

EU is experiencing a decrease in production, mainly because of a reduced rice-cropped area

Highlights

Average yields are expected at EU level, as a result from lower yield in Spain (- 4.3 %) and higher yields for France and Greece (respectively +3.4 % and +4.8 %). **No significant losses are expected due to the drought occurred in the first part of the summer.**

As areas are concerned, decreases are expected in Spain (more than 8 % reduction compared to 2005), France and Greece (about -5 % for both). Portugal comes back to average after last year's area reduction (source: EUROSTAT New Cronos). **Expected productions at EU level** are therefore forecasted to be **lower than the average** (about -5 %) and **lower than 2005** (about -4 %).

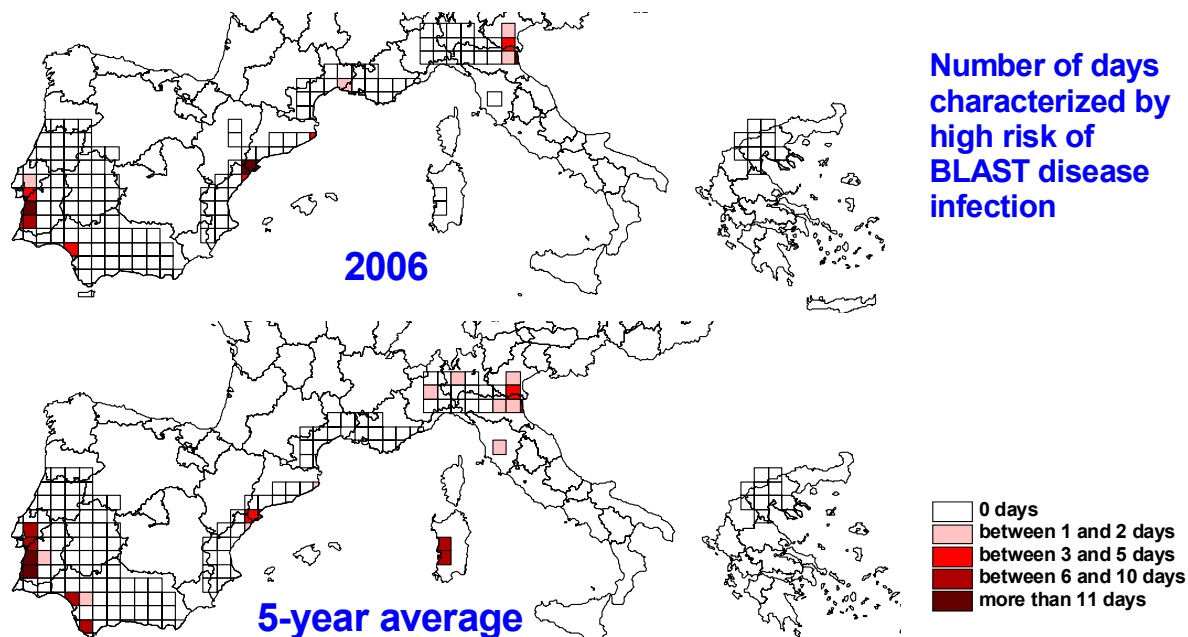
MARS forecast: YIELDS

Country	Yield (t/ha)				
	2005*	MARS 2006 forecasts	Avg 5yrs	%06/05	%06/5yrs
EU-25	6.59	6.54	6.60	-0.8	-1.0
Spain	7.05	6.96	7.27	-1.3	-4.3
France	5.73	5.81	5.62	1.4	3.4
Greece	7.82	8.02	7.65	2.6	4.8
Italy	6.40	6.31	6.32	-1.3	-0.1
Portugal	5.54	5.90	5.75	6.4	2.5

* Source EUROSTAT New Cronos: last update September 2006

Diseases risk (Blast) - WARM simulations

The maps are showing the simulated risk of infection for blast disease. 2006 is practically an average year. The Rhône (FR) and Ebro (SP) deltas experienced conditions most favorable to the pathogen compared to the average.



See the 'News on methods' section at the end of Pag. 2 for further details

This is the fourth experimental bulletin on rice. The others (no 0; 2005 no 1; 2006 no 1) are available on <http://agrifish.jrc.it/marsstat/Bulletins/2005.htm> and <http://agrifish.jrc.it/marsstat/Bulletins/2006.htm>
WARM web site is available at <http://agrifish.jrc.it/marsstat/warm/>

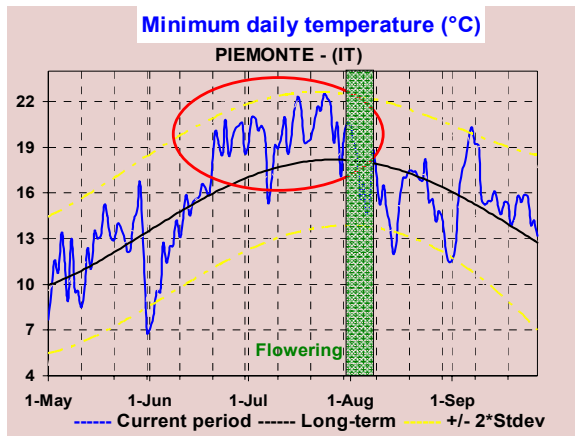
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Agrometeorological analysis

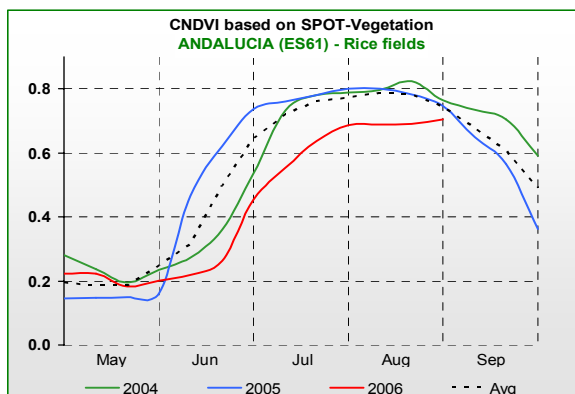
ITALY: the good potential is confirmed

The warm summer, together with satisfactory irradiance levels, pushed the vegetative phase of the crop cycle. Consequently, positive effects on the ripening phase are expected, because of the higher radiation interception and of the translocation to panicles. Simulated damages due to risk of blast disease infections are lower than the average in Piemonte and Lombardia. These positive conditions may have compensated the insufficient water availability, which could have affected some isolated areas.



SPAIN: surface reduction and yield below the average are characterizing the season

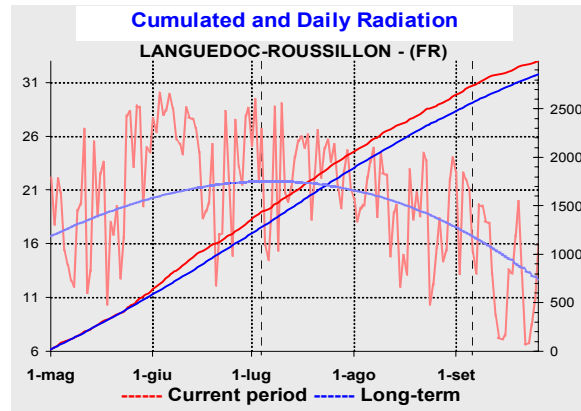
A considerable decrease in the rice-cropped area is verified. Rice was sown about 3 weeks later than usual because of insecurity related to the water that would have been available for the crop. The low irradiance which characterized the end of July and August and some problems related to insufficient water availability prevented the crop from reaching the production levels forecasted in the July bulletin. Another negative aspects which may have influenced final yields is related to the shortening of the vegetative phase caused by the high temperatures. Catalonia experienced conditions favourable to blast disease.



FRANCE: forecast shows a good potential

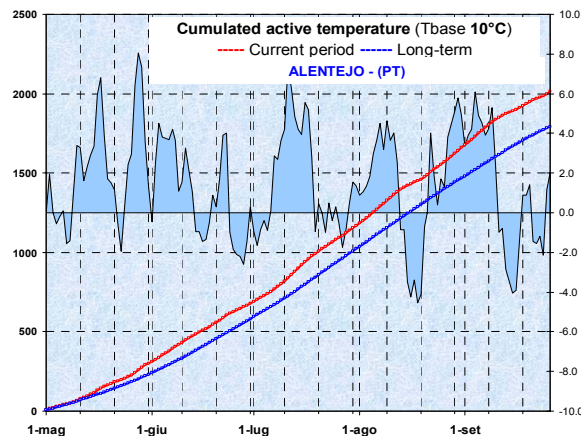
After the warm first part of summer, rice experienced average thermal conditions and good levels of radiations (see graph) since the beginning of August. This allowed a good grain filling period. The crop reached the maturity stage with a 10-day advance compared to the average.

Forecasted yield is higher than the average (+3.4 %) although not enough to compensate for the considerable reduction in the rice-cropped area (about -10%).



PORTUGAL: despite a short ripening phase high yields are expected

The high daytime temperatures recorded in August and September have shortened the grain filling period. However, the considerable increase in surface compared to 2005 (source: EUROSTAT New Cronos) and generally favourable conditions are depicting a good year. The production is expected to be more than 15 % higher than last year.



GREECE: yields higher than the average are compensating for the surface reduction.

Favourable conditions verified during the whole season, especially in the second part of the summer. If water reserves have supported the evapotranspiration demand, a good year is forecasted.

News on methods: Blast disease simulation has been carried out using a process-based module which accounts for the effect of blast on photosynthesis, leaf maintenance respiration and leaf senescence. Algorithm for simulating farmer behaviour in treating crops against the pathogen and the treatment effect are under development. For this analysis, only the number of days characterized by high risk of infection was used.