Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITCZ

As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center

October 2005 Dekad 1

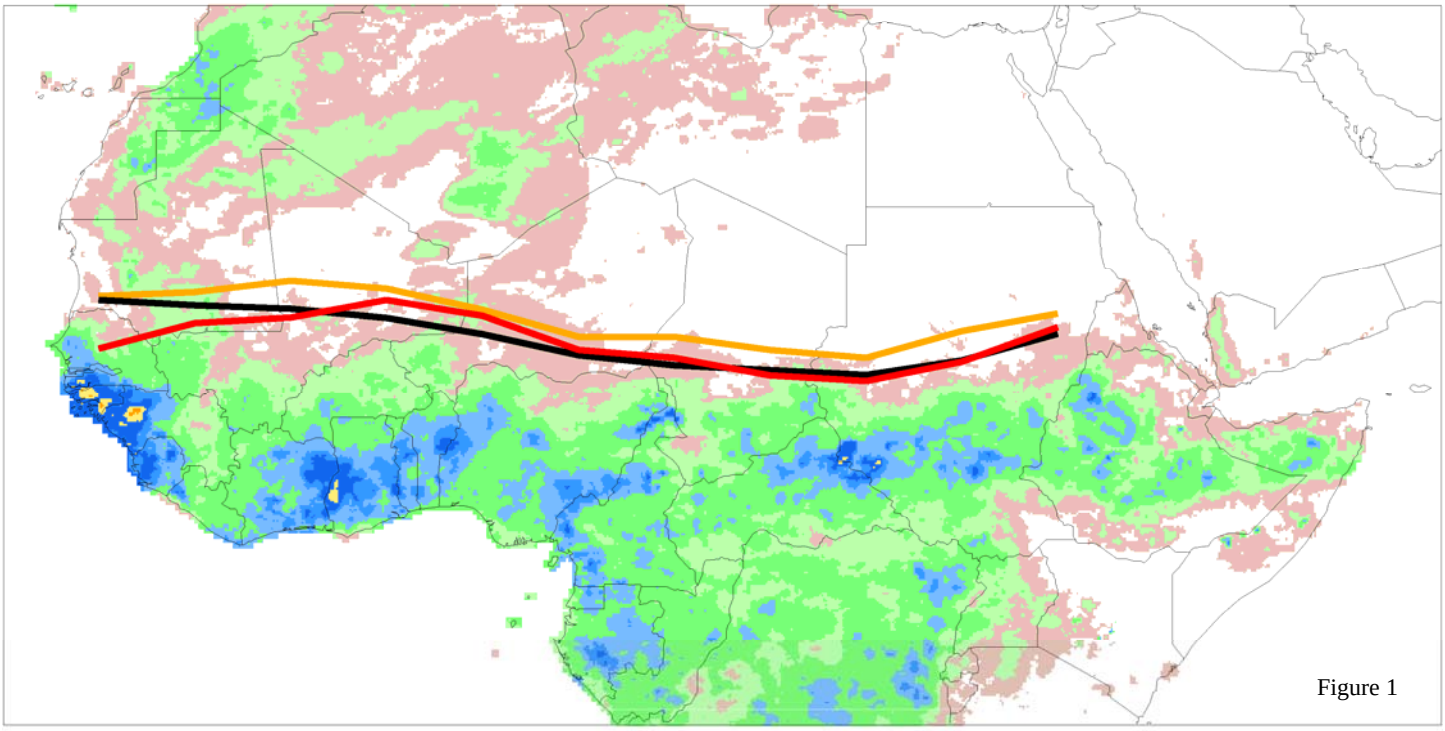

Figure 1

Accumulated Dekadal Precipitation:

<1 | 10-25 | 50-75 | 100-150 | 200-250

1-10 | 25-50 | 75-100 | 150-200 | >250 mm

Current 10-Day Average

Mean 10-Day Average

Previous 10-Day Average

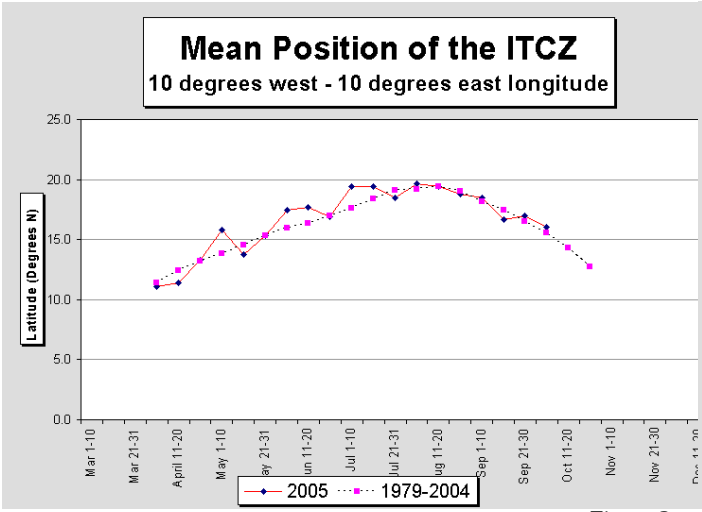

Figure 2

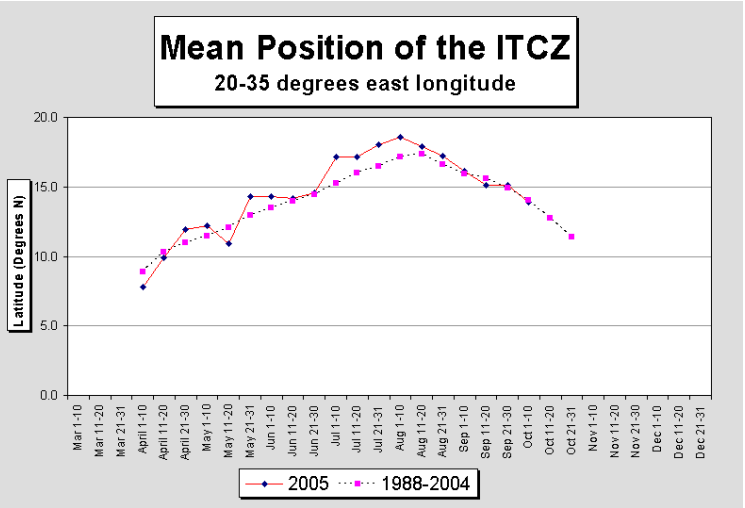

Figure 3

The African portion of the Intertropical Convergence Zone continues to be located very close to its long term mean position, with the main exception in the extreme western areas, where the front has exhibited an erratic movement during the past few dekads. This unusual movement is associated with the abnormally heavy rains that have been observed in the western Sahara region of Africa during the later portion of the season. Overall, the current position of the ITCZ was located near 14.9 degrees north latitude when averaged over the entire dekad and from 15W-35E. This compares with a long term mean of 15.1N and a position last dekad of 16.2N. In the western defined region (10W-10E), the ITCZ is currently located near 16.0N, compared with the climatological position of 15.9N and a 2004 position during the same dekad of 14.6N. In the east (from 20E-35E) the ITCZ is currently located near 13.9N, compared to a long term mean of 14.0N and a 2004 position of 13.7N. All in all, the early northward advancement of this season's ITCZ, accompanied by a near normal southward recession, has led to a longer period of monsoonal rainfall throughout much of the Sahel. This in turn has led to a generally favorable crop and pasture condition in the region, with occasional pockets of dryness locally.