

The USAID FEWS-NET

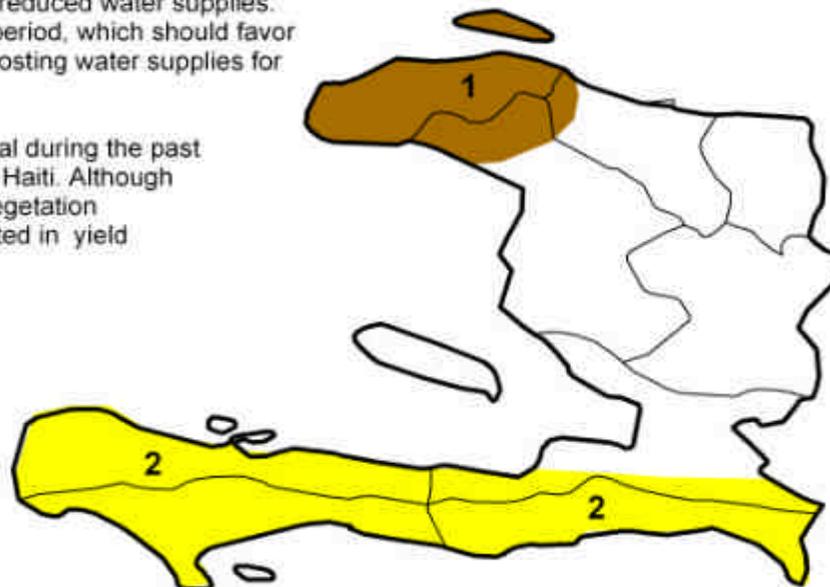
Haiti Weather Hazards Assessment

for

December 30, 2004 – January 5, 2005

1) Rainfall so far during 2004 has been well below normal across Haiti's Northwest Department despite being more abundant than 2003. This has resulted in long term drought. In Port-de-Paix, rainfall during the first ten months of 2004 has been only 56% of normal, with a deficit of 360 mm. The drought has degraded vegetation and crops, and reduced water supplies. Beneficial rains are expected during the period, which should favor pastures and third season crops while boosting water supplies for drinking and irrigation.

2) Conditions have been drier than normal during the past several months across extreme southern Haiti. Although satellite data does not show significant vegetation degradation, the dryness may have resulted in yield reductions of second season crops.



NOTE: This will be the last regularly produced weather hazards assessment of the season. Special assessments will be produced if conditions warrant. Regular weekly weather hazards assessments will resume on May 4, 2005.