



## Water reserves are avoiding damages due to the scarcity of rainfalls

### Highlights

Although the season can be undoubtedly considered a dry one, **water reserves are assuring enough water to avoid damages in most of the cases**. Therefore, **2006 looks like an average year** (European yield are forecasted to be +0.3 % and -0.1 % respectively compared to last year and to the average), except for Portugal, where high yields are simulated. In some regions, **next decades rainfall will be determinant to avoid damages to the crops**.

Except for Italy and Portugal, **a significant decrease in the surface** cultivated with rice is expected for the whole Europe (both with respect to last year and to the average). This is true especially for Spain (about - 20 % compared to 2005)

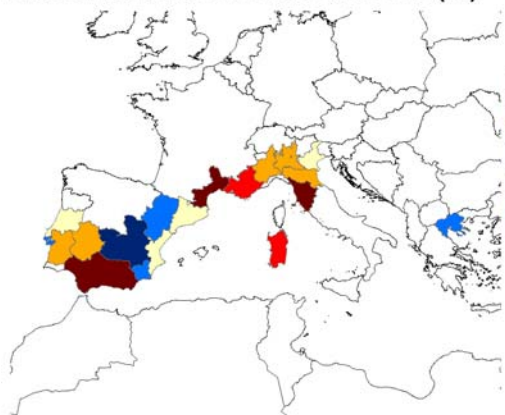
### MARS forecast: YIELDS

Country	Yield (t/ha)				
	2005*	MARS 2006 forecasts	Avg 5yrs	%06/05	%06/5yrs
EU-25	6.55	6.58	6.58	0.3	-0.1
Spain	7.05	7.28	7.27	3.3	0.2
France	5.73	5.75	5.62	0.3	2.3
Greece	7.82	7.68	7.65	-1.8	0.3
Italy	6.40	6.31	6.32	-1.3	-0.1
Portugal	5.19	5.77	5.68	11.1	1.5

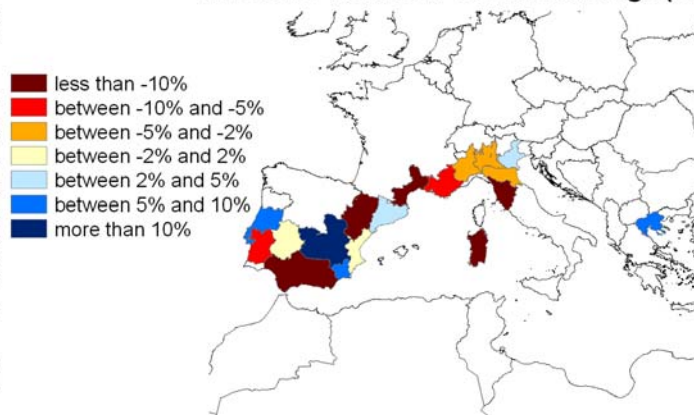
### CNDVI (SPOT-Vegetation) – Rice fields

The maps below show the rice vegetative conditions as derived by satellite data (Normalized Difference Vegetation Index crossed with Corine Land Cover data / Rice class). Discrepancies between forecasts and maps are mainly due to small delays or advances in development stage.

Difference between 2006 and 2005 (%)



Difference between 2006 and average (%)



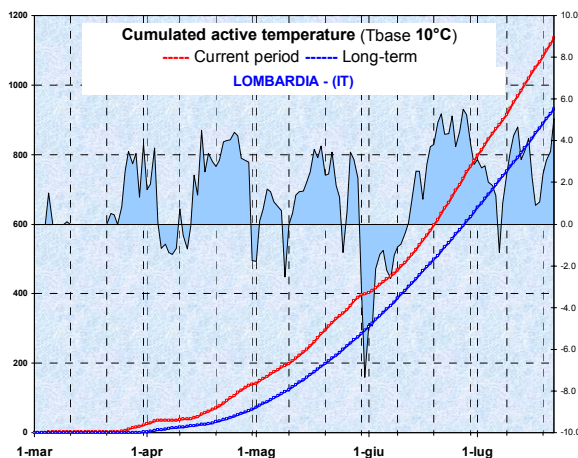
This is the third experimental bulletin on rice. The others (no 0; 2005 no 1) are available on <ftp://mars.jrc.it/bulletin/Europe/2005/> or <http://agrifish.jrc.it/marsstat/Bulletins/2005.htm>

## Agrometeorological analysis

### ITALY: no significant losses expected due to water stress

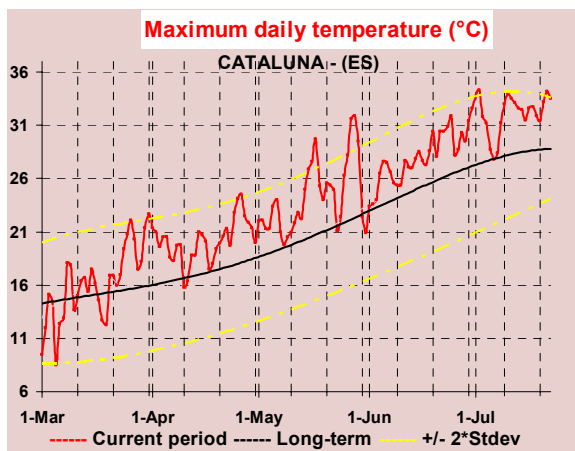
Higher than average temperatures were recorded in the Po Valley since the rice sowing. The drought which affected the Mediterranean Europe could have lead, in many cases, to unflooded sowings. However, water reserves were sufficient for avoiding significant yield losses (with few exceptions), as confirmed both by simulation models and by satellite data.

Supposing a standard water management, the crop is concluding the vegetative phase with a few-day advance with respect to the 5-year average. In case of not submerged fields, rice experienced the lack of the floodwater warming effect and a normal development stage is simulated.



### SPAIN: delayed sowings in Andalusia

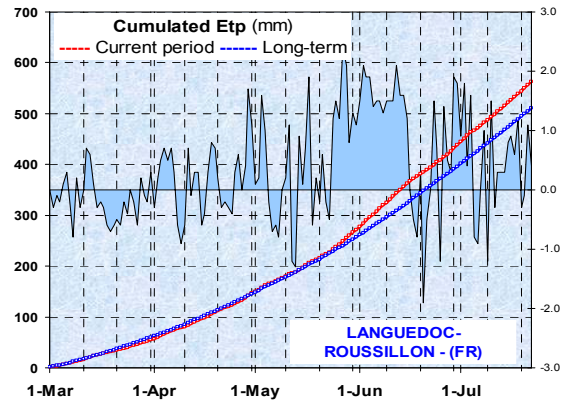
The warm conditions experienced in the whole country are having a positive effect on rice. Simulations show a good potential for Catalonia: if the scarcity of rainfalls has been compensated by water reserves, the high radiation and temperatures have pushed the vegetative growth to satisfactory levels. Crop cycle is delayed because of delayed sowings, especially in Andalusia where a reduction of surface is also expected.



### FRANCE: normal yields but surface decrease

A dry June affected the southern part of the country, although no damages to rice are expected. High radiation and favourable temperatures are altogether depicting a good year.

The crop is reaching the flowering stage about one week advance.

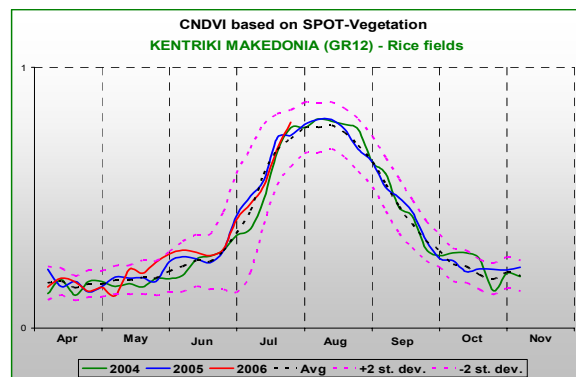


### PORTUGAL: good productions expected

Favourable meteorological conditions are showing an average potential. The vegetative phase is going to be completed will slightly in advance. But a cold wave is forecasted to reach the northern part of the country and this could create some spikelet sterility problems which will negatively influence the final yields.

### GREECE: normal conditions verified

Temperatures higher than the normal were recorded in spring. This has favoured early sowings, especially for the Indica-type cultivars, more sensitive to low temperature around the emergence phase. The crop is reaching the flowering stage in time.



**News on methods:** the WARM model (already used in 2005 for losses due to sterility) has been used as alternative to WOFOST for yield forecasts. The choice between the two models depended on their reliability country by country.

**Next bulletin:** information about risks related to blast disease (29 September).