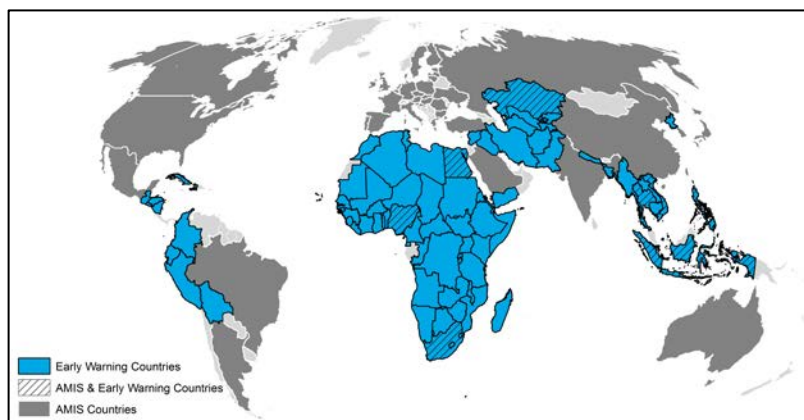


CROP MONITOR FOR EARLY WARNING

NO. 14

March 2017

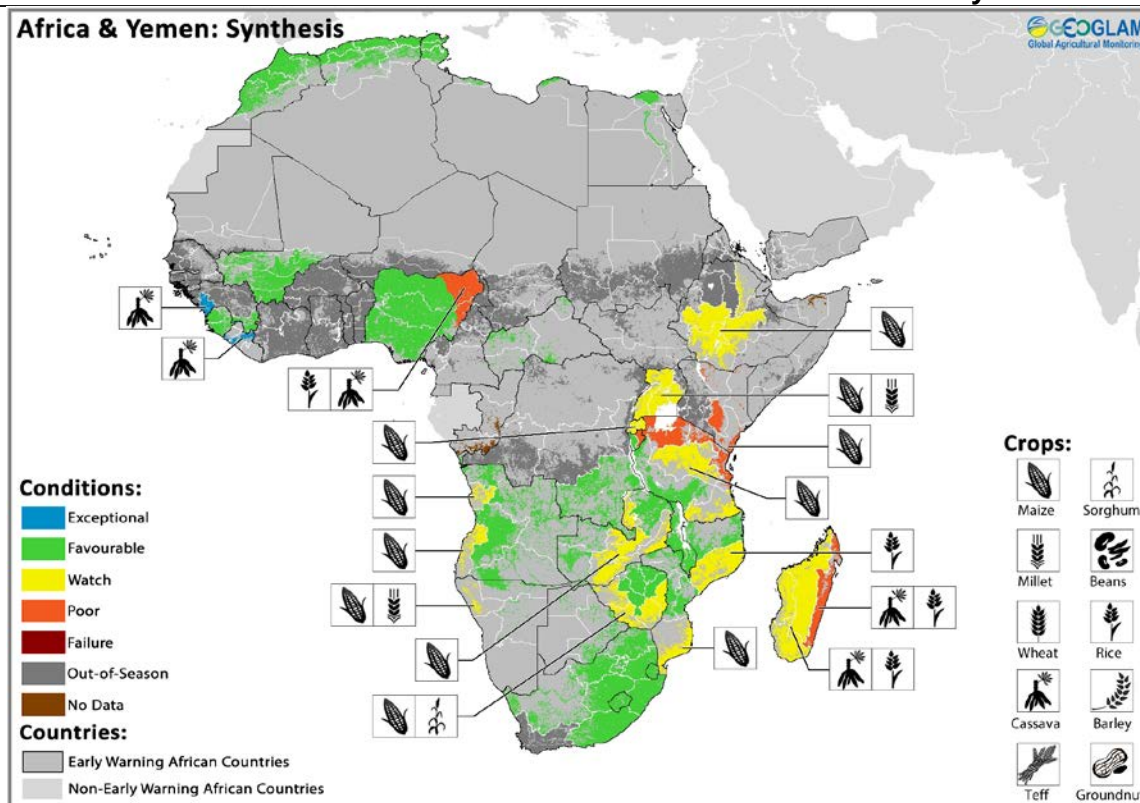
The Early Warning Crop Monitor brings together international, regional, and national organizations monitoring crop conditions within countries at risk of food insecurity. The focus is on developing timely consensus assessments of crop conditions, recognizing that reaching a consensus will help to strengthen confidence in decision making. The Early Warning Crop Monitor grew out of a successful collaborative relationship, the AMIS Crop Monitor (www.amis-outlook.org/), which monitors the main producing countries.



GEOGLAM Early Warning Crop Monitor

Crop Conditions at a glance

based on best available information as of February 28th



Crop condition map synthesizing information for all Early Warning Crop Monitor crops as of February 28th. Crop conditions over the main growing areas are based on a combination of inputs including remotely sensed data, ground observations, field reports, national, and regional experts. **Regions that are in other than favourable conditions are labeled on the map with a symbol representing the crop(s) affected.**

EAST AFRICA: Land preparations are underway for the start of the *belg* season in Ethiopia and main season across Kenya, Somalia, Rwanda, and Burundi. Critical food security situations are ongoing in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia with failure of the previous season limiting food availability and access and requiring intervention. The main season is already underway in Uganda and Tanzania and concern remains from delay of onset rains and dry conditions affecting crops.

WEST AFRICA: Average to above average main season harvests in December support national staple food availability and access. Conditions for irrigated rice are favourable across all planted regions with adequate irrigation water.

NORTHERN AFRICA: Conditions are generally favourable for the main season wheat crop, now in early vegetative stage.

SOUTHERN AFRICA: Across central parts of southern Africa,

good rains were received in February however concern remains over an ongoing armyworm outbreak in Zimbabwe and Zambia; ground control operations are underway.

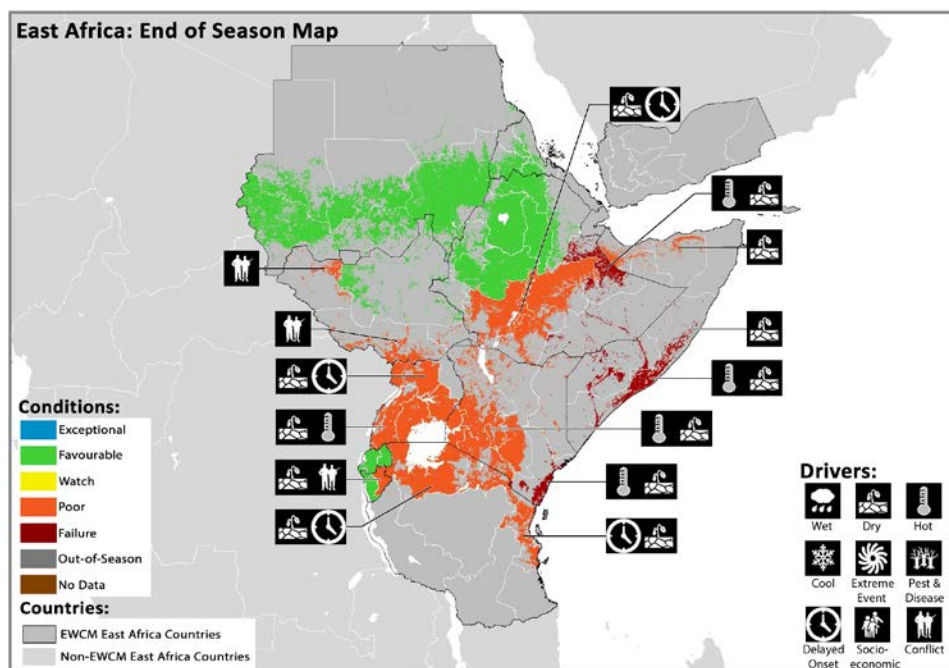
SOUTHEAST ASIA: Across northern Southeast Asia dry season rice conditions are favourable with adequate irrigation water however, there is some concern in the Philippines and South Viet Nam due to heavy rains damaging rice crops. In southern Southeast Asia, wet season rice is in the second month of harvesting and yield is higher than earlier harvested rice due to good precipitation and adequate sunlight later in the season.

CENTRAL AMERICA & CARIBBEAN: Across Central America, rainfall deficits have been observed since January. Despite the dry conditions crop development has been relatively normal due to adequate rainfall received early in the *apante* season, preserving soil moisture.

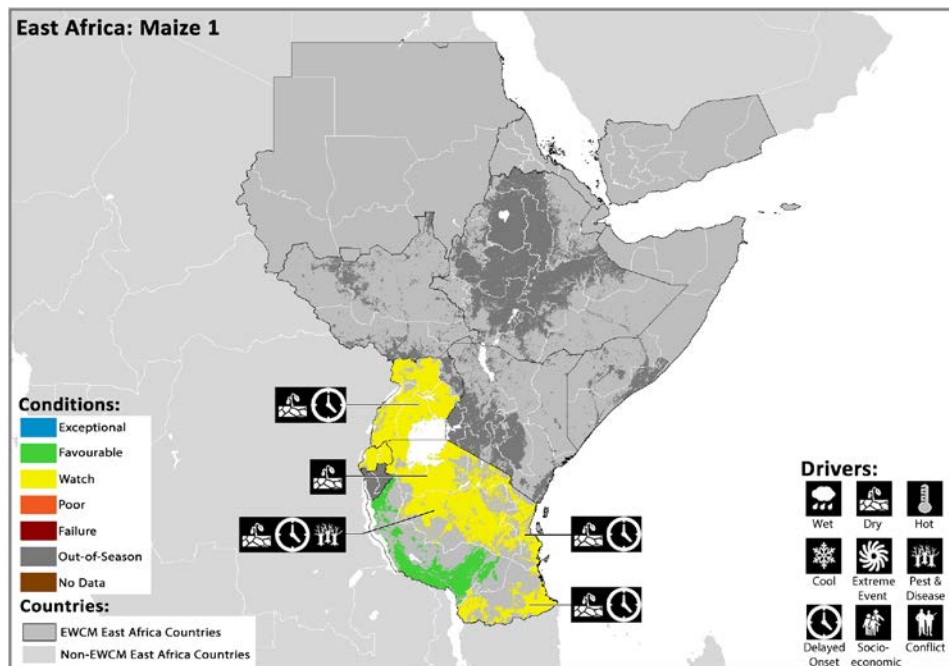
Alert: Fall armyworm infestation across Southern Africa

Outbreaks of the non-native fall armyworm have been confirmed predominantly across Zimbabwe, Zambia and to a lesser extent South Africa and control operations are currently underway. In Zimbabwe, with harvests still a month away, damage has been estimated at 200,000 ha (ten percent of area planted). In Zambia, it has been estimated that twenty percent of the maize crop has been affected with six percent of the crop requiring replanting. Fall armyworm infestations along with dry conditions across parts of affected countries could adversely negatively impact food supplies for the region.

East Africa and Yemen



Crop condition map synthesizing information as of February 28th. End of main season conditions are shown covering the long rains in Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, and Eritrea. End of secondary season conditions are shown covering the short rains in Kenya, Uganda, Somalia, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania and Yemen. Crop conditions over the main growing areas are based on a combination of inputs including remotely sensed data, ground observations, field reports, national, and regional experts. **Conditions that are other than favourable are labeled on the map with their driver.**



Crop condition map synthesizing information as of February 28th. Crop conditions over the main growing areas are based on a combination of inputs including remotely sensed data, ground observations, field reports, national, and regional experts. **Conditions that are other than favourable are labeled on the map with their driver.**

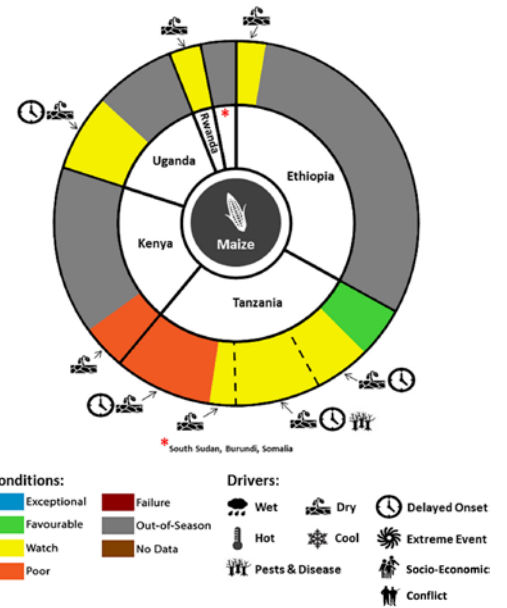
The disappointing end of season conditions for the short rains in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Somalia, and *meher* season in Ethiopia have caused severe concern for food security in the region. Food mobilization efforts are underway in Uganda, Somalia and Kenya and the poor prospects for the upcoming main season in these countries and *belg* rains in Ethiopia will worsen insecurity in the region. In **Ethiopia**, land preparations are underway for the start of the *belg* rains in March. Food insecurity remains high in southern areas (mainly Somali and East Oromia regions) where output of the *meher* season harvest was poor. It is estimated that 5.6 million people will require food assistance and livelihood support. With the completion of main season harvests last month, **Sudan, South Sudan, and Eritrea** are now out of season.

Main Season

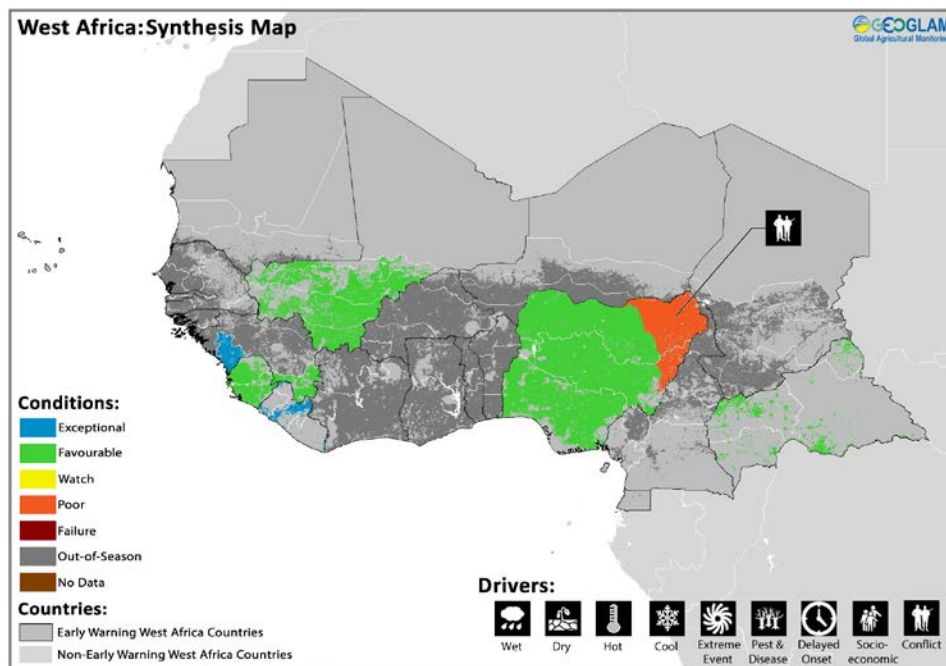
In **Kenya**, land preparations are underway for the start of the long rains in March. Following a drought-reduced harvest of the short rains in eastern and coastal lowlands, and below average production in the rest of the country, food security conditions have sharply deteriorated and a national drought emergency has been declared with an estimated 2.7 million people requiring food assistance and livelihood support. In **Uganda**, there is concern across all regions from delay onset of rains and dry conditions at the start of the season affecting first season maize. In **Somalia**, land preparations for the main *gu* season are about to start and there is concern for crop performance as seasonal weather forecasts are unfavorable. Failure of the *deyr* season, following a poor 2016 *gu* harvest, coupled with severe and prolonged drought affecting pastoral livelihoods and surging food prices constraining access for market-dependent households have led to a sharp deterioration of an already concerning food security situation, and currently the food insecurity caseload is estimated at 2.9 million.

East Africa and Yemen (continued)

In **Rwanda** and **Burundi**, land preparation is underway for B season crops, with onset rains in March. In **Tanzania**, there is concern in across much of the country and notably the regions of Katavi, Tabora, Singida, and Dodoma due to a delay onset of the *msimu* rains throughout the start of the season and persisting dry conditions impacting crops at key growth stages. By contrast, in the main producing regions of the southern highlands, prospects are more favourable.



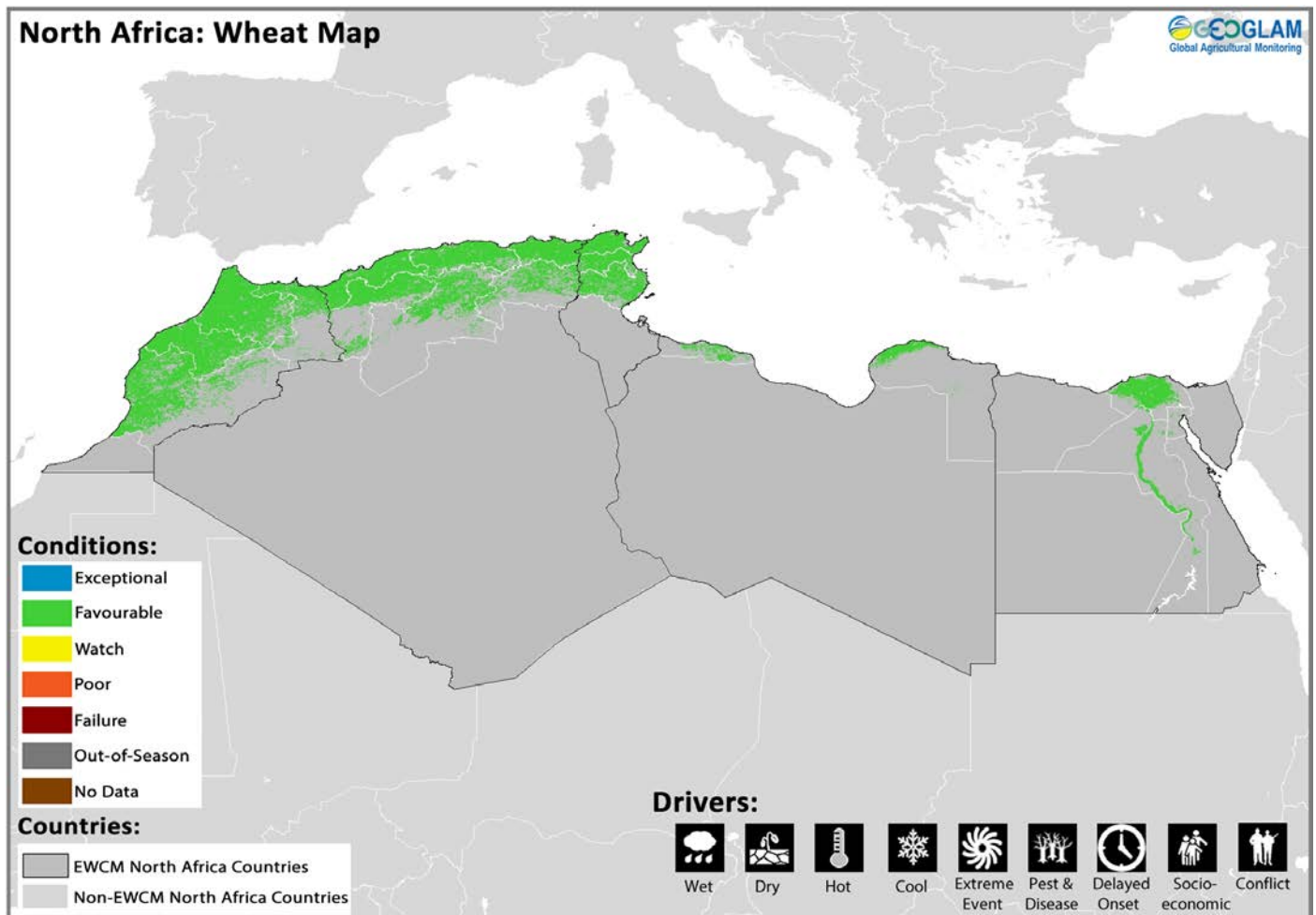
West Africa



Across West Africa the average to above average main season harvest in December is supporting national staple food availability and access. Irrigated rice is in season across Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Mali, Niger, Sierra Leone, and Guinea and conditions are favourable with adequate water supply. In **Nigeria**, while national conditions are favourable, poor conditions are apparent in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states from ongoing conflict and insecurity affecting agricultural practices and production and limiting farmer access to fields.

Crop condition map synthesizing information as of February 28th. Crop conditions over the main growing areas are based on a combination of inputs including remotely sensed data, ground observations, field reports, national, and regional experts. **Conditions that are other than favourable are labeled on the map with their driver.**

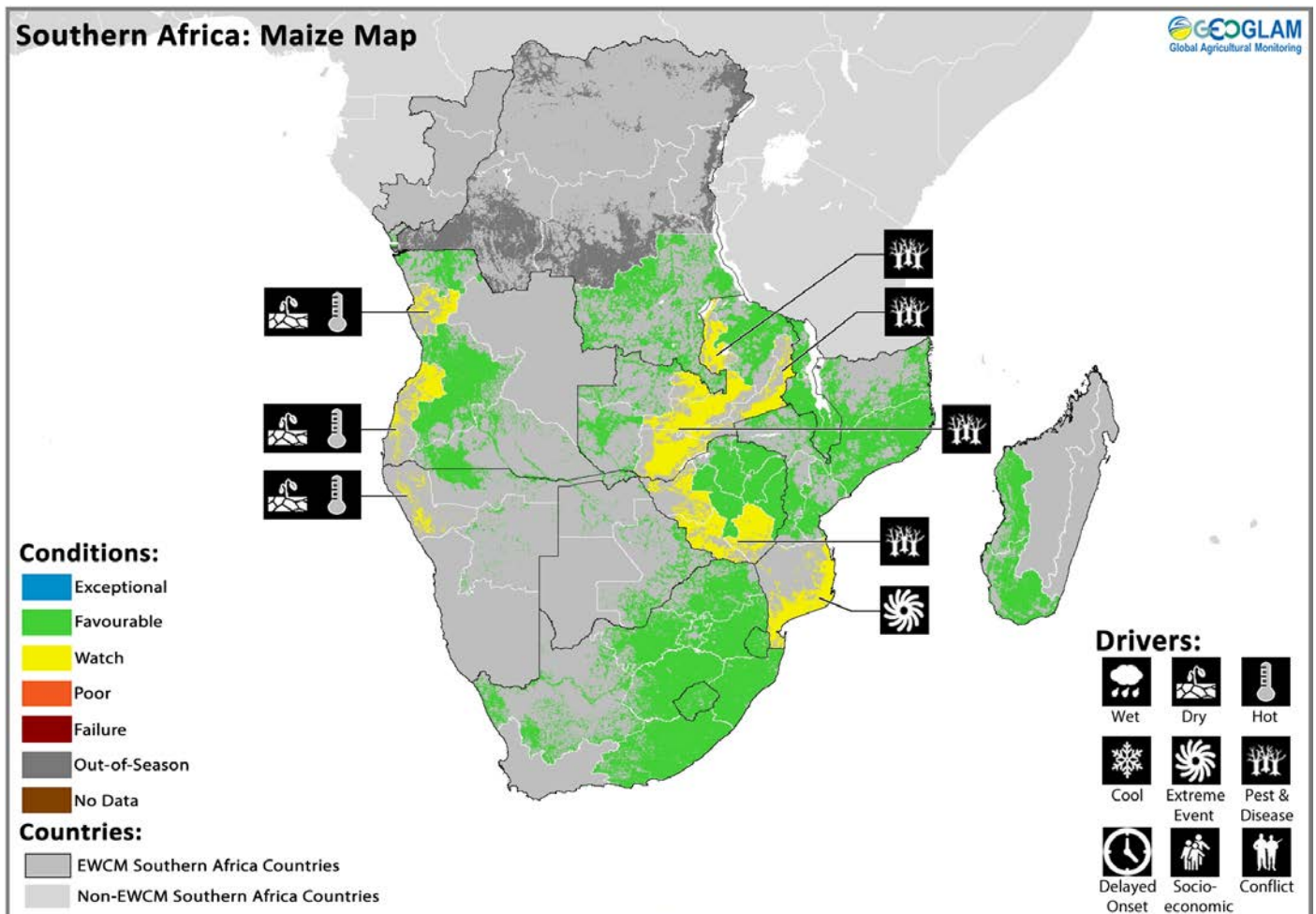
Northern Africa:



Crop condition map synthesizing information as of February 28th. Crop conditions over the main growing areas are based on a combination of inputs including remotely sensed data, ground observations, field reports, national, and regional experts. **Crops that are in other than favourable conditions are labeled on the map with their driver.**

Across North Africa conditions are generally favourable for the main season wheat crop, now in early vegetative stage. The coastal belt of the Maghreb has received very abundant rainfall and some snow (in Algiers) in February however, no temperatures damaging to crop development have been observed. Conditions are generally favourable for the main crop season in **Libya** and **Egypt**.

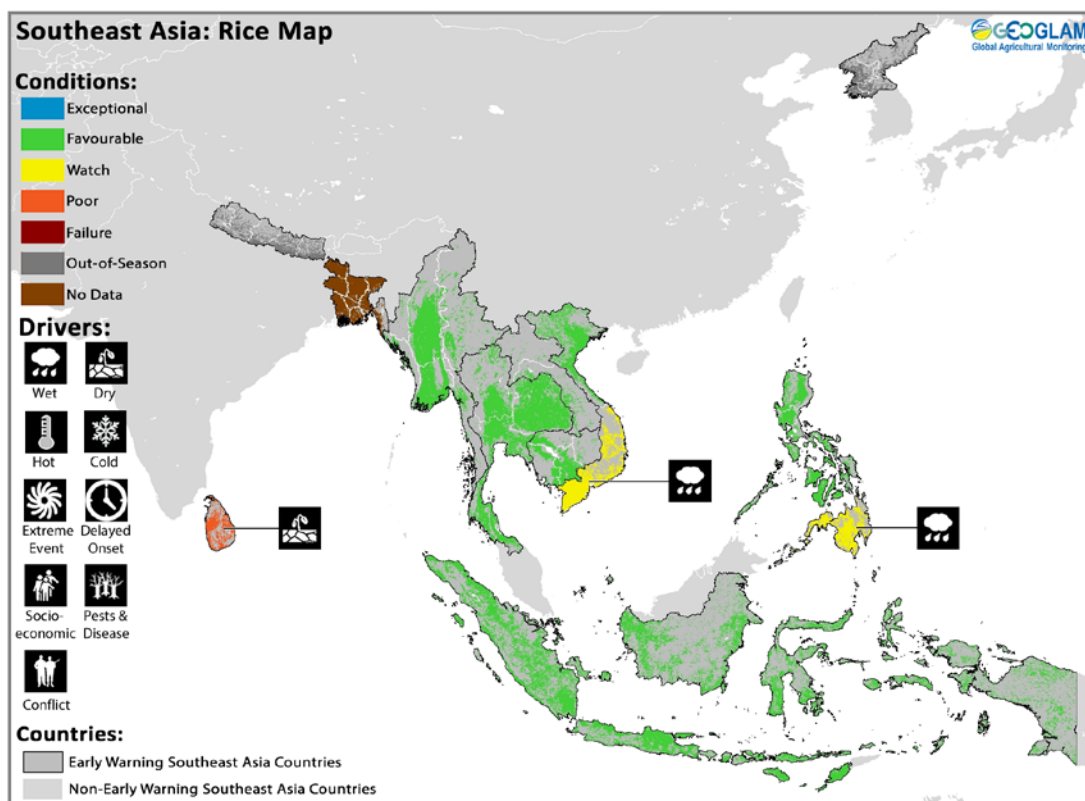
Southern Africa



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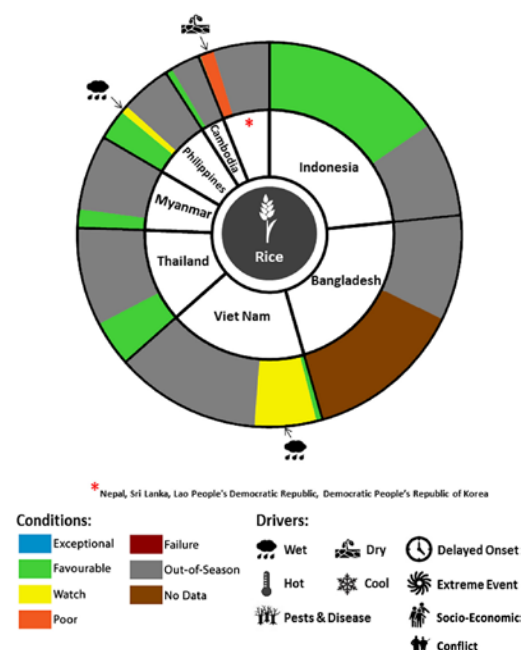
Across central parts of southern Africa, good rains were received in February however concern remains over an ongoing outbreak of fall armyworm in Zimbabwe and Zambia, ground control operations are underway. In **Angola**, conditions have generally improved with good rains received in February except in the northwest and southwest where concern remains over poor rains and high temperatures affecting maize. In **Namibia**, there are some concerns in Kunene due to dry conditions affecting millet and maize crops. In **Zimbabwe**, there are concerns in Matabeleland South and North, Manicaland, and Masvingo due to fall armyworm outbreaks affecting maize and sorghum, and excessive moisture which has resulted in some flooding, waterlogging and leaching of crops. In **Zambia**, concerns have expanded across Copperbelt, Lusaka, Luapula, Eastern, Central due to fall armyworm outbreaks. It has been estimated that twenty percent of the maize crop has been affected by armyworm with six percent requiring replanting. In **Malawi**, conditions have improved and are favorable across all regions. In **Botswana**, conditions are favourable across all regions due to good rains and temperatures in February. In **Madagascar**, maize conditions are favourable however, there is concern across southern areas due to dry and hot conditions affecting cassava and rice crops and poor rice conditions in the East. However, the south western parts are showing some signs of improvement. In **Democratic Republic of Congo**, conditions are favourable with good rains received. In **Mozambique**, conditions are generally favourable in the north and central with heavy rains received. However, there is concern in the south where flooding and strong winds from Cyclone Dineo are estimated to have affected 30,000 ha of crops. In **Lesotho**, conditions are favourable for sorghum and maize crops. In **South Africa**, conditions are favourable with good rains received throughout February however some dry conditions persist in minor producing areas.

Southeast Asia:



Crop condition map synthesizing information for rice as of February 28th. Crop conditions over the main growing areas are based on a combination of inputs, including remotely sensed data, ground observations, field reports, national, and regional experts. **Conditions that are other than favourable are labeled on the map with their driver.**

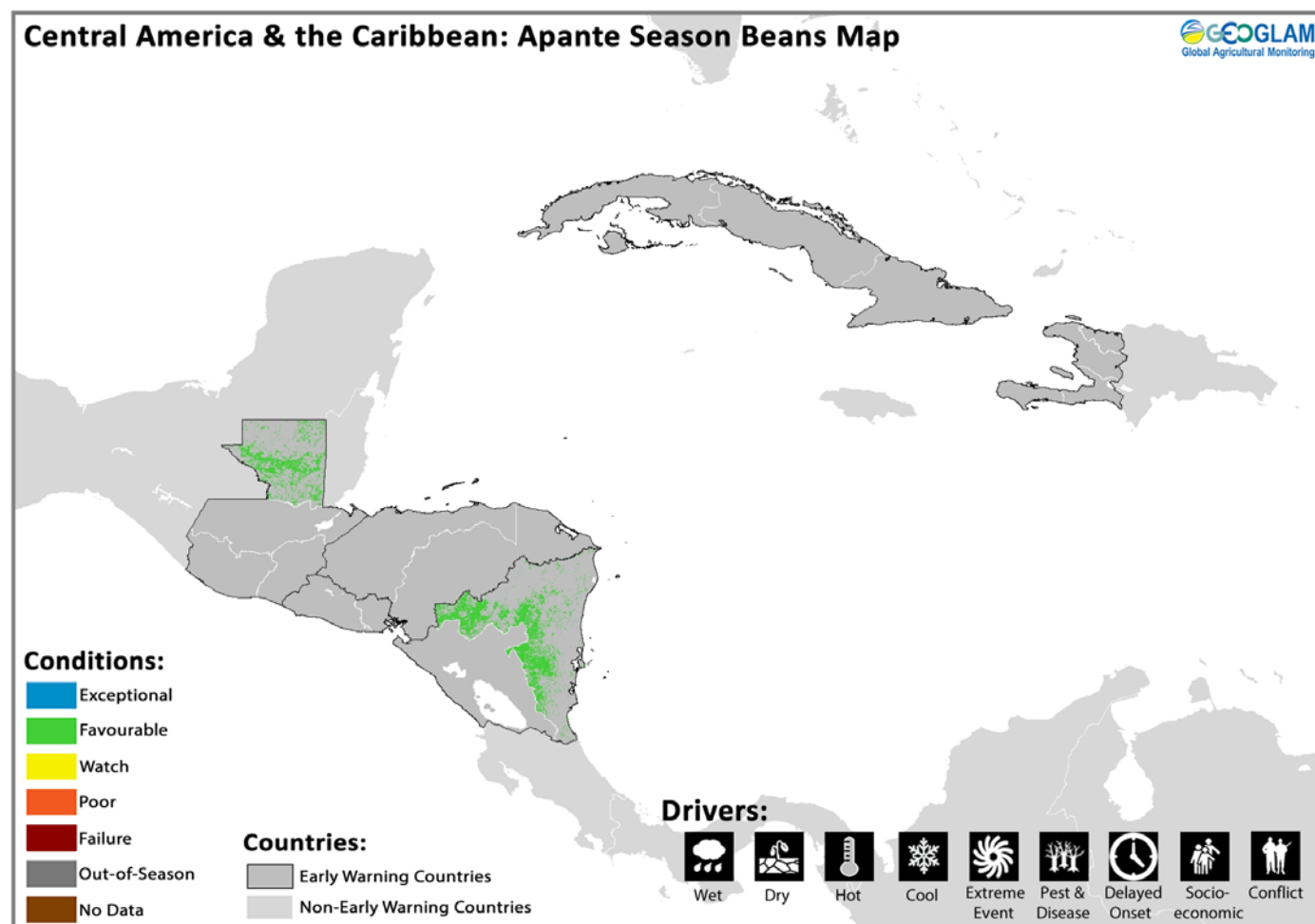
Dry season rice is in the growing stage across the north and conditions are favourable with adequate irrigation water however, there is some concern in the Philippines and South Viet Nam due to heavy rains damaging rice crops. Wet season rice is in the second month of harvesting in Indonesia and prospects are good. In **Viet Nam**, sowing has begun in the north for dry season rice and is completed in the south with slightly lower total sown area due to heavy rains and flooding which are causing some concern. In **Laos**, dry season rice is in transplanting stage and conditions are favourable. In **Thailand**, dry season rice is in the tillering stage under favourable conditions owing to unseasonable rains supporting irrigation. In **Cambodia**, conditions are favourable for dry season rice and planted area is higher than expected due to adequate supply irrigation water. In **Myanmar**, dry season rice is in vegetative stage and conditions are favourable with good rains and temperatures received however, planted area has decreased from the previous year due to insufficient irrigation. In the **Philippines**, dry season rice is in the vegetative to reproductive stages under generally favourable conditions except in the south where heavy rainfall has caused some crop damage. In **Indonesia**, harvesting is ongoing for the wet season crop with improved yield prospects relative to last month owing to the later planted rice receiving more precipitation and sunlight than the earlier planted crops. In **Sri Lanka**, harvests are nearing completion for the main *maha* rice crop and a decrease in production is estimated, mainly a result of the severe decrease in planted area due to dry weather during the growing season. Current low water levels in the main reservoirs pose serious concerns for the irrigated secondary *yala* crop, with planting starting in April.



Central Asia:

Central Asia has experienced generally above average precipitation in the last month with near to slightly above normal temperatures in some areas and conditions are favourable. In **Afghanistan**, conditions are favourable and improving with significant snowfall since early February. Some areas are exhibiting snow water equivalent amounts that exceed the historical maximums. As a result of the substantial snow pack, irrigated areas of the country are expected to have more than adequate moisture availability. Areas that were not planted due to early season moisture deficits will still be dependent on good spring rains.

Central America & Caribbean:



Crop condition map synthesizing information as of February 28th. Crop conditions over the main growing areas are based on a combination of inputs including remotely sensed data, ground observations, field reports, national, and regional experts. **Conditions that are other than favourable are labeled on the map with their driver.**

Across Central America, rainfall deficits have been observed since January. Despite the dry conditions crop development has been relatively normal due to adequate rainfall received early in the *apante* season, preserving soil moisture. *Apante* harvests will start next month in **Guatemala** and **Nicaragua** and current conditions are favourable. However, there is concern that the prolonged dry weather since January could result in pest and disease outbreaks potentially reducing yields or causing significant post-harvest losses.

Information on crop conditions in the main production and export countries can be found in the [AMIS Market Monitor](#), published March 2nd 2017.



Prepared by members of the GEOGLAM Community of Practice
Coordinated by the University of Maryland Center for Global Agricultural
Research

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Cover Photo by: Catherine Nakalembe

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