Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITCZ

As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center

May 2006 Dekad 2

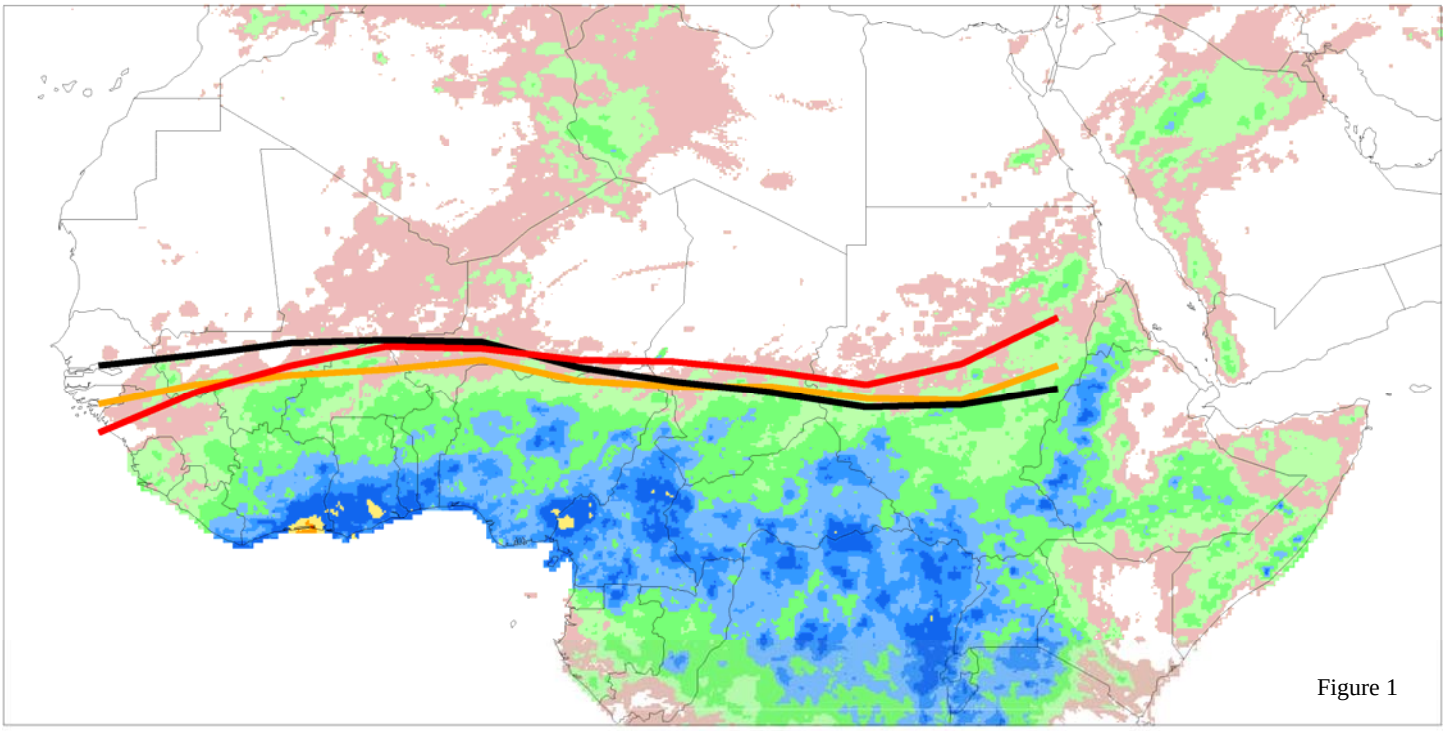

Figure 1

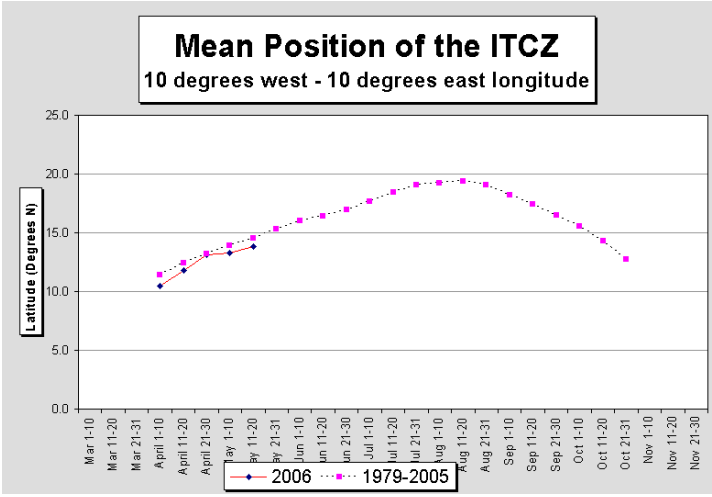

Figure 2

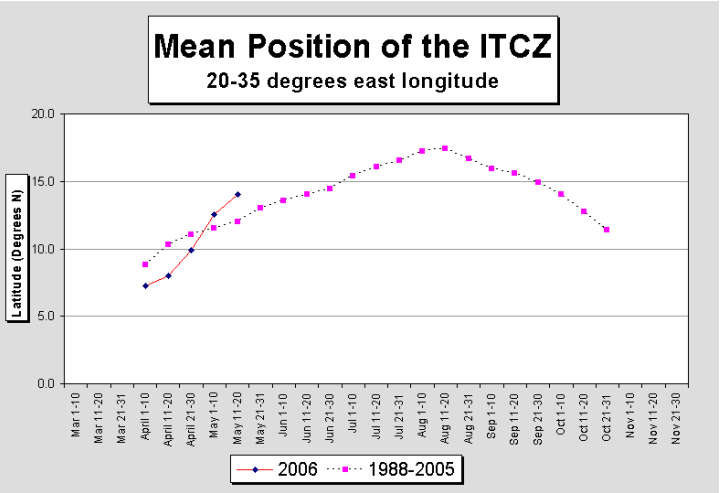

Figure 3

During the period from May 11-20, 2006, the African portion of the Intertropical Convergence Zone was located near 13.5 degrees north latitude when averaged from 15W-35E over the ten day period. This compares to the normal location of 13.3N, and a position during the previous dekad of 12.8N. While the current position averaged over the entire region is near normal, examining figure 1 will show that there are significant differences in the western and eastern zones. To the west of Nigeria, areas are experiencing a slight southward bias of the ITCZ position when comparing it to the climatological mean, and to the east of Nigeria, areas are seeing a more northward bias of the ITCZ position. The current position corresponds to the accumulated dekadal rainfall well, especially in the east where the ITCZ seems to have taken a slight jump to the north (Seen in figure 1). Examining figure 3 which depicts the ITCZ vs normal for the area of 20-35 degrees east, it is seen that after beginning the season well south of normal, the ITCZ has rapidly moved northward and is now located north of the long term mean normal for the dekad. Additional information may be found at: http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/fews/ITCZ/itcz.shtml