forecast, accumulated rainfall is expected to be highest in the Northeast of the country with 150 mms. of rain or more predicted. Rainfall in the West of the country is expected to be considerably lower; with areas bordering India's West Bengal region forecast at less than 75 mms.

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 21-30 April. 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