

The USAID FEWS-NET

Haiti Weather Hazards Assessment

for

March 17 - 23, 2005

1) Rainfall during 2004 was well below normal across Haiti's Northwest Department despite being more abundant than 2003. This resulted in long term drought that has continued into 2005. The drought has degraded vegetation and crops, and reduced water supplies. Since December 1st rain has been virtually nonexistent in this region with deficits around 100 mm. The forecast calls for continued dryness throughout the region.

2) Below normal rainfall over the past 3 months has led to below normal harvests of petit-mils and mangoes, and has reduced the water available for rice irrigation. The forecast calls for continued dryness throughout the region.

3) A drought since November 2004 has led to a loss in black beans, congo beans, sorghum, and bananas. Rainfall since November has been roughly 33% of the rainfall from the same time last year. In addition, flow of springs has decreased by as much as 50%. This drought is particularly devastating for this area due to the infrequency of dry events. The forecast calls for continued dryness throughout the region.

