



A decrease in the acreage is resulting in low production expectations

Highlights

Looking at forecasted yields, the current year is an average one, except for **Portugal where the drought has strongly influenced rice growth.**

Surfaces have been consistently reduced in Spain, Greece, Italy and Portugal with respect to 2004. This is the main reason for the low forecasted productions in Spain and Greece. In Italy and Portugal, low productions are the result of the combined effect of lower yields and reduced areas.

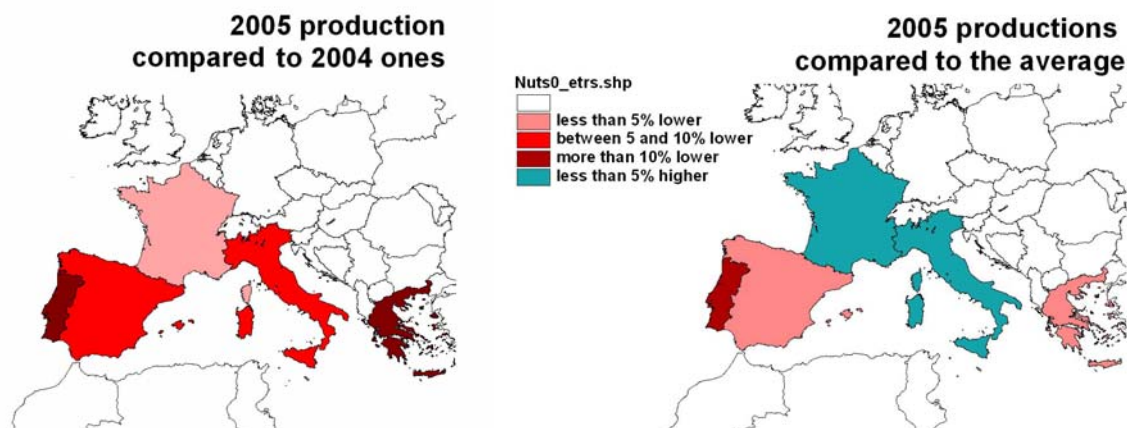
For **EU 25**, 2005 productions are expected to be **8.4% lower compared to 2004** and close (-0.4%) to the average. The difference between current year productions and the 2004 ones is mainly due to the **decrease in cultivated areas.**

MARS forecast: YIELDS

Country	Yield (t/ha)				
	2004*	MARS 2005 forecasts	Avg 5yrs*	%05/04	%05/5yrs
EU-25	6.80	6.60	6.53	-2.9	1.1
Spain	7.42	7.32	7.31	-1.3	0.1
France	5.71	5.56	5.64	-2.6	-1.4
Greece	7.74	7.88	7.75	1.8	1.6
Italy	6.58	6.32	6.15	-4.0	2.7
Portugal	5.76	5.31	5.83	-7.8	-9.8

* Source EUROSTAT New Cronos: last update August 2005

MARS forecast: PRODUCTION MAPS

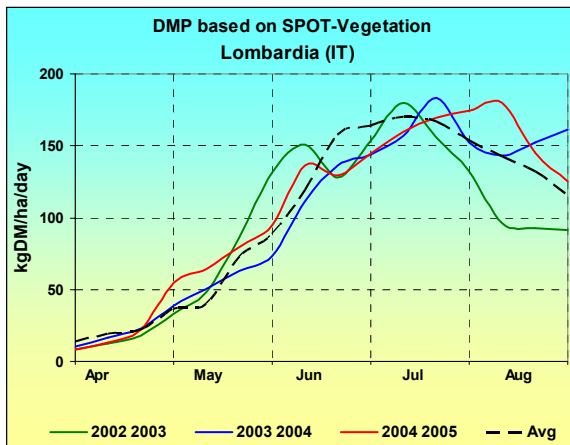


This is the second experimental bulletin on rice. The first (no 0) is available on ftp://mars.jrc.it/bulletin/Europe/2005/RICE_BULL_n0.pdf

Agrometeorological analysis

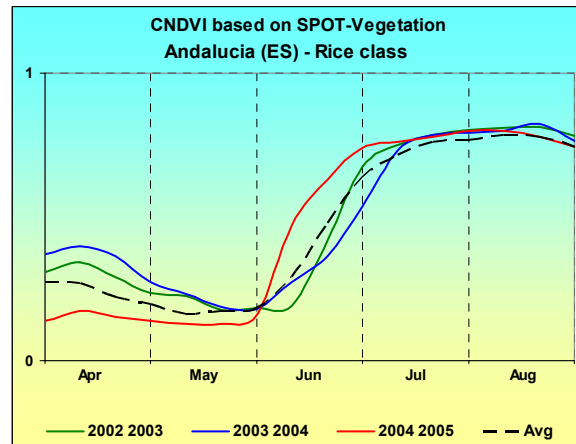
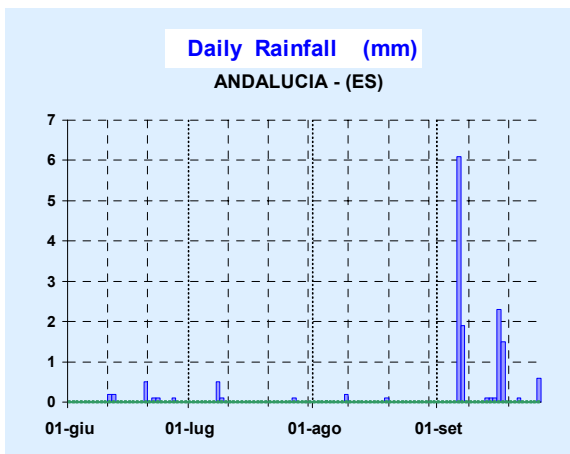
ITALY: no significant damages due to the scarce rainfall

The scarcity of rainfall during the first part of the summer has not caused problems. In fact, although in some periods and in some sites water was not sufficient for a complete flooding, water stresses occurred only in rare cases. The first part of summer was similar to the dry 2003, but conditions improved in the second part, reducing the risk of losses.



SPAIN: insufficient water availability in Andalusia

The crop has probably reached the maturity stage in advance in some regions. Problems due to the scarcity of water during the whole summer occurred in Andalusia. In this region, the drought conditions discussed in the previous bulletin continued throughout whole plant cycle. It is possible that in many cases the water reserves have been insufficient with respect to rice needs, influencing biomass accumulation. An abnormal trend in CNDVI data was observed: no vegetation was present before rice sowings, and then the crop showed an advance in development by at least 10 days. Normal or even good yields are expected in the other regions.

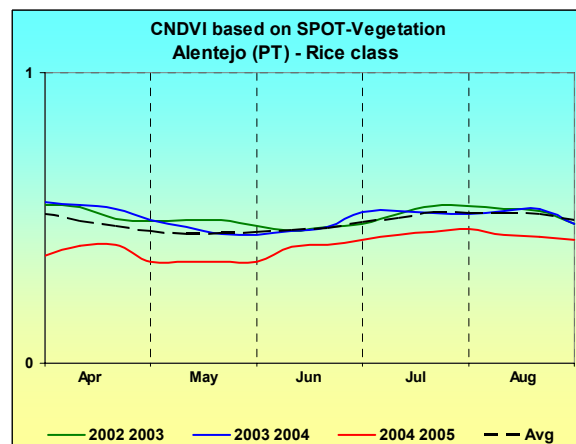


FRANCE: possible yield losses due to cold shocks at pre-flowering

Losses due to spikelet sterility are expected for the late sowings because of the cold air irruption recorded between 5 and 11 July. Details were discussed in the previous bulletin. As in Spain, the crop could have reached the maturity stage slightly in advance with respect to the last 5-year average and to 2004.

PORTUGAL: critical conditions for rice because of the dry summer

Yields are strongly reduced by the lack of water observed in the country. It is unlikely that reserves have supplied enough water to the crop. Remote sensing data (CNDVI) confirm these considerations. A slight advance was noticed in reaching the maturity stage, mainly because of the high temperatures recorded in the first part of the summer.



GREECE: it looks like a standard year

Standard conditions due to the average trends recorded for all the agrometeorological variables.

Next year bulletins: Forecasts will be given separately for Indica and Japonica-type varieties.