

# Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITCZ

As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center

## April 2005 Dekad 2

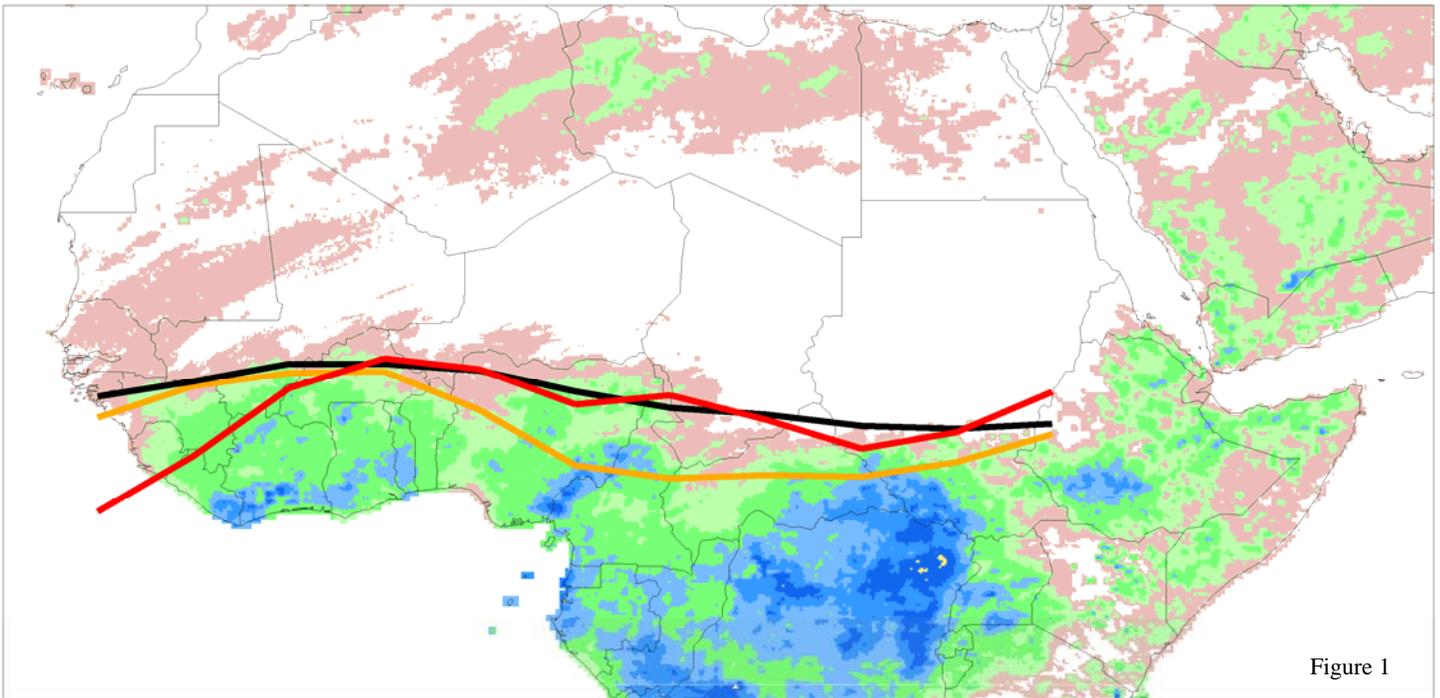


Figure 1

Accumulated Dekadal Precipitation:

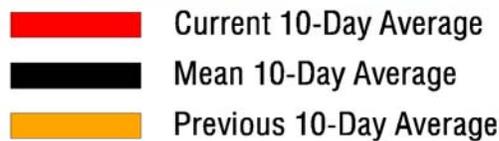
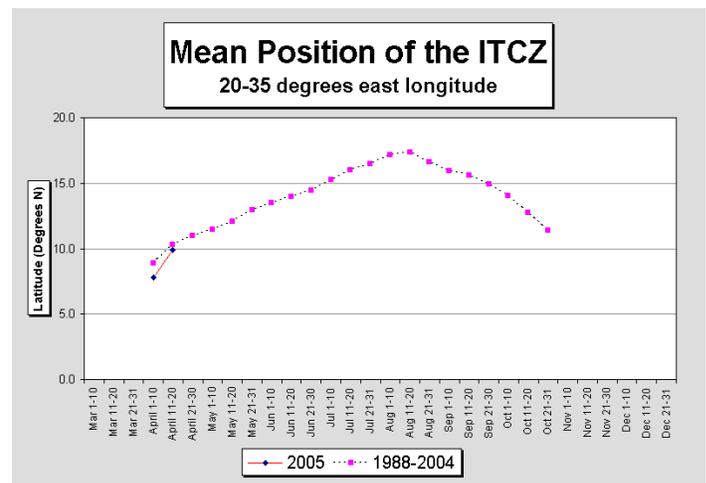
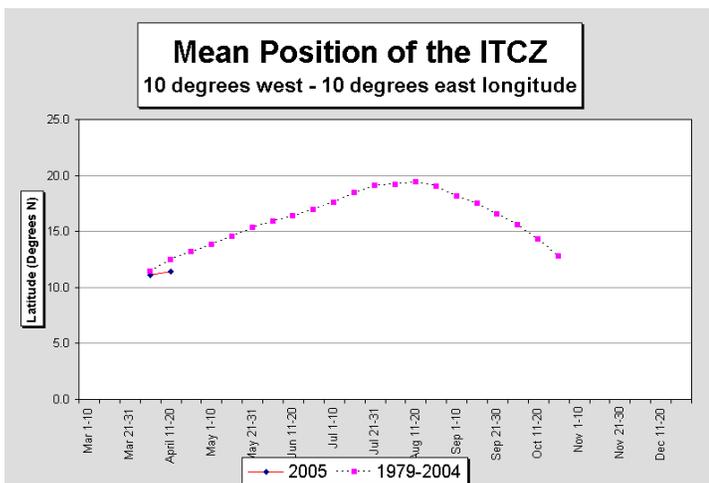


Figure 2



From Figure 1, a graphic of latest dekadal satellite-gauge estimated precipitation with current and long term mean ITCZ positions superimposed, it is seen that the ITCZ has moved southward since the first ten days of April over Guinea, Sierra Leone and southwestern Mali. Unusually strong northerly winds off the African west coast have pushed the ITCZ well south of its climatological position. Further east, the ITCZ has moved northward across eastern Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Sudan. The Intertropical Front in these areas appears to be well-matched with the northward leading edge of monsoonal precipitation in these areas. By the numbers, the current location of the ITCZ in an area averaged over the ten day period and from 10W-10E is near 11.4 degrees north latitude, compared to the long term mean of 12.5 degrees north. This is well south of normal. However, return flow from off of the tropical Atlantic has kept rain falling north of the ITCZ across Guinea, Sierra Leone and southwestern Mali. From 20-35E, the current ITCZ location is near 9.9N, which is the long term mean position. This has allowed showers to advance across southern Chad, southern Sudan, northern Cameroon and northern Nigeria.