

Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITCZ

As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center

October 2005 Dekad 3

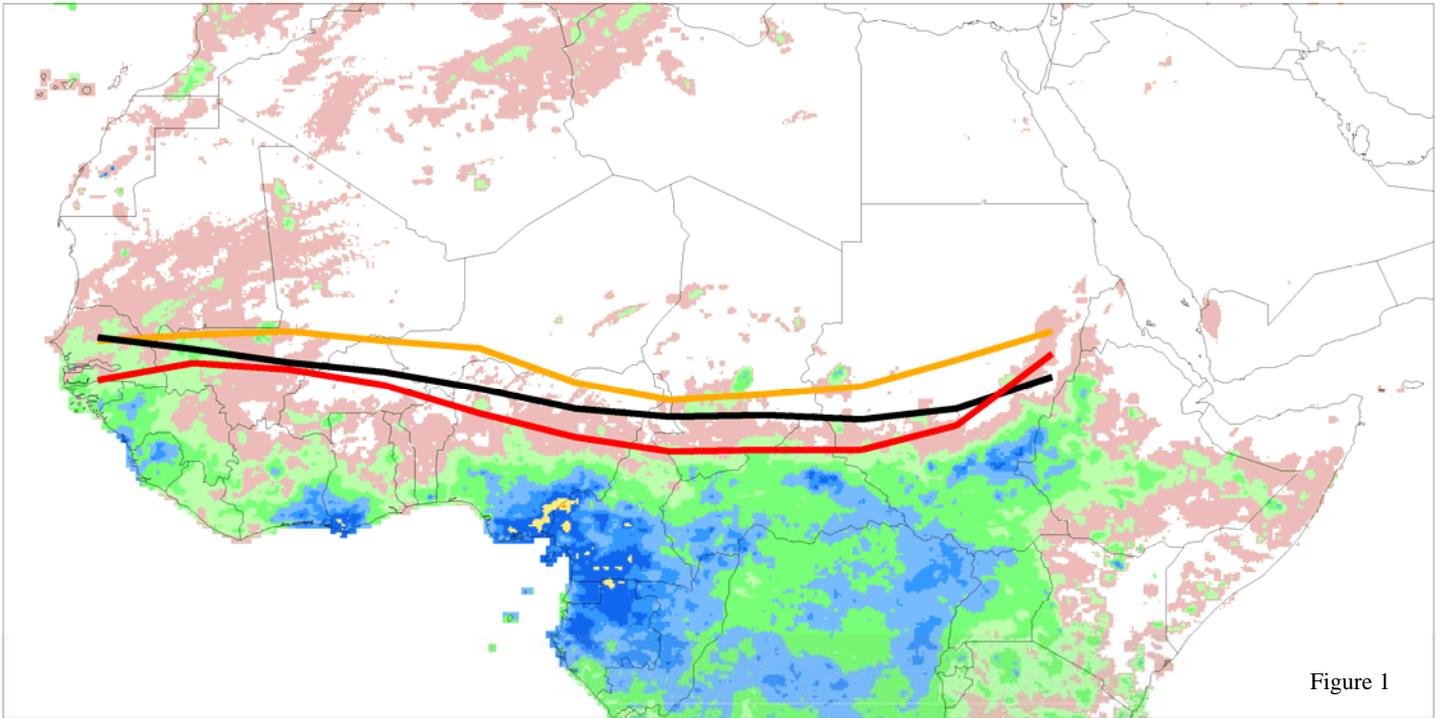
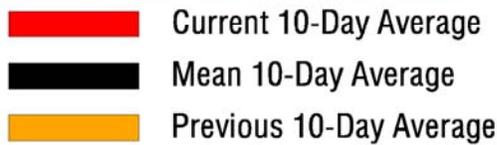


Figure 1

Accumulated Dekadal Precipitation:



Mean Position of the ITCZ
10 degrees west - 10 degrees east longitude

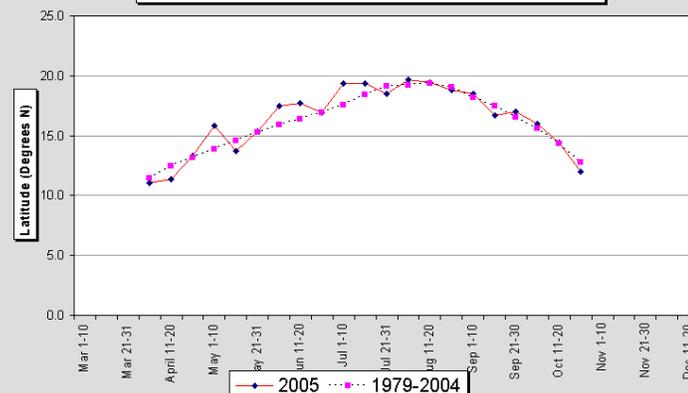


Figure 2

Mean Position of the ITCZ
20-35 degrees east longitude

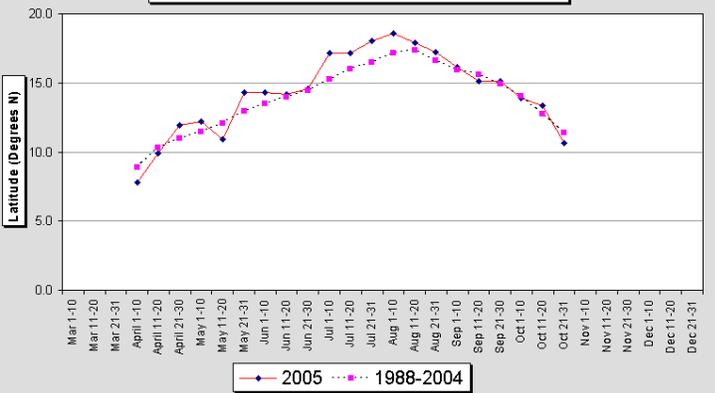


Figure 3

This ITCZ analysis represents the final dekadal product of the season, though a seasonal summary will be available in mid-November. During the period from October 21-31, 2005, the African ITCZ was located near 11.8 degrees north latitude, when averaged from 15W-35E and over the entire 11-day period. This compares to a long term mean position of 12.4 degrees north, and a position during the same period last year of 11.8N. The ITCZ surged southward during the past two weeks, with the position jumping nearly two and a half degrees to the south during the last 11 days. It is evident that most of the precipitation has moved south of the Sahel, except for western zones such as Mali, Mauritania, and Senegal, where abnormally heavy rains continue sporadically. In the western area, from 10W-10E, the latest position of the ITCZ was near 12.0N, compared to a long term mean of 12.9N and a position during the last dekad of 14.4N. In the east, from 20E-35E, the latest position of the ITCZ was around 10.7 degrees north, compared to a climatological mean of 11.4N and a position during the previous period of 11.6N.