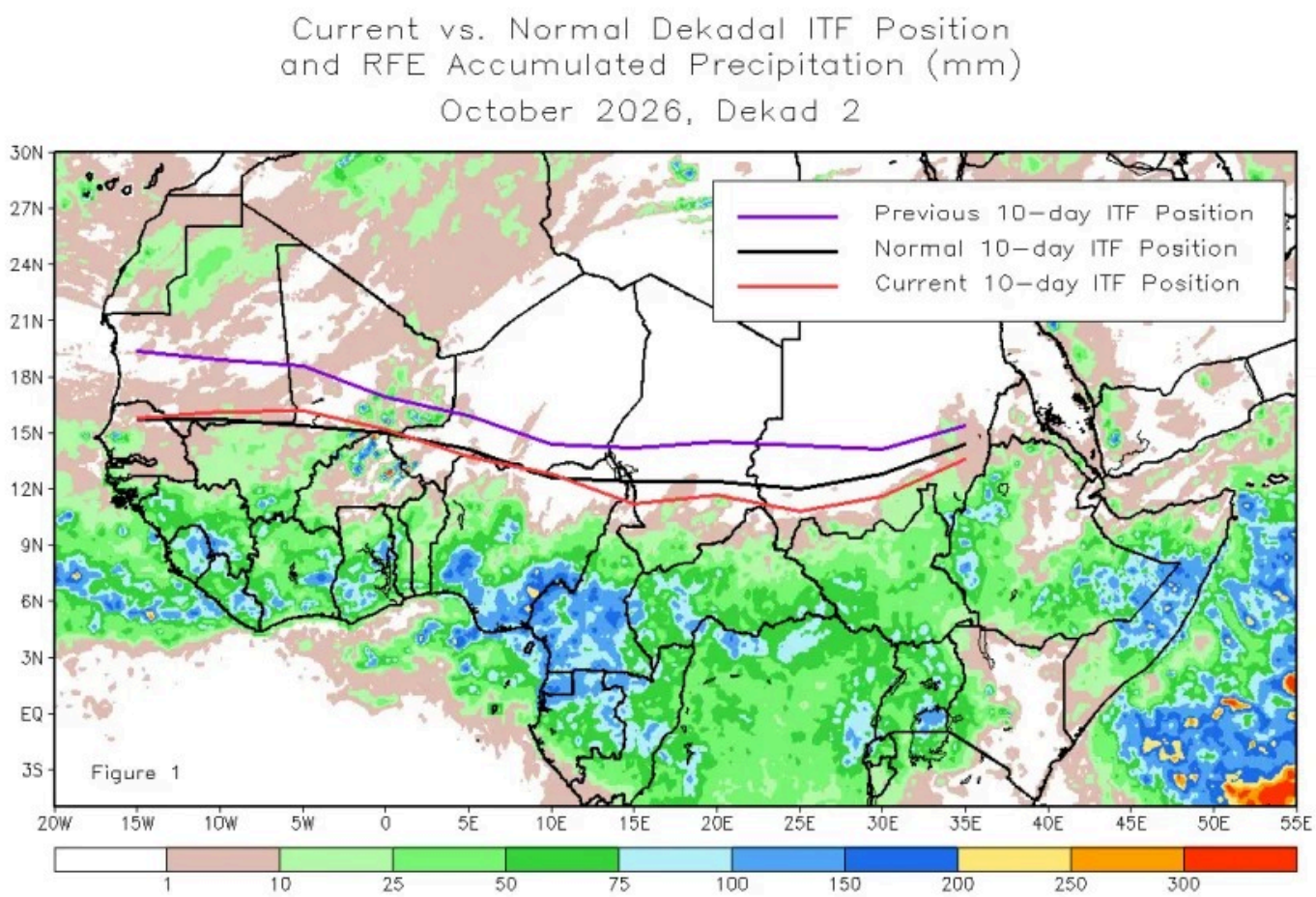
Rainy season draws to an end with deficits observed in Chad, Niger, and Mali

Key Messages

- During the second dekad of October, the Intertropical Front (ITF) retreated southward along its entire length, indicating that the rainy season is coming to an end across the Sahel.
- Rainfall deficits have persisted throughout the rainy season, with the most severe deficits recorded in the Sahelian zones of Chad, Niger, and Mali. Moderate deficits have also been observed in Burkina Faso and northeastern Nigeria. These rainfall deficits have hindered crop development and degraded pasture conditions in the affected areas of the Sahel.
- Seasonal performance has been more favorable across West Africa's Sudano-Guinean zones.

Figure 1

ITF position and RFE accumulated precipitation (mm), October 2026, Dekad 2



Source: NOAA CPC

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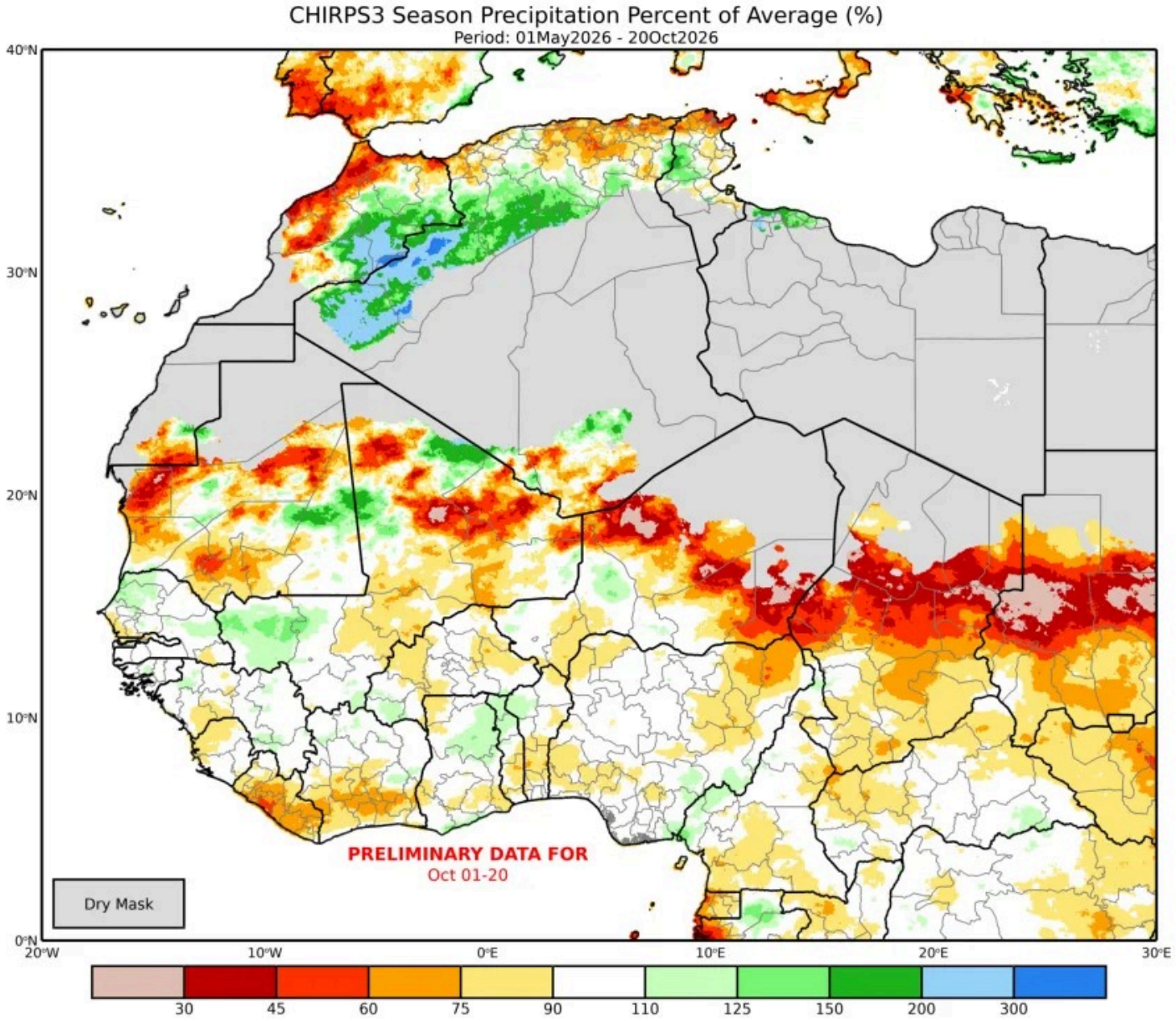
Update on seasonal progress

During October 11-20, the Intertropical Front (ITF) retreated southward along its entire length compared to the first dekad of October, getting close to or south of the climatological position. In the western sector, the ITF was located at approximately 14.8°N, 0.2° north of its climatological position and 2.1° south of its previous position. To the East, it was located at approximately 11.9°N, 1.0° south of its climatological position and 2.7° south of its previous position (**Figure 1**).

Throughout the season, rainfall deficits have been observed across the Sahel, including western Mauritania, central and northeastern Mali, parts of northern Burkina Faso, southwestern and eastern Niger, northeastern Nigeria, and across much of Chad (**Figure 2**). These rainfall deficits have contributed to below-average **vegetation conditions** and **reduced water availability for crops**, adversely affecting crop development and pasture conditions. The most pronounced impacts were observed in Chad and more moderate impacts in Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, and northeastern Nigeria. Across the Sahel, the main-season cereal harvesting is underway, with production expected to be below average. However, seasonal performance has been more favorable across West Africa's Sudano-Guinean zones.

Figure 2

01 May – 20 October, 2026 CHIRPS total anomaly (% of average)

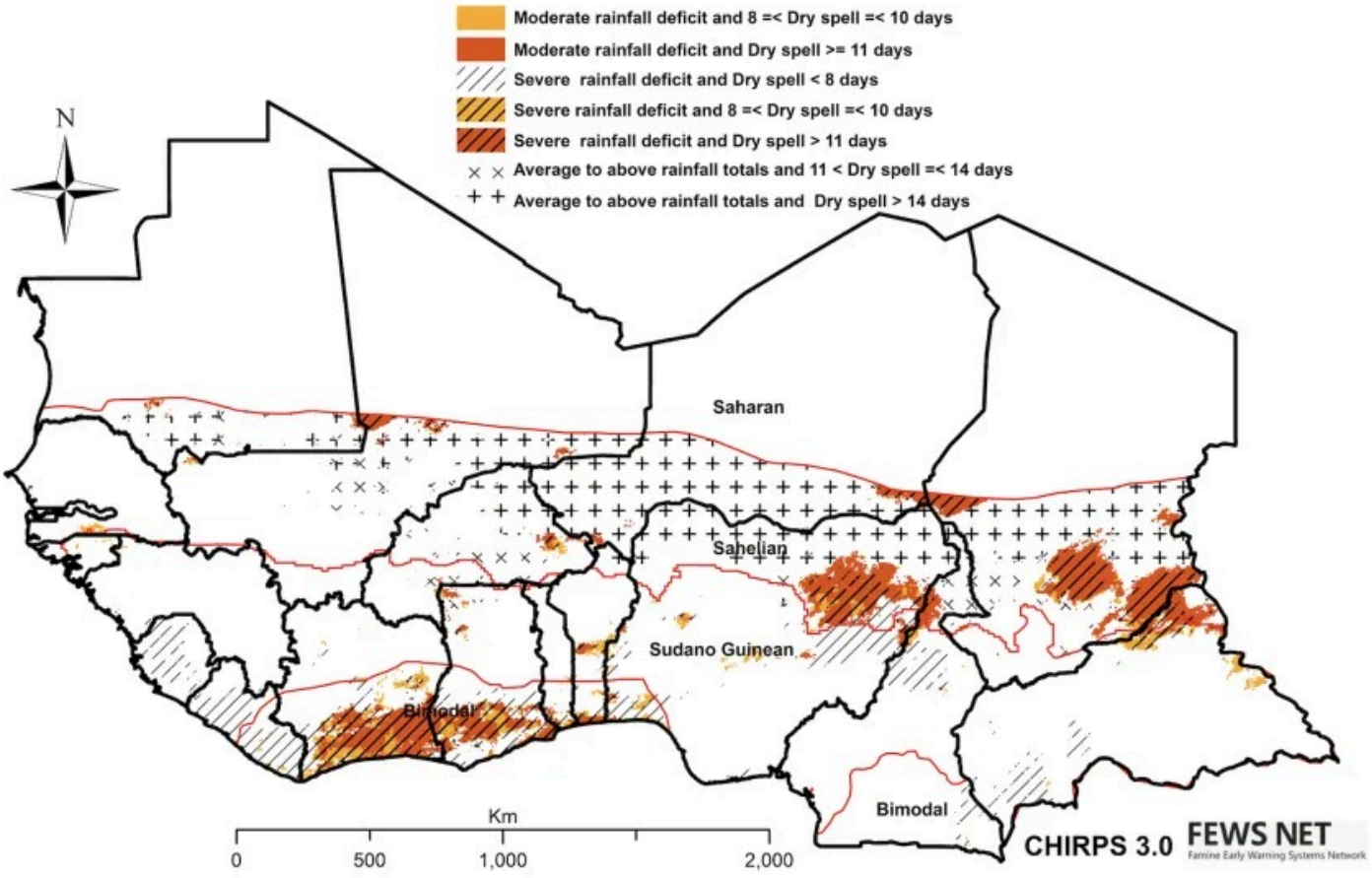


Source: CHC/UCSB

From 21st September to 20th October, severe rainfall deficits occurred in northeastern Nigeria and eastern Chad, along with dry spells lasting more than 11 consecutive days. The bimodal rainfall zones along the Gulf of Guinea coast experienced similar conditions, with significant deficits and prolonged dry spells (**Figure 3**).

Figure 3

Combined CHIRPS anomaly and Consecutive Dry Days (CDD) from 21 September to 20 October 2026



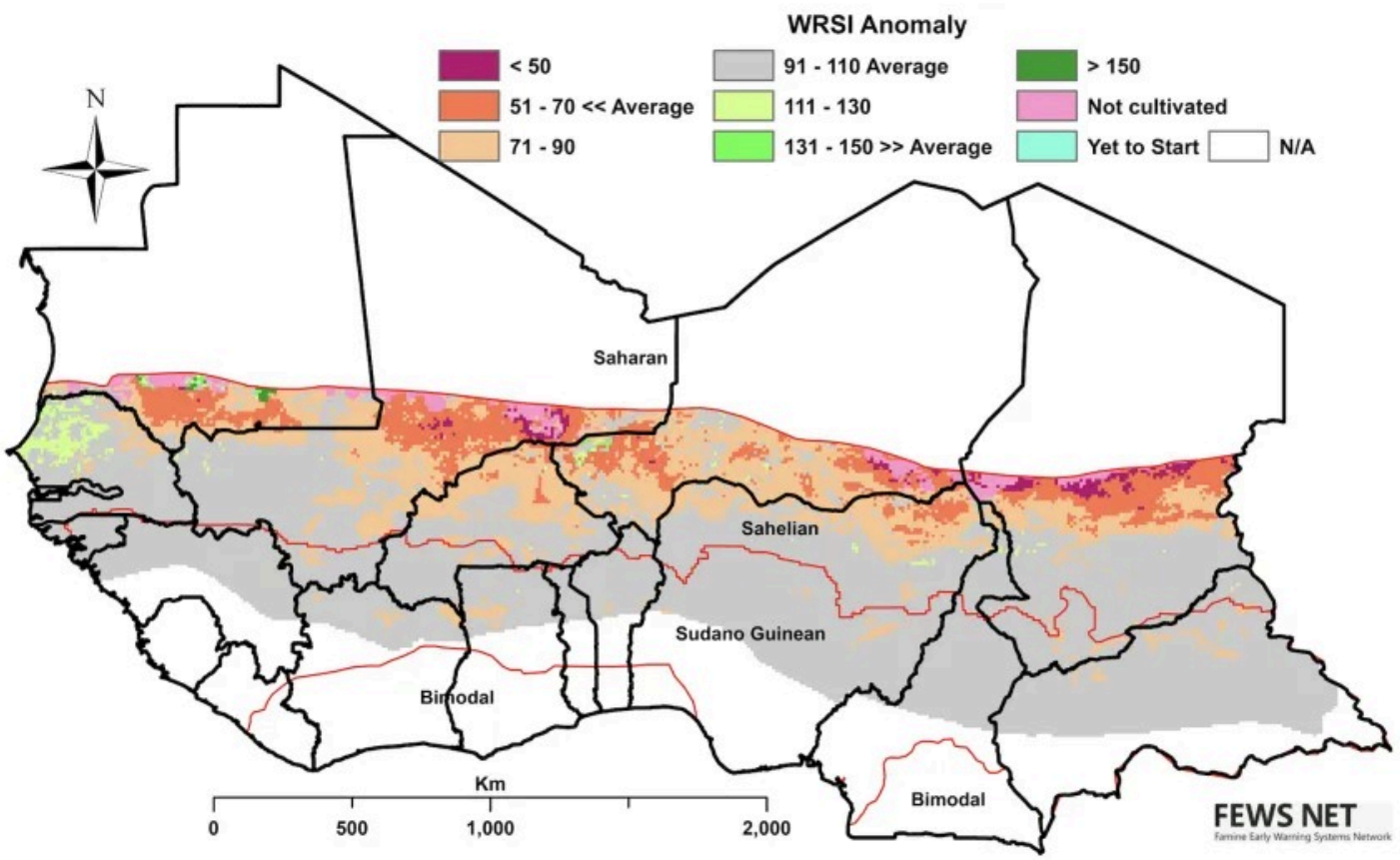
Source: USGS/FEWS NET

As a result of the rainfall deficits highlighted in **Figure 2,** the Water Requirement Satisfaction Index (WRSI) anomaly map for millet in the second dekad of October shows WRSI values below 90% of average were concentrated mainly across the northern part of the Sahelian zone. The most pronounced crop water requirement deficits (<50% and 51–70%) occurred in localized areas in central Mauritania, central Mali, western and eastern Niger, northeastern Nigeria and northeastern Chad (**Figure 4**).

Pastoral conditions in the Sahel remain challenging due to high rainfall variability, significant pasture deficits, and **increasing pressure on water resources**. These contribute to deteriorating livestock body conditions, animal health and reduced household incomes **raising the risk of an early, severe pastoral lean season**. Feed shortages and falling livestock prices due to strategic livestock destocking are also concerns. In contrast, the **Sudano-Guinean zones maintain good biomass availability**, although declining surface water levels require continued monitoring.

Figure 4

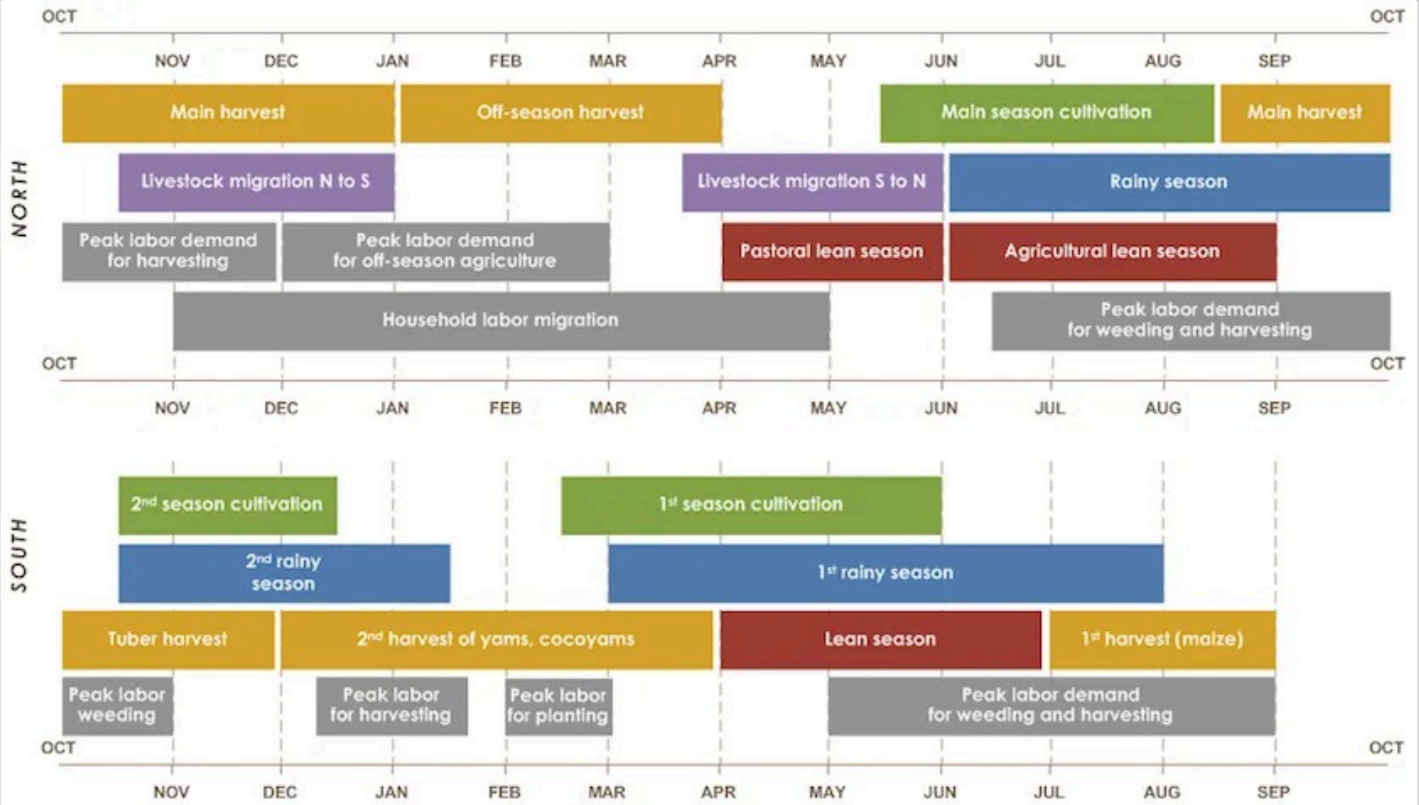
WRSI anomaly (millet) at the second dekad of October using CHIRPS



Source: USGS/FEWS NET

Forecasts

According to monthly forecasts from **NMME**, **C3S**, and **WMO**, rainfall is expected to be at least near-normal through the end of November across the Gulf of Guinea and bimodal zones.



Source: FEWS NET

Recommended citation: FEWS NET. West Africa Seasonal Monitor October 30, 2026: Rainy season draws to an end with deficits observed in Chad, Niger, and Mali, 2026.

Seasonal Monitor

FEWS NET's Seasonal Monitor reports are produced for Central America and the Caribbean, West Africa, East Africa, Central Asia, and Somalia every 10-to-30 days during the region's respective rainy season(s). Seasonal Monitors report updates on weather events (e.g., rainfall patterns) and associated impacts on ground conditions (e.g., cropping conditions, pasture and water availability), as well as the short-term rainfall forecast. Find more remote sensing information **here**.