CPC Africa Desk
InterTropical (ITF) Front Analysis

October 2014, Dekad 2

Discussion:

From October 11-20, 2014, the ITF advanced farther south across Africa, particularly the central portions of West Africa, while maintaining near stationary position over Eastern Africa. This asymmetrical movement resulted in more reduced rains, with below-average rainfall over parts of the Sahel unlike sustained enhanced rains, with above-average rainfall over south-central and eastern Sudan. The western (10W-10E) portion of the ITF approximated 14.1N, which was to the south of the average position during this time of the year by 0.4 degree. This anomalous southerly position was associated with weaker southerly flow across the Gulf of Guinea region. Meanwhile, the eastern (20E-35E) portion of the ITF positioned itself near 14.4N and was located to the north of the climatology by 1.5 degrees. This anomalous northerly position was partially caused by strong southeasterlies during the period. Figure 1 shows the current ITF position relative to the long-term average position for the second dekad of October and its previous position during the first dekad of October. Figures 2 and 3 are time series illustrating the mean latitudinal values of the western and eastern portions of the ITF, respectively, and their evolutions since April, 2014.