

SASSCAL Info Map

The 2019/2020 Growth Season of southern Africa

NDVI (Normalised Difference Vegetation Index) is an effective measure for vegetation health and can be used to monitor and assess the progression of a growing season. In the vulnerable regions of southern Africa, timely vegetation growth monitoring provides an indication of the availability of grasslands for livestock and the likely success or failure of crops. NDVI assessments can assist in avoiding economic losses by supporting preparedness for livestock and human food shortages.

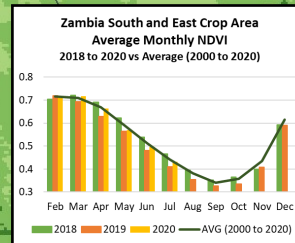
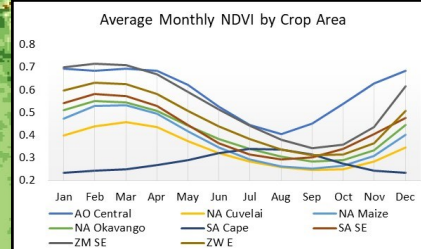
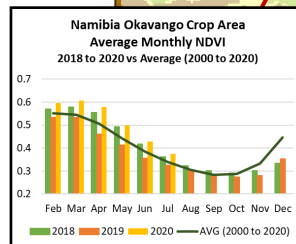
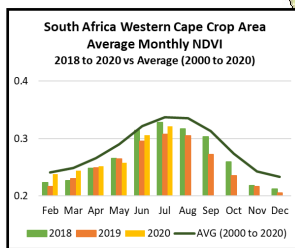
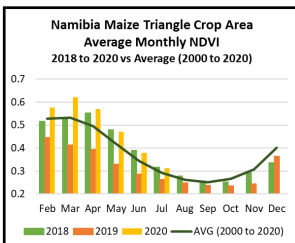
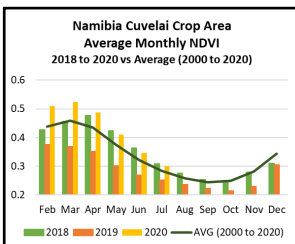
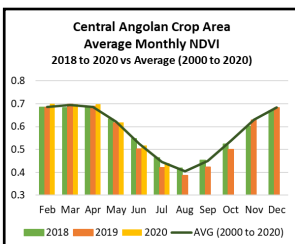
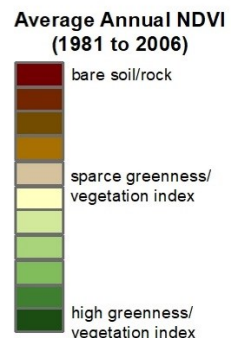
For most of southern Africa, the rainy season, starts in September and ends in April supporting the beginning of the growing season around September/October and its peak in March or April.

According to the NDVI assessment, the agricultural productivity in 2020 has, for Angola, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zambia, been better than in 2018 and 2019. This is also reflected in the crop yields, with the maize production for 2019 being below average, while production for 2020 was between average to above average for most of southern African, except for Zimbabwe. For wheat, production was below average in 2019, but in 2020 it was average in South Africa, above average in Zimbabwe and below average in Zambia.

SASSCAL, August 2020

References

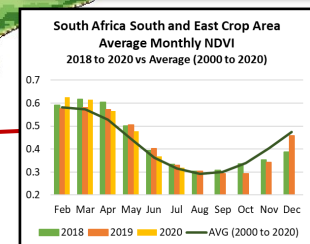
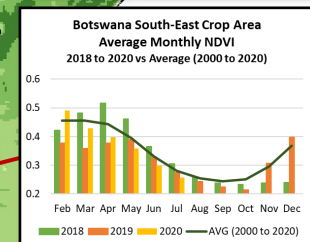
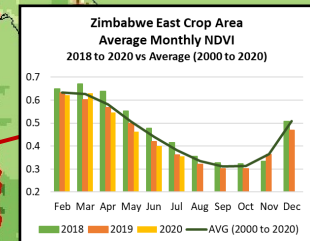
1. FAO. 2020. Global Information and Early Warning System. <http://www.fao.org/giews/>.
2. Didan, K. (2015). MOD13C2 MODIS/Terra Vegetation Indices Monthly L3 Global 0.05Deg CMG V006 [Data set]. NASA EOSDIS Land Processes DAAC.
3. USGS and EROS, 2018. USGS EROS Archive - AVHRR Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) Composites.



Crop Calendar (FAO GIEWS Country Briefs)

Country	Crop	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Angola	MAIZE												
Botswana													
Namibia													
South Africa (East)													
South Africa (West)													
Zambia													
Zimbabwe													
Angola	WHEAT												
Botswana													
Namibia													
South Africa													
Zambia													
Zimbabwe													

Legend: Sowing (Dark Green), Growing (Light Green), Harvesting (Yellow)



Data Source:

FAO GIEWS country Briefs, NOAA AVHRR Daily NDVI Data (1981 to 2006) for historic averages, MODIS MOD13C2 Version 6 NDVI Data (2000 to 2020) for graphs of present greenness index, Crop areas derived from FEWS-NET crop areas, US Agricultural Crop Zones and national sources