

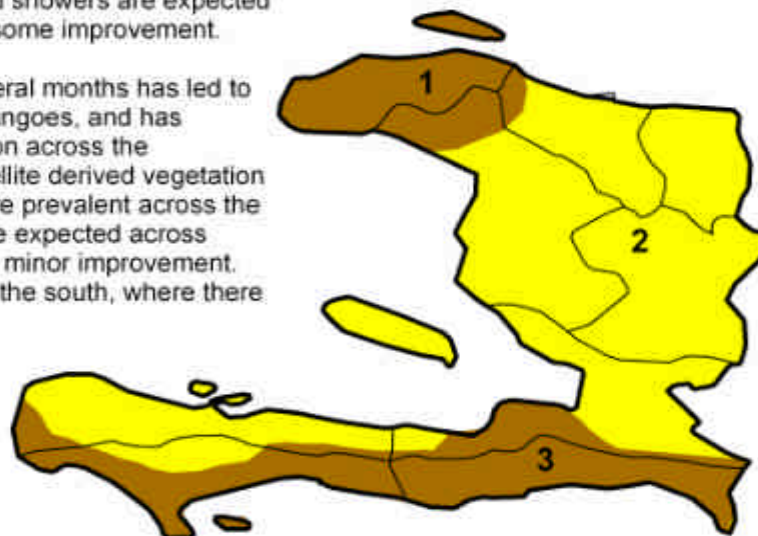
## The USAID FEWS-NET

# Haiti Weather Hazards Assessment

for  
April 7 - 13, 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. The drought has degraded vegetation and crops, and reduced water supplies. Since December 1st, rain has been very light with in this region with totals that are less than half of normal. Scattered showers are expected across northern Haiti, which may result in some improvement.

2) Below normal rainfall over the past several months has led to below normal harvests of petit-mils and mangoes, and has reduced the water available for rice irrigation across the departments of Artibonite and Centre. Satellite derived vegetation observations indicate that dry conditions are prevalent across the island of Hispaniola. Scattered showers are expected across northern Haiti, which should result in some minor improvement. More substantial rains are possible across the south, where there is a better chance for improvement.



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 a third of the rainfall from the same time last year. In addition, flow from 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 looks somewhat promising across the region, with showers expected to produce 15 to 40 mm of rainfall during the period.