

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Gulf of Guinea Regional seasonal climate outlook Forum

(PRESAGG-02)

Cotonou from 9 to 13 March 2015

## Final Communicate

Climates experts and agro-meteorologists from African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) and the AGRHYMET CILSS, UNDP Benin and the officers of the national meteorological services in Benin, Cameroon, Togo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria and Sierra Leone, found themselves in the 9 to 13 March 2015, in Cotonou, Benin for training and production of seasonal climate forecasts valid rainfall March to May and from April to June 2015 in the Gulf of Guinea countries to determine agro-climatic characteristics and the opinions and advice to users of socio-economic sectors especially agriculture, water resources management and disasters.

This workshop was held with the financial and technical support from the United Nations Development Program through the SAP Project Benin, the African Development Bank, the European Union and the Organization of the World Meteorology.

The Seasonal outlook is the result of a consensus issued the output empirical models, dynamic and knowledge of past and current climate variability in the Gulf of Guinea.

Thus, the results of this forecast gives probable developments seasonal rainfall from March to May and from April to June 2015, the periods start and end of the great 2015 season rains in the region.

### 1) Regarding the rainfall outlook, it is as follows:

Over most of the region, **near to average rainfall season** from March to June 2015 are expected. Disturbances in the distribution of rainfall events are more likely during this period in most of the region. Precisely:

- On the west part of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia southwest, **near to below average rainfall season** are expected during Mars-July-April and May-May-June, 2015.

During the period of the March to May 2015, the coastal parts of south-eastern Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo could be affected by rainfall deficits **weak to moderate**;

- On the coast of southeastern Benin, Nigeria and southwestern Cameroon, **near to above average rainfall season**, are expected from March to May, 2015.

- On the coastal areas from south-eastern Liberia, Nigeria, of **below average rainfall** will persist between April and June 2015.

## **2) Regarding the dates for the beginning of the great season**

The outlook of agro-climatic characteristics of the long rainy season of Gulf of Guinea show that in 2015, the season would see a **normal late** start in south-eastern Nigeria, southern Benin, Togo and South the southeastern half of Ghana. By cons, it is most likely to be **normal early** in the southwestern part of Nigeria, South-western Ghana, South-East and South-western Côte d'Ivoire.

## **3) Regarding the dates for the end of the great season**

End dates of the long rains expected to be broadly normal throughout the entire coastal belt of the bimodal rainfall zone of Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, Benin and western Nigeria. It should be the same in the coastal belt of Ghana border with Côte d'Ivoire and Togo. As for the south-eastern part of Nigeria, the end of the season should be **delayed to normal**.

## **4) As for the dry periods sequences after the start date of the great season**

From the date of the actual start of the rainy season, it is likely that the time installation of cultures known dry sequences longer terms equivalent to those usually seen in the extreme south-western Ivory Coast, South-eastern Ghana, on the coastal strip of Togo and the southwestern Benin. By cons, they should be **shorter equivalent** to south-central Ivory Coast, the border area between the south-east of Benin and South-western Nigeria and South-eastern Nigeria.

## **5) As for the durations of dry spells late in the great season**

Dry sequences provided on the period from the beginning of the reproductive phase cultures at the end of the season will probably **take longer to equivalent** to those typically observed in the coastal area of Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria.

## **Advice and guidance to the attention of farmers, fishermen and water resource managers**

### **Deficit rainfall regions, beginning early to mean and mid-seasonal dates**

- Using short and varieties resistant to drought cycle
- Begin agricultural activities earlier than usual
- Interacting with the technicians of agricultural services for advice on the varieties to use
- Use water conservation techniques in soil
- Plan the use of supplemental irrigation

### **Deficit rainfall regions, late start to early mean and mid-end seasonal dates**

- Limit the use of varieties that require a lot of water
- Using varieties resistant to drought
- More investment in aquaculture
- Exploiting the shallows
- Plan the use of supplemental irrigation

### **Deficit rainfall regions, late start dates**

- using drought-resistant varieties
- not to hurry for seedlings to avoid loss of seedlings
- Look technicians agricultural extension services
- properly Managing water resources for better use
- Avoid additional inputs of fertilizer during the growing season of plants
- take precautions to minimize any damage as a result of heavy rains
- encourage and invest more in the exploitation of salt mines