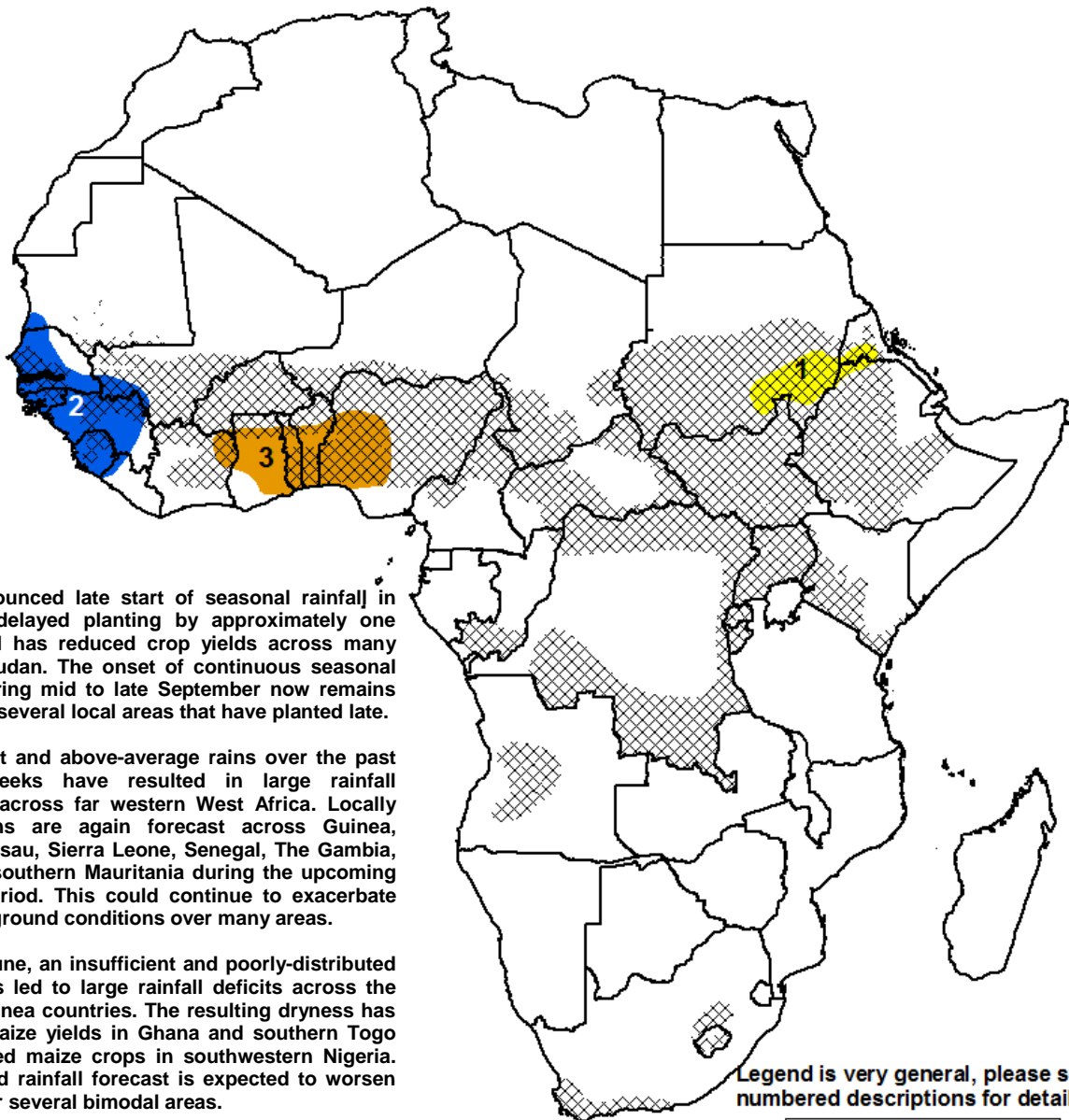




## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook September 19 – September 25, 2013

- As above-average rainfall expected to continue over parts of Guinea, a large scale suppression of season precipitation is forecast throughout the Gulf of Guinea region.



1) A pronounced late start of seasonal rainfall in July has delayed planting by approximately one month and has reduced crop yields across many parts of Sudan. The onset of continuous seasonal rainfall during mid to late September now remains critical for several local areas that have planted late.

2) Frequent and above-average rains over the past several weeks have resulted in large rainfall surpluses across far western West Africa. Locally heavy rains are again forecast across Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone, Senegal, The Gambia, Mali, and southern Mauritania during the upcoming outlook period. This could continue to exacerbate saturated ground conditions over many areas.

3) Since June, an insufficient and poorly-distributed rainfall has led to large rainfall deficits across the Gulf of Guinea countries. The resulting dryness has reduced maize yields in Ghana and southern Togo and affected maize crops in southwestern Nigeria. Suppressed rainfall forecast is expected to worsen dryness for several bimodal areas.

Legend is very general, please see numbered descriptions for details.

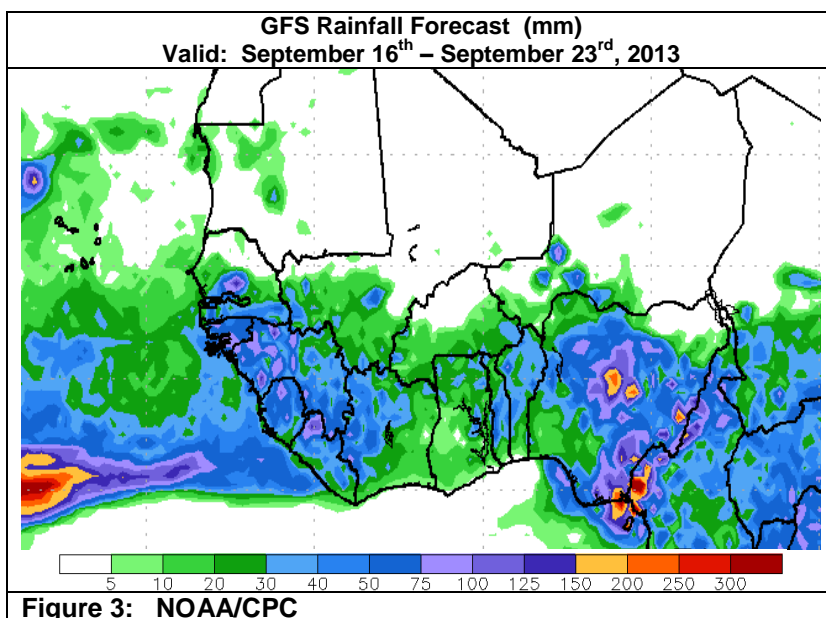
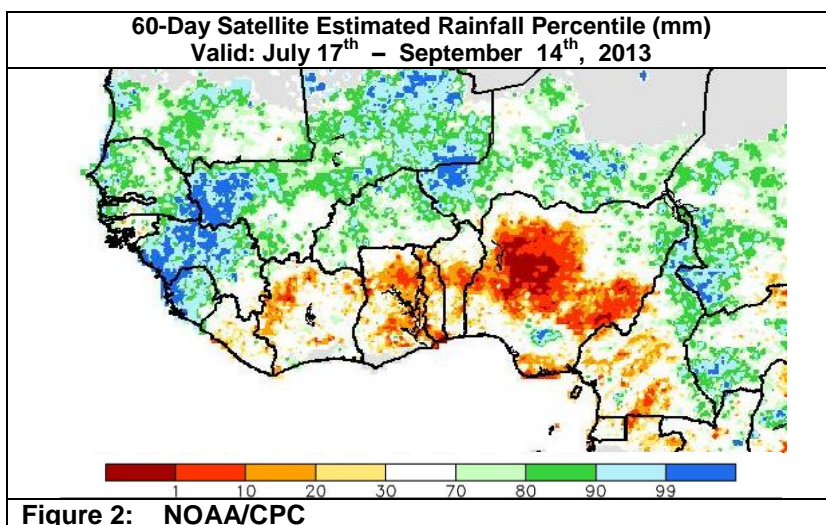
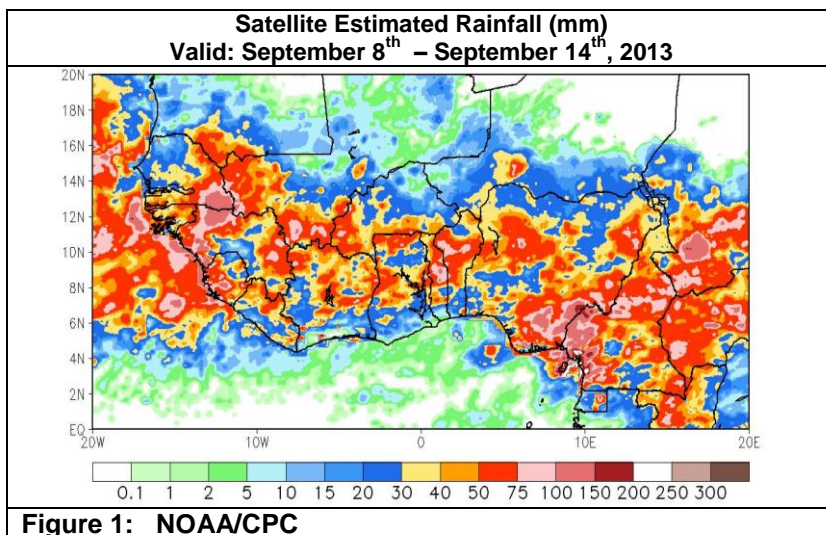
XXXX	September Cropped Areas
Blue	Flooding
Yellow	Abnormal Dryness
Orange	Drought
Brown	Severe Drought
Red	Tropical Cyclone
Pink	Potential Locust Outbreak
Light Blue	Heavy Snow
Purple	Abnormal Cold
Red	Abnormal Heat

## Heavy rains continue to saturate Guinea, with suppressed rains expected in Gulf of Guinea region.

During the last seven days much of western Africa saw a seasonable distribution of rainfall, with a continuation of the highest precipitation accumulations concentrated over Guinea and neighboring countries. The heaviest weekly rainfall amounts (> 150mm) were received along the Senegal, Guinea and Mali border, with high amounts (>100mm) also observed further north into parts of western Mali and southern Mauritania (**Figure 1**). Throughout the rest of the Sahel, decreased amounts of precipitation were observed across eastern Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger during early to mid-September signaling the equatorward retreat of the Inter-tropical front. Consequently, increased amounts of precipitation were received across Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Benin and central Nigeria. The increase in rains and moisture further south is expected to help mitigate anomalous dryness stemming from poorly distributed June, July, and August rainfall over the Gulf of Guinea countries.

Since the middle of July, analyses of rainfall percentiles depict a broad scale dipole of seasonal precipitation anomalies (**Figure 2**). Above-average rainfall has been predominately observed throughout much of far western Africa and the Sahel region, with below-average rains persisting across much of the Gulf of Guinea countries. Despite some increase in rainfall along the Gulf of Guinea observed during the past few weeks, seasonal rainfall still remains below the 20<sup>th</sup> percentile over the last 60 days for many local areas in northern Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin and southwestern and central Nigeria. These sustained moisture deficits have been associated with an early decline of rainfall in June and July, combined with a prolonged dry period (*August break*) in August. Climatologically, rainfall is expected to gradually increase in September with the migration of the Inter-tropical front, however this anomalous dryness have already negatively impacted crop development and yields throughout Ghana, Togo and Nigeria.

During the next outlook period, model rainfall forecasts suggest little change to the current pattern of seasonal anomalies across West Africa. Heavy rains are expected to continue across far western Africa, including the already-saturated countries of Guinea-Conakry and Sierra Leone, with a broad scale suppression of precipitation across the Gulf of Guinea countries (**Figure 3**). The potential for torrential rainfall over Guinea sustains the risk for additional flooding, exacerbation of ground conditions, and potential waterborne disease outbreaks in the region. Conversely, little to locally moderate rainfall across Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria is expected to neutralize the recent recovery in the past few weeks, strengthen long term moisture deficits, and leave less opportunity for improvement for the remainder of September.



**Note:** The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.