

# °CLIMTAG

## Climate Information Tool for Agriculture

General overview

9–11 oktober 2023



**Flanders**  
State of the Art



**entrepreneurs  
for entrepreneurs**  
*Sustainable cooperation with the South*



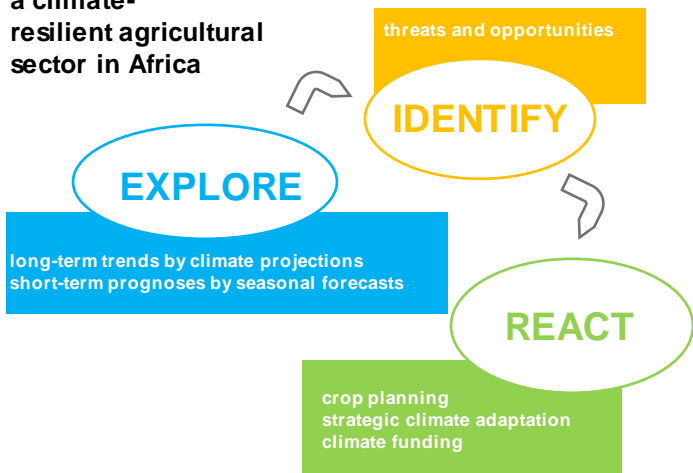
**vito.be**

# Climate Information portal for Agriculture

The CLimate InforMation porTal for



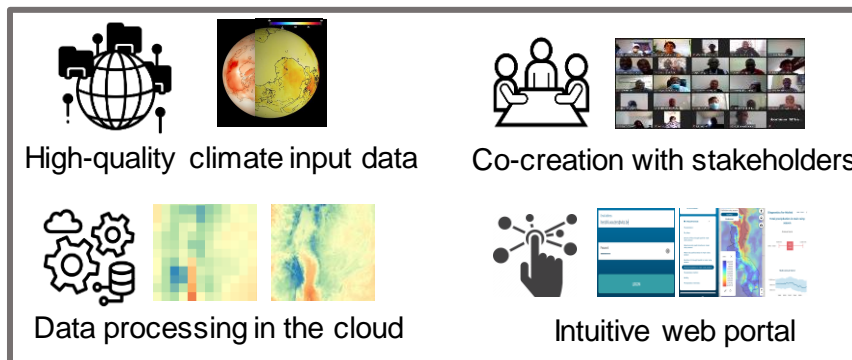
to accelerate  
a climate-  
resilient agricultural  
sector in Africa



A web portal that gives immediate access to a wealth of tailored *agro-climate information* at high resolution

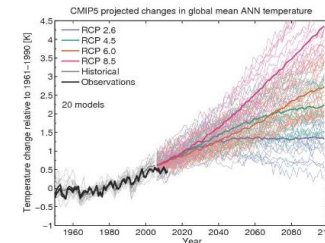
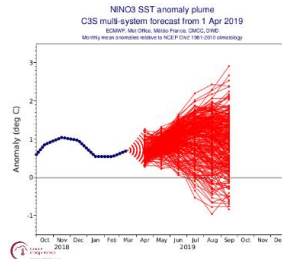
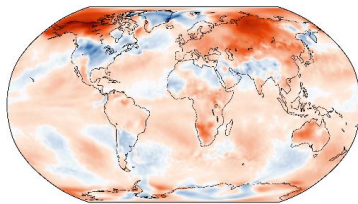


1. Agro-climate indicators
2. Seasonal forecasts
3. Crop suitability
4. Timeseries for crop modelling



# Climate and seasonal weather information for agriculture

from the past to the future



# Agro-climate indicators

For past and future

- 56 x agro-climate indicators
- 3 x climate scenarios
- 15 x climate models
- 4 x time horizons
- 24 x countries



## INTUITIVE DASHBOARD



The screenshot shows the CLIMTAG login interface. At the top, the CLIMTAG logo is displayed. Below it, the text 'Climtag' is shown with flags for the United Kingdom and France. The login form includes an 'Email address' field with the value 'demo@vito.be', a 'Password' field with masked characters and a visibility toggle, and a 'LOGIN' button. At the bottom of the form, there are links for 'Forgot password', 'Register', and 'Disclaimer'. The background of the interface is a map of Africa.

<https://climtag.marvin.vito.be/>

# MAPS, SEASONAL CYCLES, TRENDS, DETAILED DATA FOR DISTRICTS

°CLÍMTAG
Country: Ghana 🇬🇭

Timeframe: 1981 - 2010    Climate scenario: Medium - RCP 4.5

- ☰ Precipitation & Drought
- ☰ Precipitation
  - Total
  - Main rainy season
  - Second rainy season
  - Deficit
  - Intensity
- Drought spells
  - Dry days
  - Aridity
- Temperature
- Crop calendar
- Land, soil & atmosphere

### Diagnostics for Ashanti

1981 - 2010

#### Precipitation Total

Intra-seasonal climatology

#### Annual climatology

# FOUR TIME HORIZONS

CLIMTAG

CLIMATE SEASONAL

Country

Ghana



Precipitation & Drought

Precipitation

Total

Main rainy season

Second rainy season

Deficit

Intensity

Drought spells

Dry days

Aridity

Temperature

Crop calendar

Land, soil & atmosphere

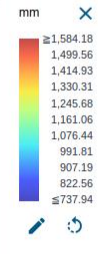
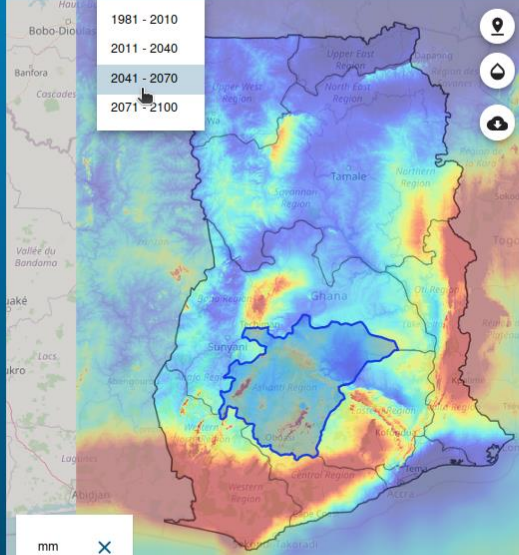
Timeframe: 2041 - 2070 Climate scenario: Medium - RCP 4.5

1981 - 2010

2011 - 2040

2041 - 2070

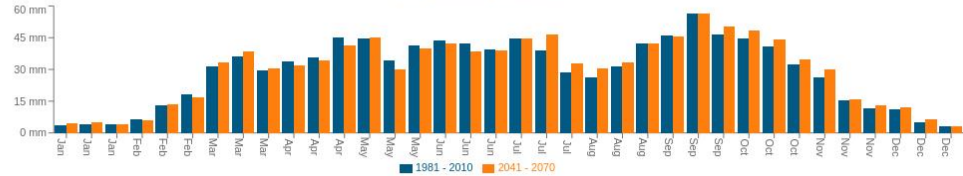
2071 - 2100



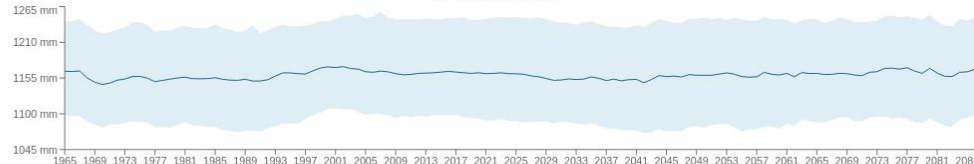
Diagnostics for Ashanti

1981-2010 vs 2041 - 2070

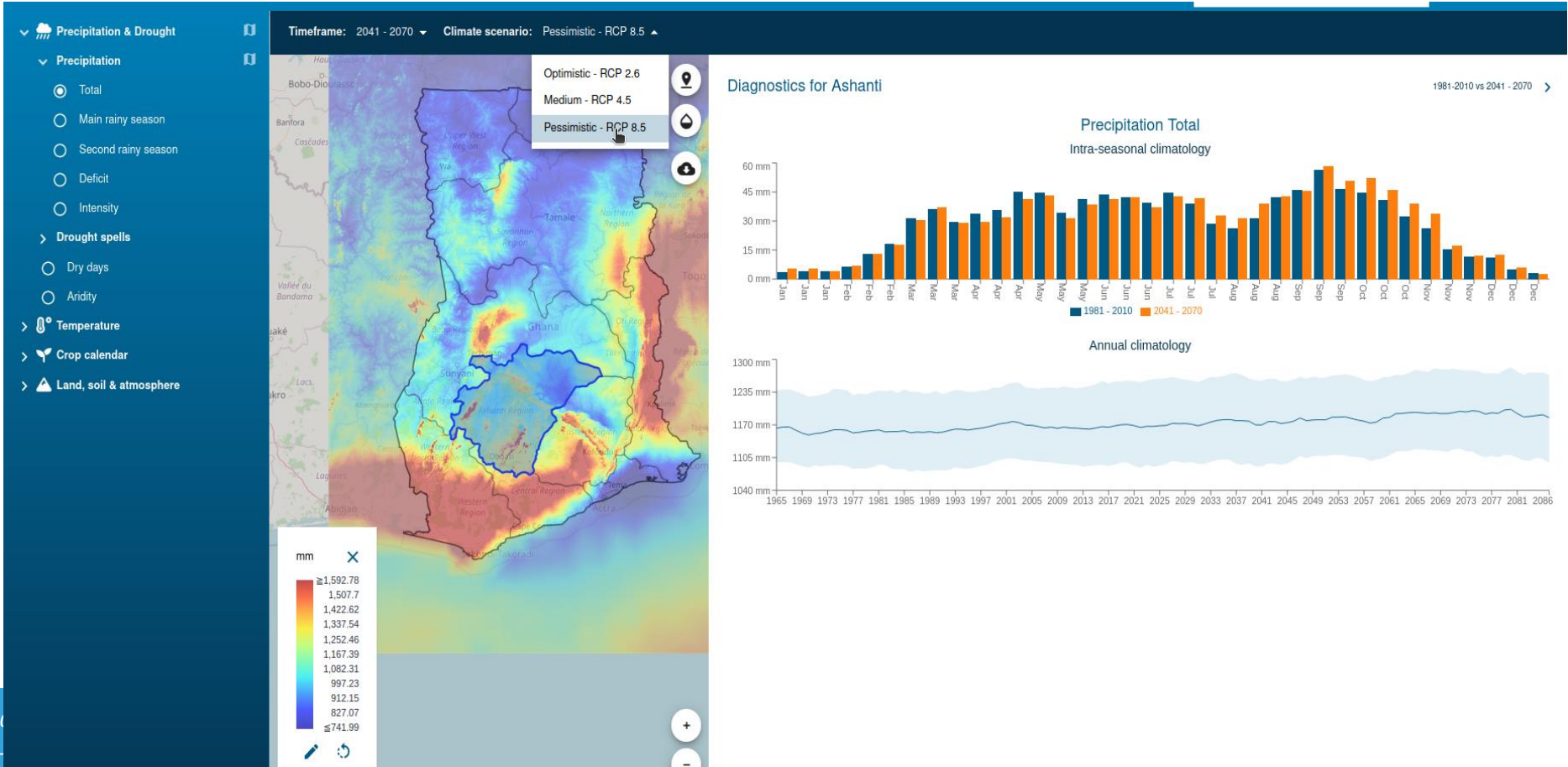
Precipitation Total  
Intra-seasonal climatology



Annual climatology



# THREE CLIMATE SCENARIOS





## 56 AGRO-CLIMATE INDICATORS IN 4 CATEGORIES

- Precipitation & Drought**
  - Precipitation**
    - Total
    - Main rainy season
    - Second rainy season
    - Deficit
    - Intensity
  - Drought spells**
    - Main rainy season**
      - Onset of first drought
      - Maximum duration
      - Mean duration
      - Number
    - Second rainy season**
  - Dry days
  - Aridity
- Temperature**
  - Mean
  - Daily maximum**
    - Mean
    - Minimum
    - Maximum
  - Daily minimum**
  - Warm spell duration**
    - Main rainy season
    - Second rainy season
  - Crop-specific growing degree days**
    - Main rainy season**
      - Dry beans
      - Soja
      - Groundnut
      - Maize, sorghum and rice
      - Sugarcane
      - Potato
      - Tef
      - Wheat
    - Second rainy season**
- Crop calendar**
  - Main rainy season**
    - Onset
    - Cessation
    - Length
  - Second rainy season**
- Land, soil & atmosphere**
  - Solar radiation**
    - Minimum
    - Mean
    - Maximum
  - Humidity**
  - Wind speed**
    - Minimum
    - Mean
    - Maximum
  - Soil moisture upper layer
  - Land cover - Copernicus
  - Reference evapotranspiration

# EG., TEMPERATURE

CLIMATE SEASONAL

Country  
Ghana

CLIMTAG

- ▼ Precipitation & Drought
  - ▼ Precipitation
    - Total
    - Main rainy season
    - Second rainy season
    - Deficit
    - Intensity
  - > Drought spells
    - Dry days
    - Aridity
- ▼ Temperature
  - Mean temperature
  - > Daily maximum
  - > Daily minimum
  - > Warm spell duration
  - > Crop-specific growing degree days
  - > Crop calendar
  - > Land, soil & atmosphere

Timeframe: 2041 - 2070    Climate scenario: Pessimistic - RCP 8.5

**Diagnostics for Ashanti** 1981-2010 vs 2041 - 2070 >

Mean of daily mean temperature  
Intra-seasonal climatology

Annual climatology

# EG., PRECIPITATION DEFICIT

CLIMTAG

CLIMATE SEASONAL

Country  
Ghana



Precipitation & Drought

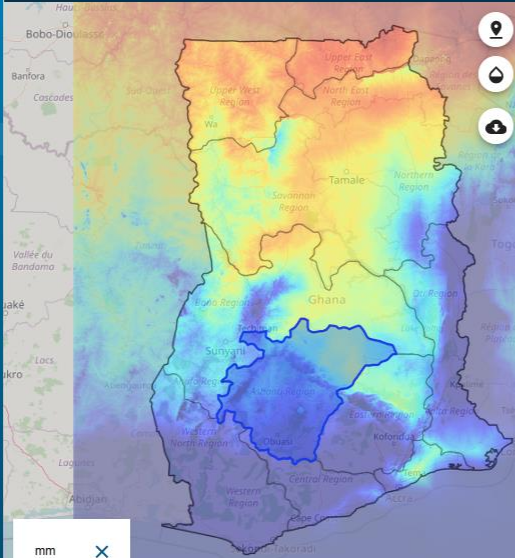
Precipitation

- Total
- Main rainy season
- Second rainy season
- Deficit
- Intensity

Temperature

- Mean temperature
- Daily maximum
- Daily minimum
- Warm spell duration
- Crop-specific growing degree days
- Crop calendar
- Land, soil & atmosphere

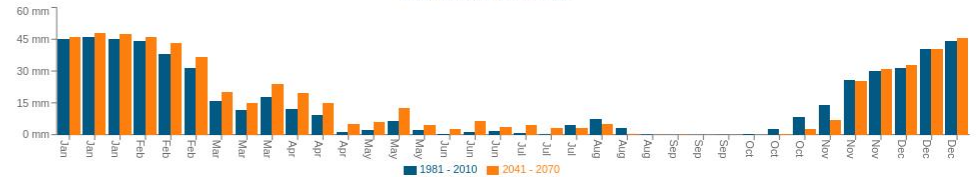
Timeframe: 2041 - 2070 Climate scenario: Pessimistic - RCP 8.5



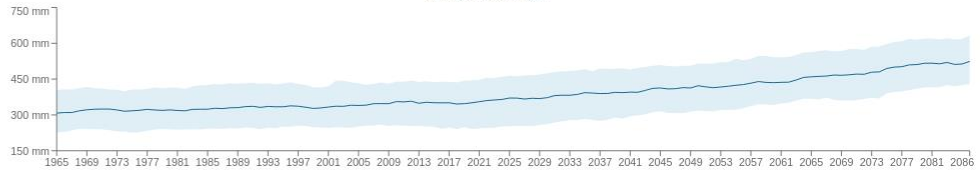
Diagnostics for Ashanti

1981-2010 vs 2041 - 2070

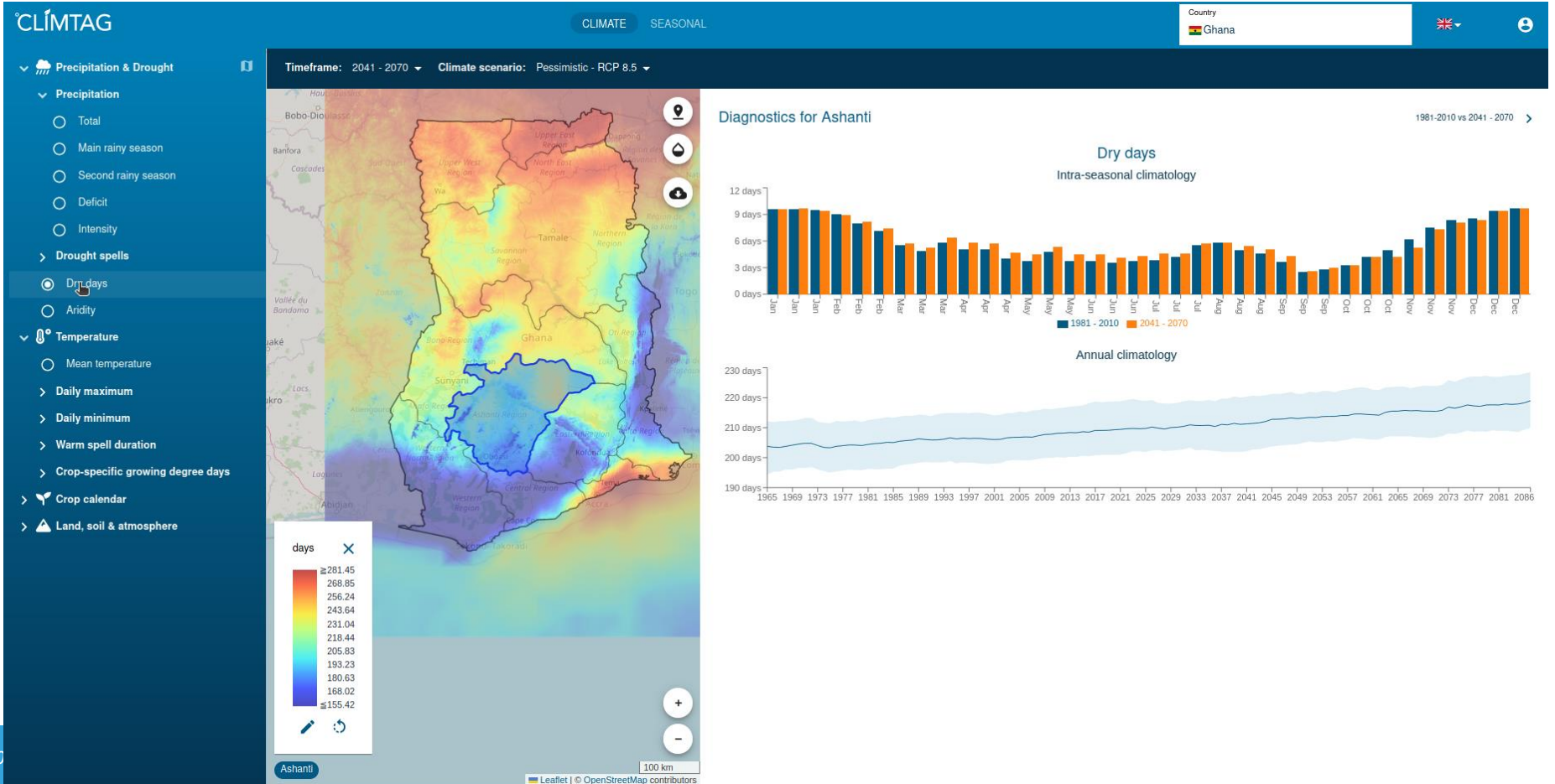
Precipitation Deficit  
Intra-seasonal climatology



Annual climatology



# EG., DRY DAYS



# Seasonal forecasts for the next 6 months

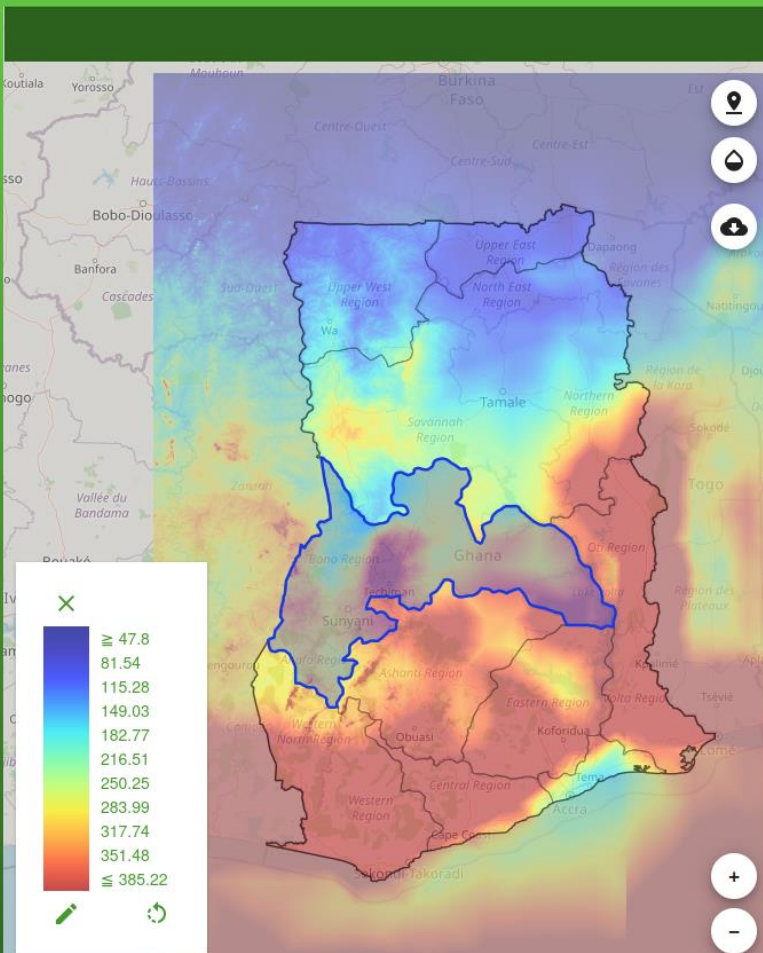
Dedicated viewer

- 3-monthly aggregated precipitation forecasts, but also 10-daily values
- probabilities for having (non-)anomalous precipitation by means of a 'tercile summary'
- Seasonal forecasts are available from the start of each month, for the next 6 months
- Overlay with historical data and climate projections for comparison

▼ Precipitation & Drought

▼ Precipitation

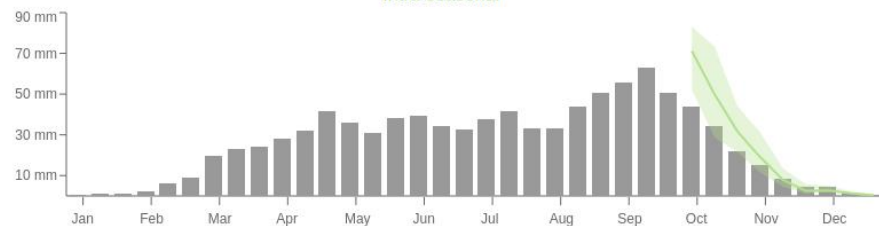
- July August September
- October November December



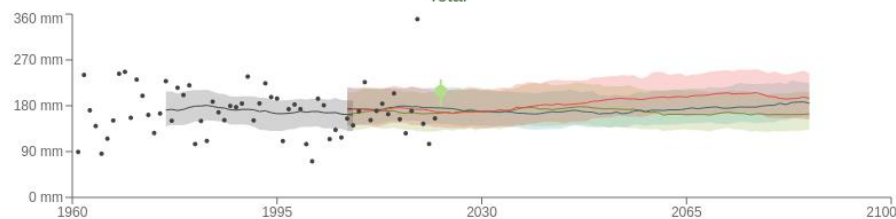
Diagnostics for Brong Ahafo seasonal weather forecast versus past climate reconstruction and future climate scenarios

Precipitation October November December

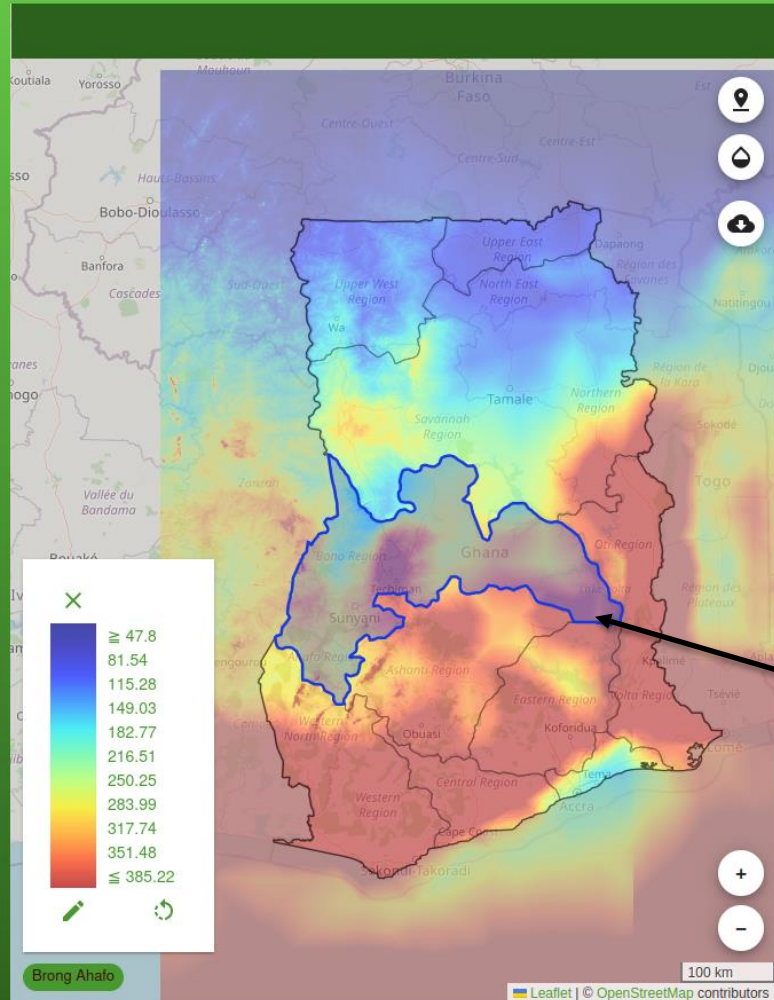
Intra-seasonal



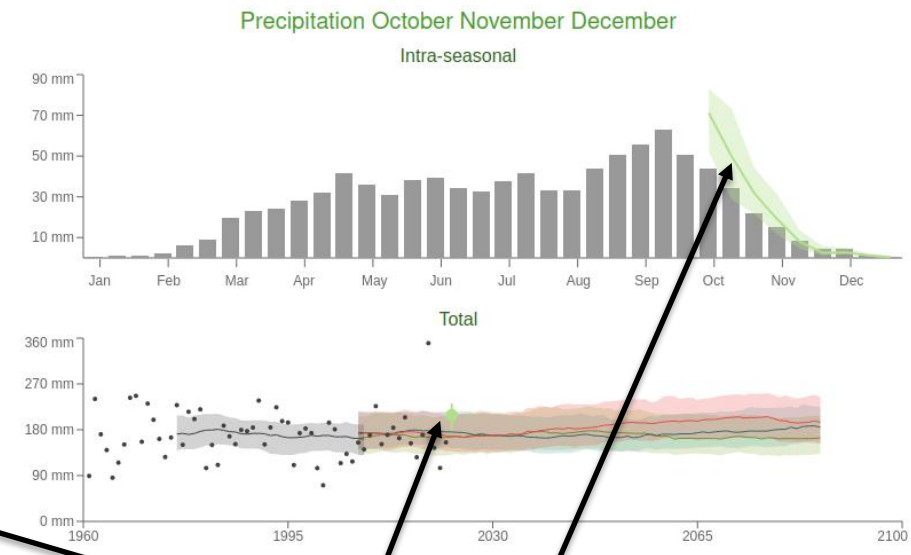
Total



- ▼ Precipitation & Drought
- ▼ Precipitation
  - July August September
  - October November December



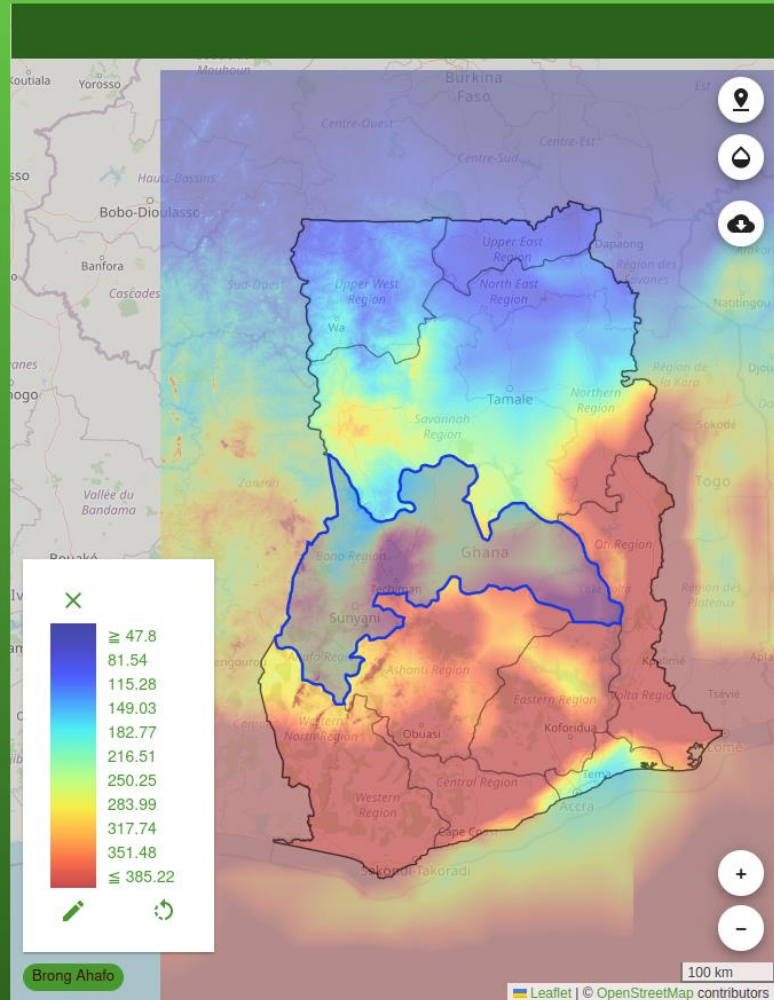
Diagnostics for Brong Ahafo seasonal weather forecast versus past climate reconstruction and future climate scenarios



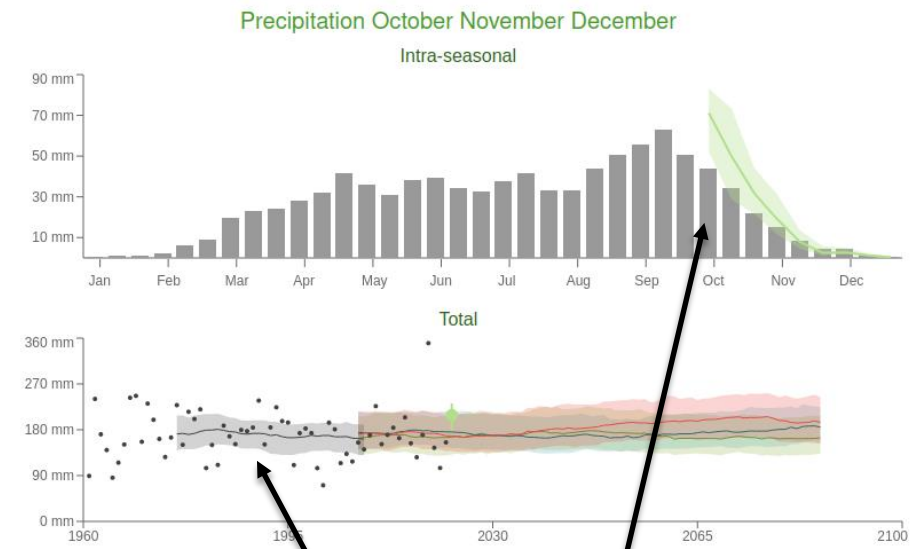
3-monthly and 10-daily seasonal forecast

- very likely drier than usual
- likely drier than usual
- undecided (or as usual)
- very likely wetter than usual
- likely wetter than usual

- ▼ Precipitation & Drought
- ▼ Precipitation
  - July August September
  - October November December



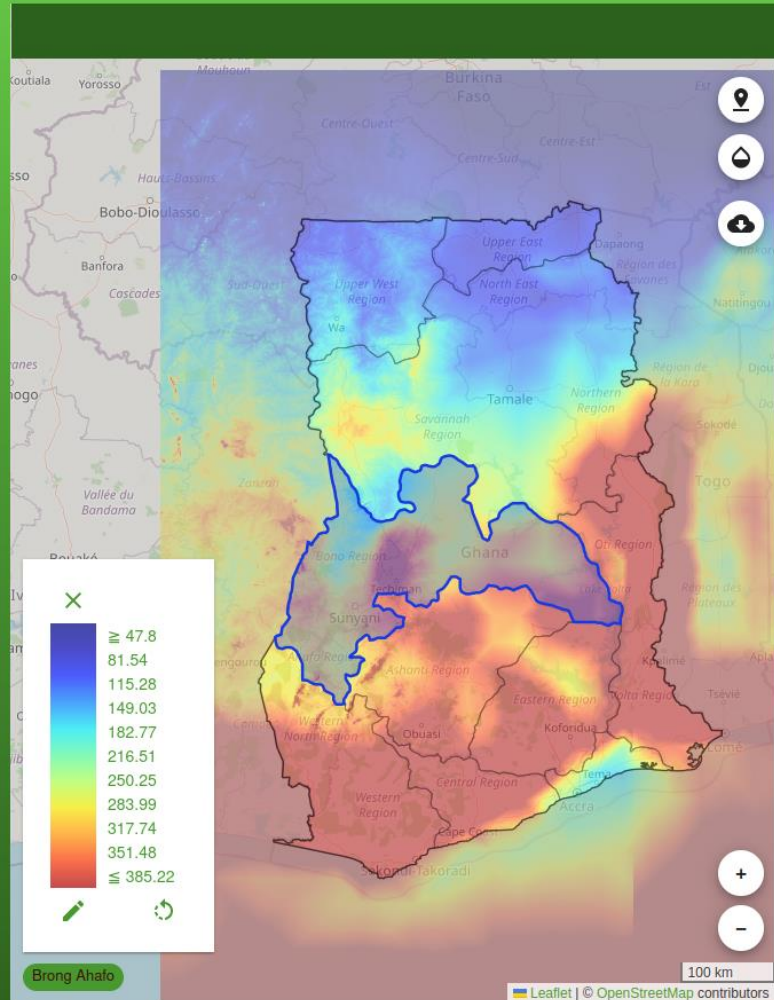
Diagnostics for Brong Ahafo seasonal weather forecast versus past climate reconstruction and future climate scenarios



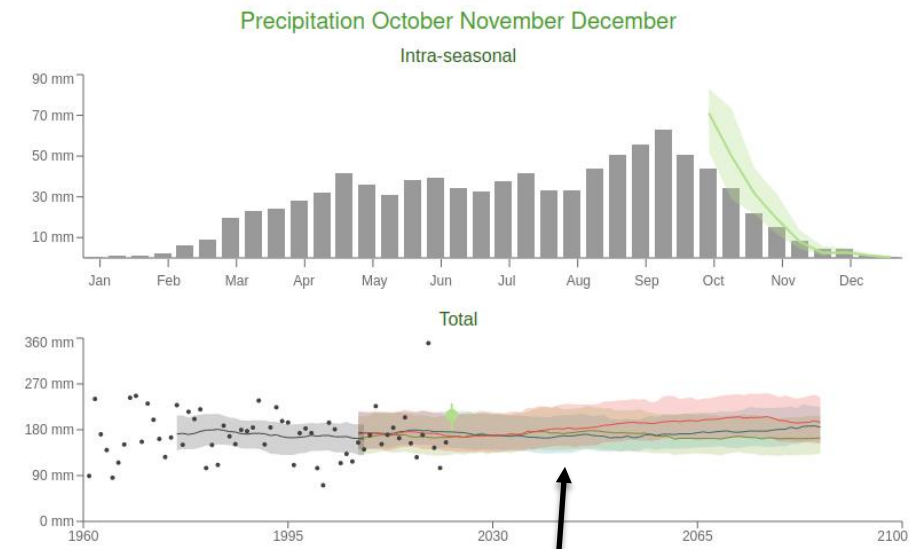
... versus 3-monthly reconstruction for post years (dots), median values (line) and interquartile range (shaded area), and average 10-daily values (bars)



- ▼ Precipitation & Drought
- ▼ Precipitation
  - July August September
  - October November December

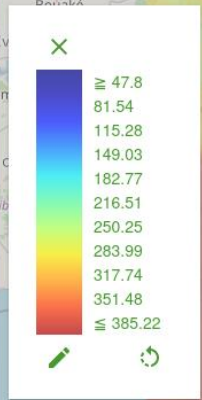
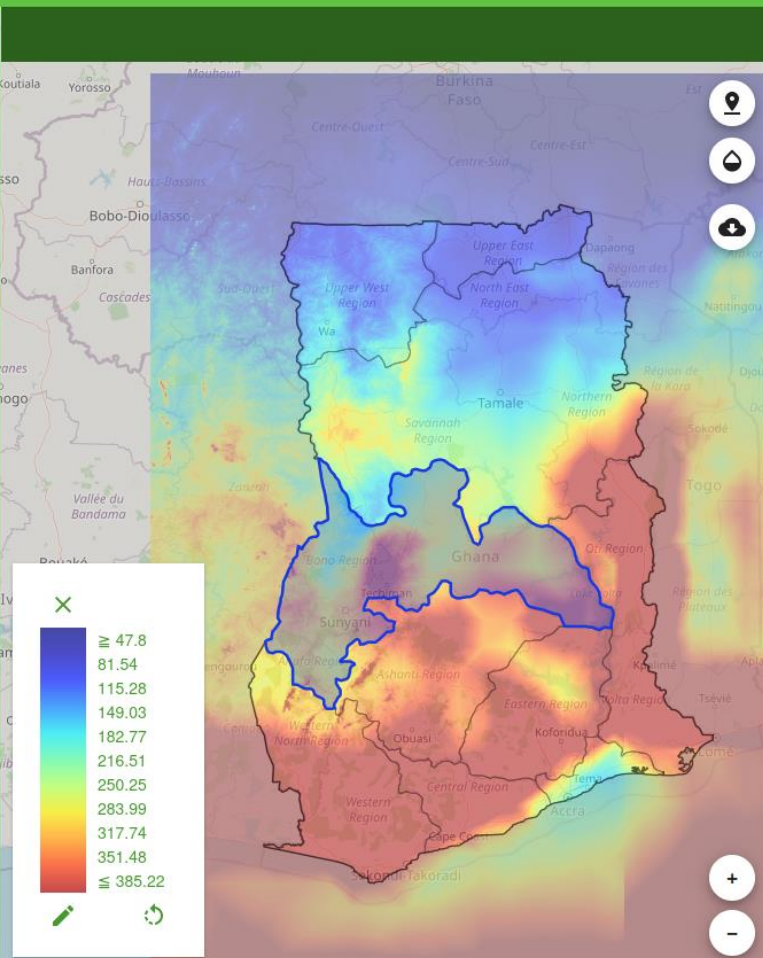


Diagnostics for Brong Ahafo seasonal weather forecast versus past climate reconstruction and future climate scenarios



... versus 3-monthly future climate scenarios for rcp2.6 (green), rcp4.5 (blue), rcp8.5 (red)

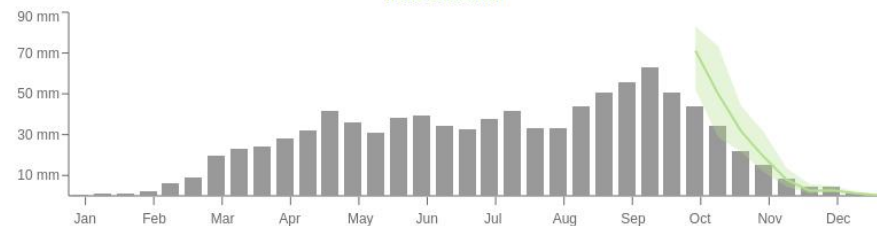
- ▼ Precipitation & Drought
- ▼ Precipitation
  - July August September
  - October November December



Diagnostics for Brong Ahafo seasonal weather forecast versus past climate reconstruction and future climate scenarios

Precipitation October November December

Intra-seasonal



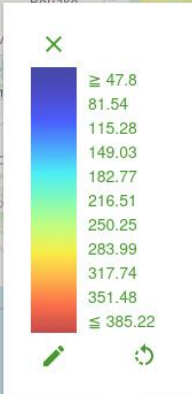
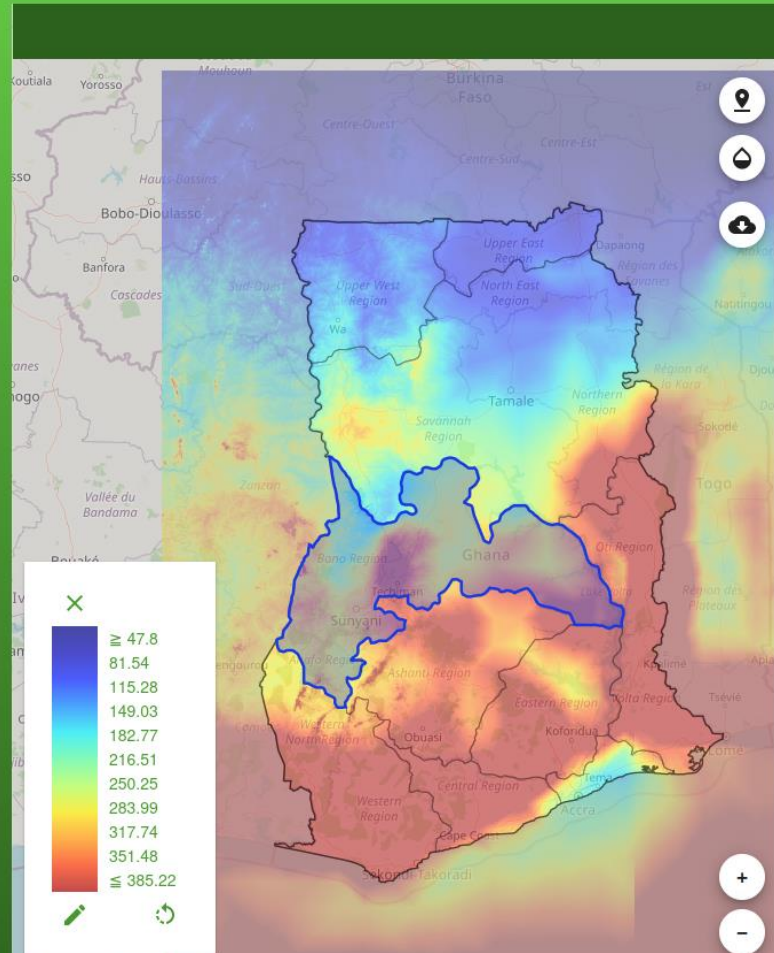
Total



▼ Precipitation & Drought

▼ Precipitation

- July August September
- October November December



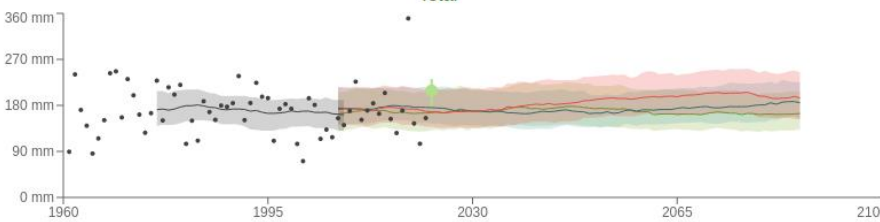
Diagnostics for Brong Ahafo

Precipitation

Intra-seasonal



Total



Brong Ahafo

100 km

# Crop suitability indicators

- Based on the agro-climate indicators of CLIMTAG

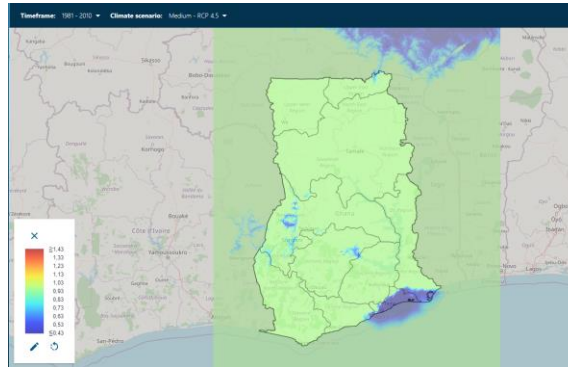
# Crop Suitability Index

Preview in CLIMTAG

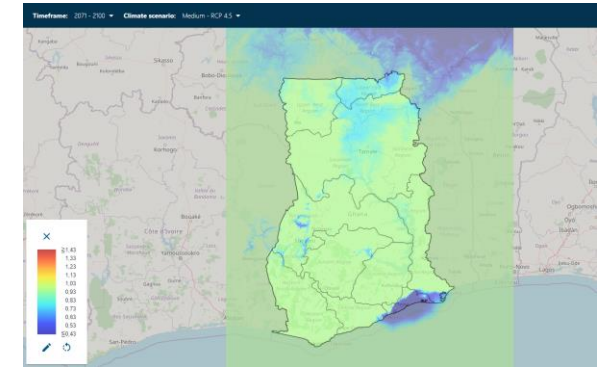
Maize suitability in Ghana

Crop Suitability index

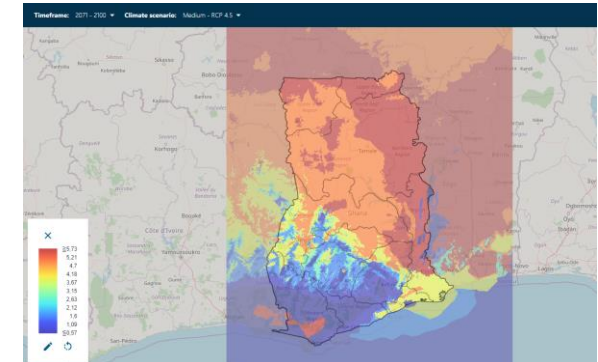
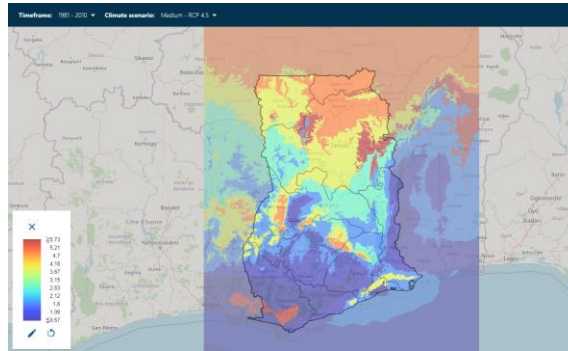
1981 - 2010



2071 - 2100

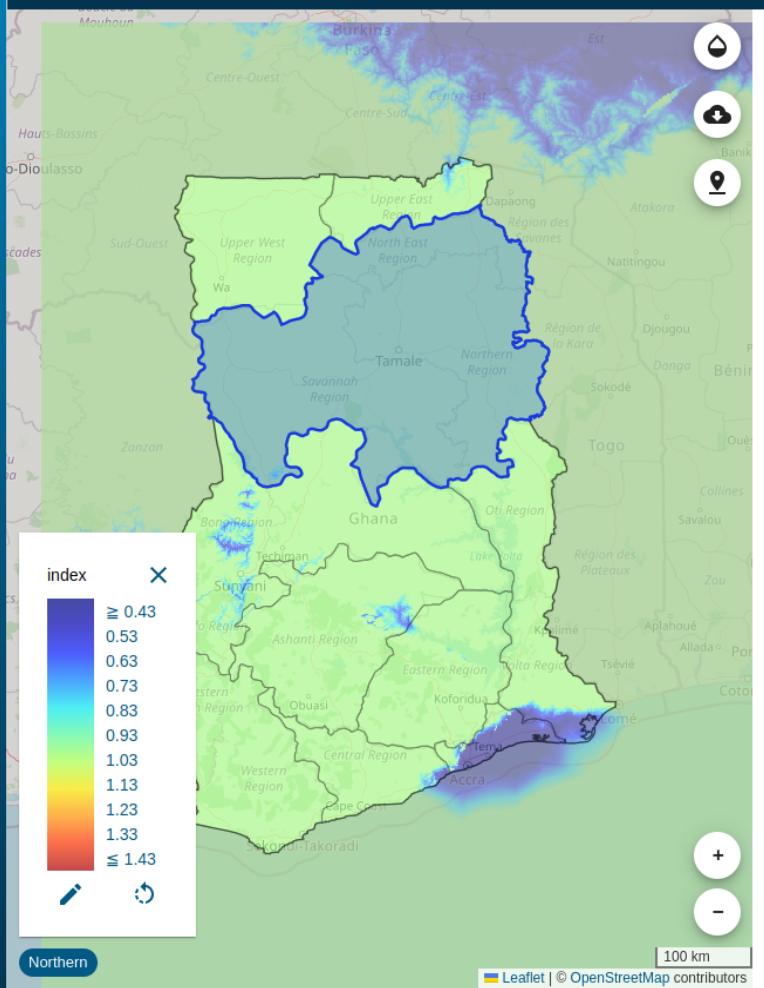


Best starting month of cropping season



- > Atmospheric Indicators
- ✓ Crop indicators
  - > Growing degree days (GDD)
  - > Crop calendar
  - ✓ Crop suitability
    - Crop suitability index (CSI)
    - Growing period maximum (CSI)
    - Suitability change
    - Temperature suitability
    - Precipitation suitability

Timeframe: 1981 - 2010 Climate scenario: Medium - RCP 4.5

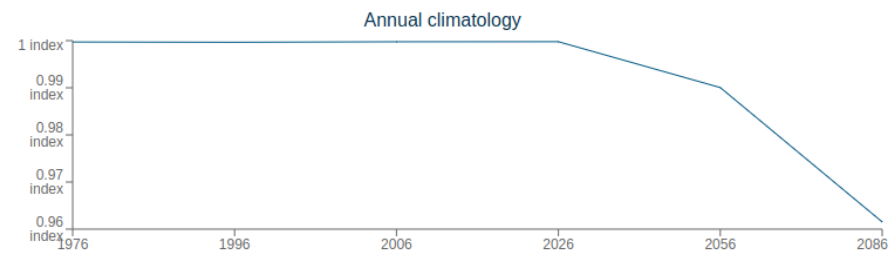


### Diagnostics for Northern

1981 - 2010 >

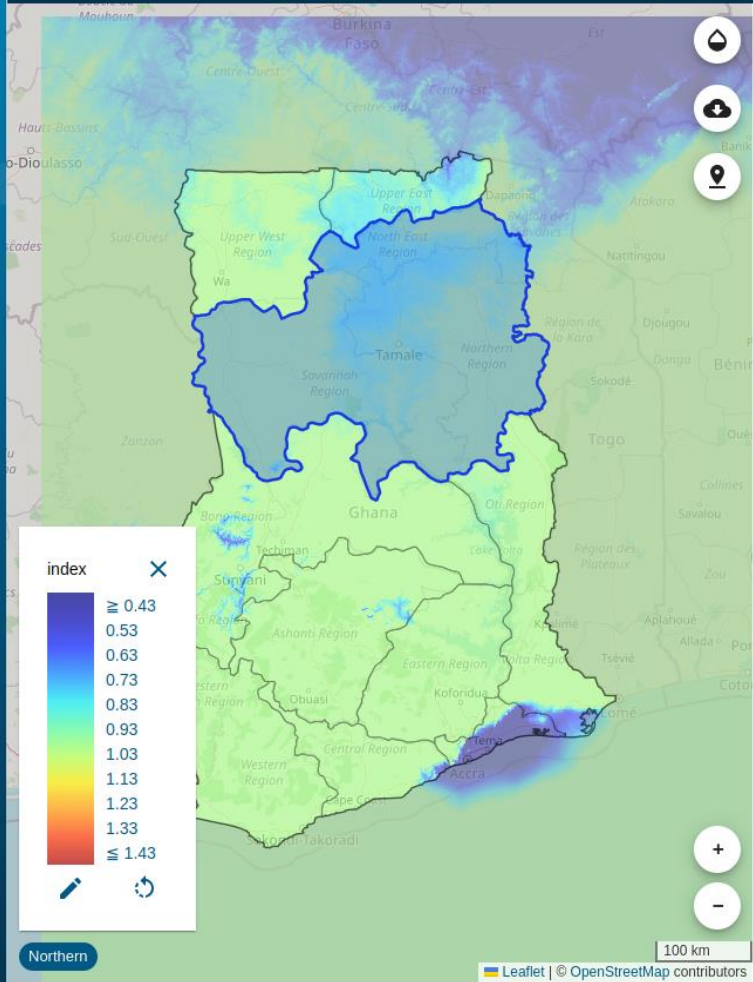
Crop suitability Crop suitability index (CSI)

1981 - 2010 **1 index**



- > Atmospheric Indicators
- > Crop indicators
  - > Growing degree days (GDD)
  - > Crop calendar
  - > Crop suitability
    - Crop suitability index (CSI)
    - Growing period maximum (CSI)
    - Suitability change
    - Temperature suitability
    - Precipitation suitability

Timeframe: 2071 - 2100 Climate scenario: Medium - RCP 4.5



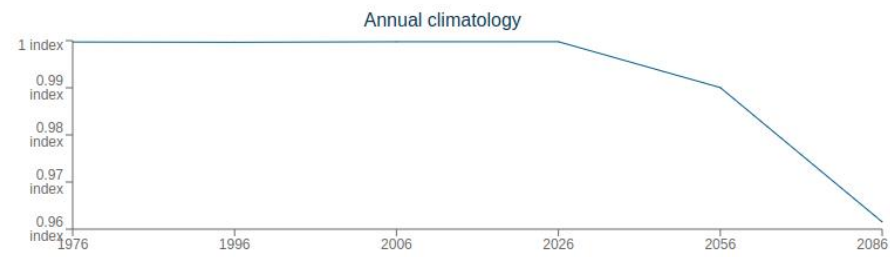
### Diagnostics for Northern

1981-2010 vs 2071 - 2100

#### Crop suitability Crop suitability index (CSI)

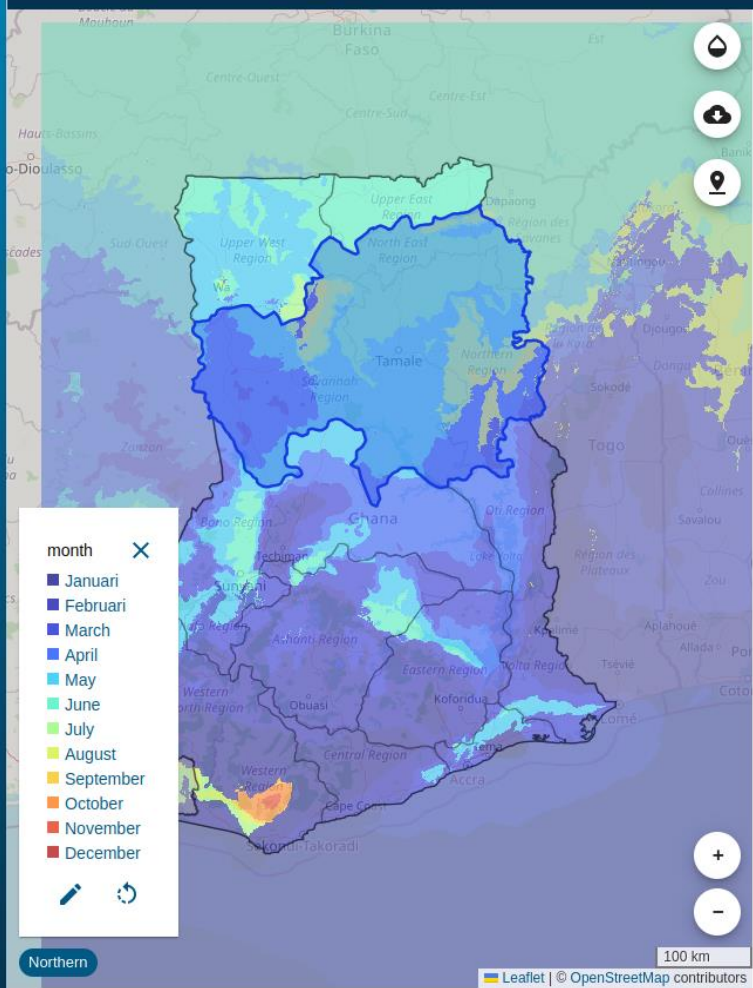
1981 - 2010 **1 index**

2071 - 2100 **1 index**



- > Atmospheric Indicators
- ✓ Crop indicators
  - > Growing degree days (GDD)
  - > Crop calendar
  - ✓ Crop suitability
    - Crop suitability index (CSI)
    - Growing period maximum (CSI)
    - Suitability change
    - Temperature suitability
    - Precipitation suitability

Timeframe: 1981 - 2010 Climate scenario: Medium - RCP 4.5



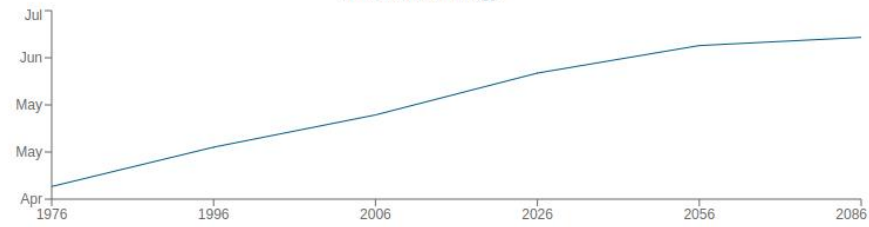
## Diagnostics for Northern

1981 - 2010 >

### Crop suitability Growing period maximum (CSI)

1981 - 2010 **4 month**

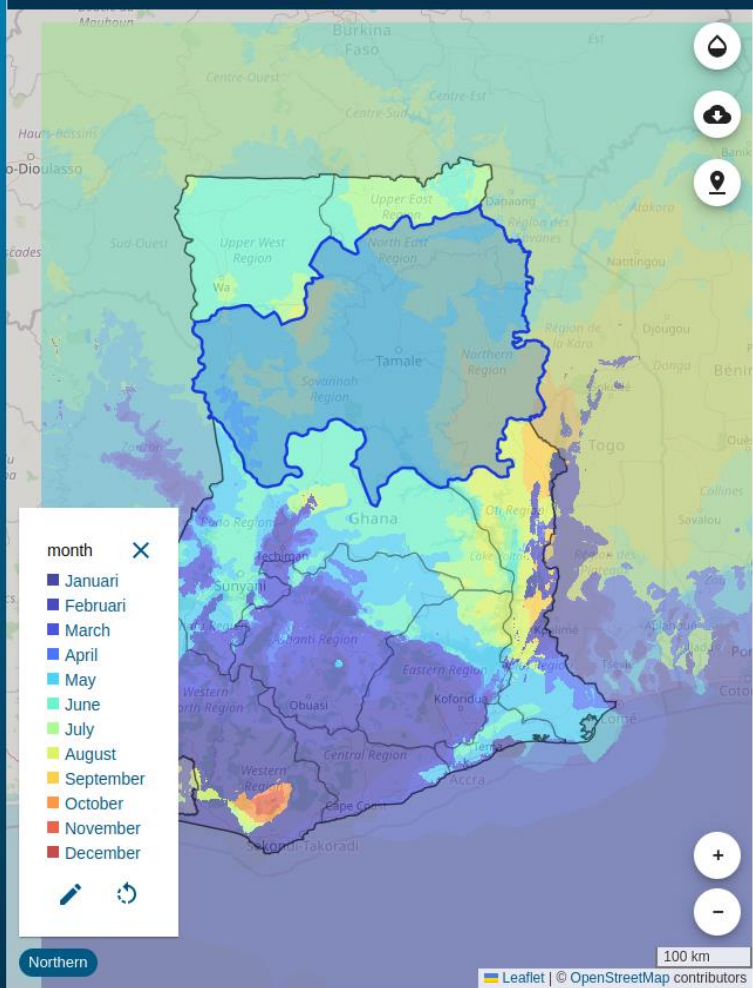
### Annual climatology





- > Atmospheric Indicators
- ✓ Crop indicators
  - > Growing degree days (GDD)
  - > Crop calendar
  - ✓ Crop suitability
    - Crop suitability index (CSI)
    - Growing period maximum (CSI)
    - Suitability change
    - Temperature suitability
    - Precipitation suitability

Timeframe: 2041 - 2070 Climate scenario: Medium - RCP 4.5



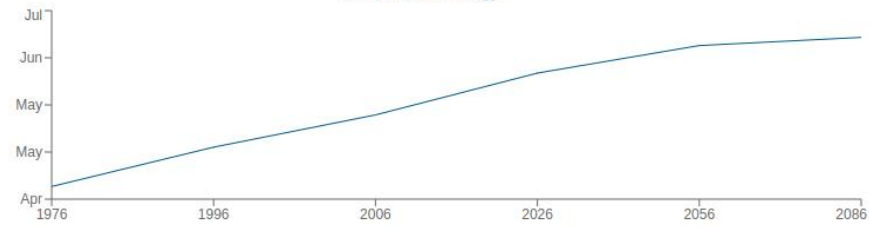
### Diagnostics for Northern

1981-2010 vs 2041 - 2070 >

#### Crop suitability Growing period maximum (CSI)

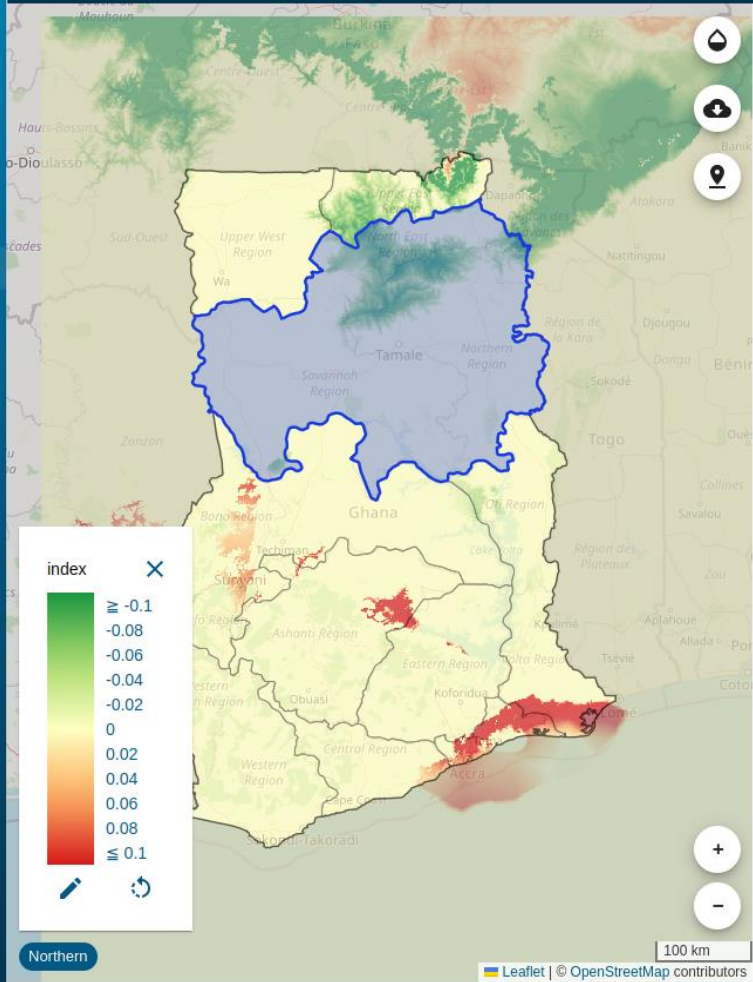
1981 - 2010 **4 month**  
2041 - 2070 **6 month**

#### Annual climatology



- > Atmospheric Indicators
- > Crop indicators
  - > Growing degree days (GDD)
  - > Crop calendar
  - > Crop suitability
    - Crop suitability index (CSI)
    - Growing period maximum (CSI)
    - Suitability change
    - Temperature suitability
    - Precipitation suitability

Timeframe: 2041 - 2070 Climate scenario: Medium - RCP 4.5



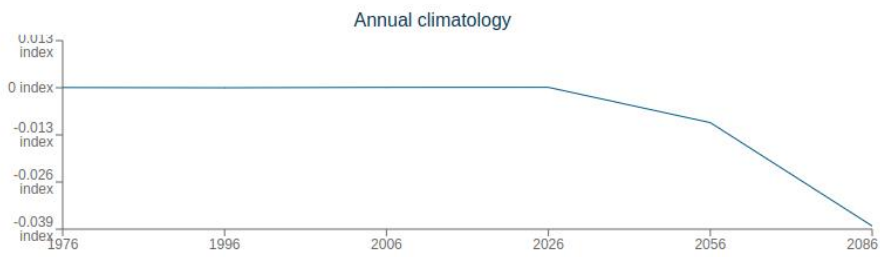
Diagnostics for Northern

1981-2010 vs 2041 - 2070

Crop suitability Suitability change

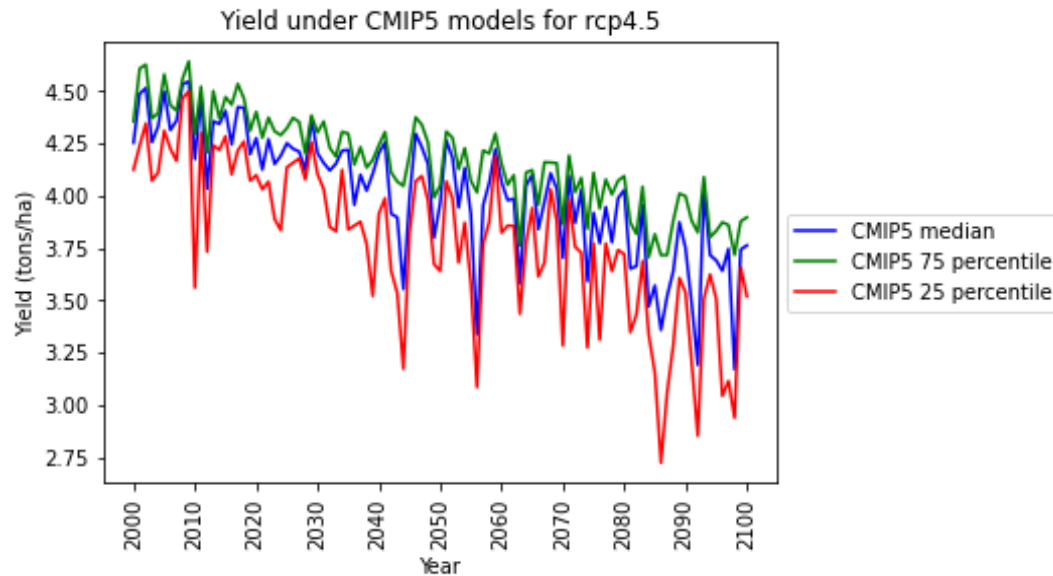
1981 - 2010 0 index

2041 - 2070 -0 index



# Crop yield modelling

- Crop yield module with AquaCrop



Jinja Uganda (0°27'05.2"N 33°11'33.5"E)

# Examples

## G-STIC StratAdapt Mali

- Capacity and expertise in crop modelling in Mali
- Access to climate information data and tools for the agri sector – CLIMTAG in Mali
- Modeling sorghum yields in current and future climate scenarios – link CLIMTAG to AquaCrop model (FAO)
- Identification of most promising climate adaptation practices and their socio-economic factors



# Perspectives

- Upscale CLIMTAG with more countries and their agricultural calendars for smallholder farmers
- Validation and integration of more local meteo data
- Integration of ACMAD products
  - seasonal outlook, weather outlook of precipitation and onset of the rainy season
- Redesign of dashboard showing the whole of Africa with ability to zoom to the specific countries

# °CLIMTAG

## Climate Information Tool for Agriculture

Behind the scenes: agro-climate indicators  
and seasonal forecasts

9–11 oktober 2023



**Flanders**  
State of the Art



**entrepreneurs  
for entrepreneurs**  
*Sustainable cooperation with the South*



**vito.be**

# Methods

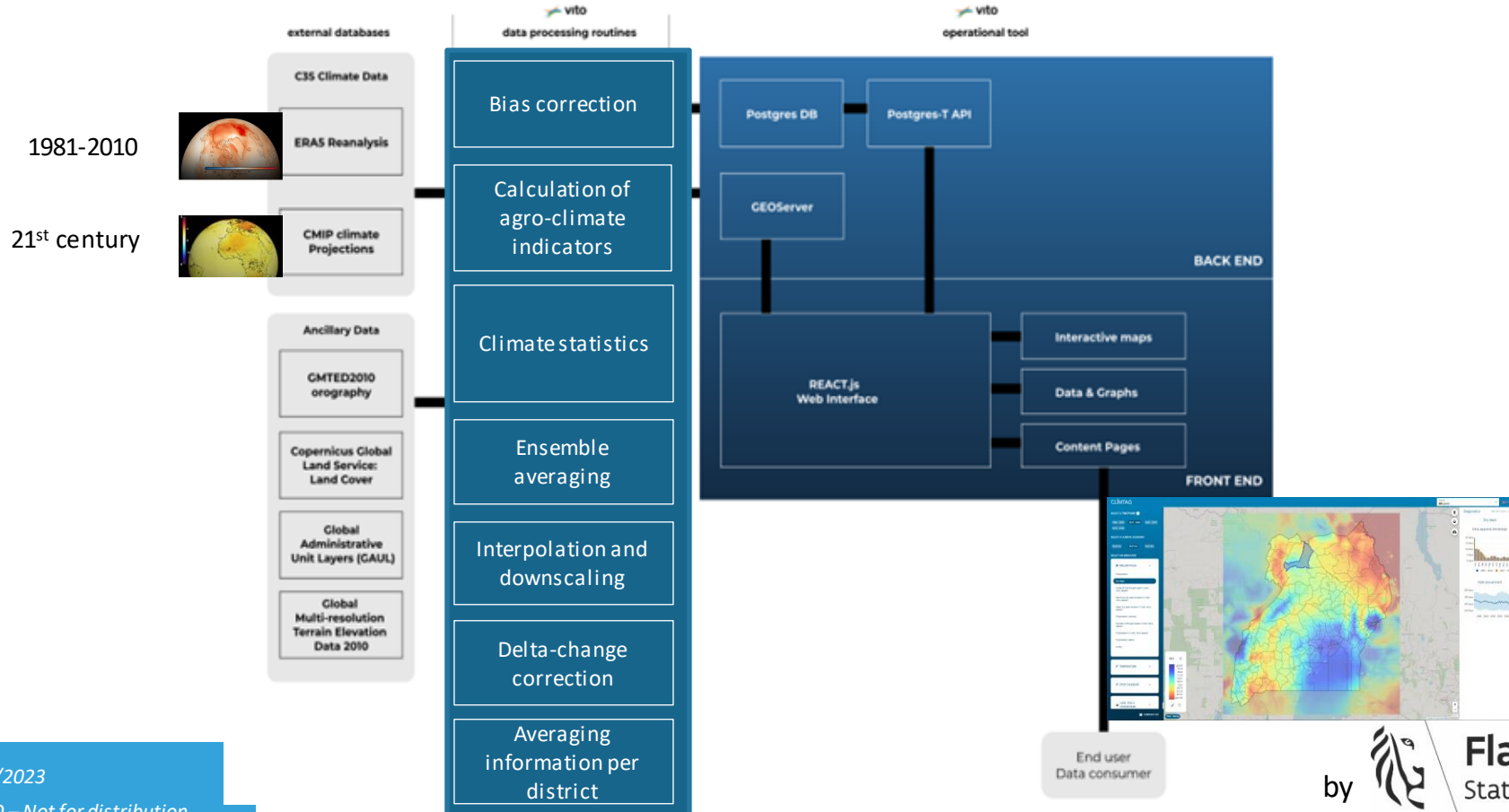
- Agro-climate indicators from reanalysis and climate projections
- Agro-seasonal weather indicators from seasonal forecasts
- Crop suitability indicators (tomorrow)

# Methods

- **Agro-climate indicators from reanalysis and climate projections**
- Agro-seasonal weather indicators from seasonal forecasts
- Crop suitability indicators (tomorrow)



# DATA PROCESSING AND VIZUALIZATION IN THE WEB TOOL

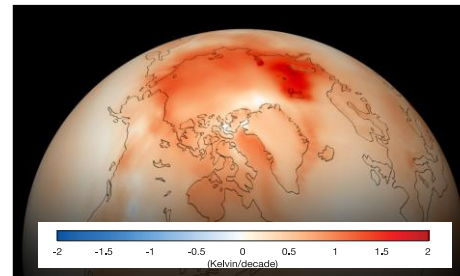


## DAILY INPUT DATA

- Raw data
  - 2m temperature;
  - total precipitation;
  - 10m wind speed;
  - 2m specific humidity;
  - volumetric soil moisture at the upper surface layer (10 cm);
  - downward shortwave radiation;
  - surface sensible heat;
  - surface latent heat.
- Derived data (next slides)
  - Reference potential evaporation

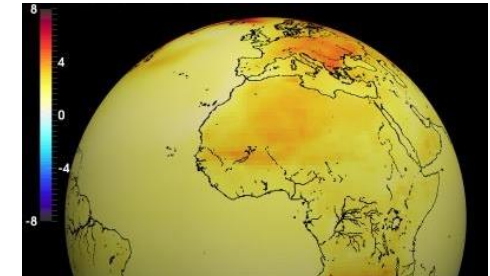
- Data from the Copernicus data store:
  - ERA5 reanalysis, a reconstruction of the historic global climate, based on ground-based observations, satellite imagery and atmospheric modelling at  $0.25^\circ \times 0.25^\circ$  resolution
  - CMIP5 projections to represent the future climate trends towards 2100, consisting of 15 climate models and 3 scenario's

### Reanalysis: recent climate (ERA5)



1979-2018

### Future climate: CMIP projections



21<sup>st</sup> century

## DAILY INPUT DATA

**Table 3.** Data description of ERA5 hourly data on single levels

Horizontal coverage	Global
Horizontal resolution	0.25° x 0.25°
Vertical resolution	Surface level
Temporal coverage	1979-present
Temporal resolution	Hourly
File format	GRIB

**Table 4.** Data description of CMIP5 daily data on single levels

Horizontal coverage	Global
Horizontal resolution	0.125°x0.125° to 5°x5° (depending on the model)
Vertical resolution	Surface level
Temporal coverage	1850-2100
Temporal resolution	Daily
File format	GRIB

Model	Origin	Atmospheric grid	
		Lat	Lon
inmcm4	INM, Russia	1.5	2
FGOALS-g2	IAP-THU, China	2.7906	2.8125
BNU-ESM	BCC, China	2.7906	2.8125
GFDL-ESM2G	NOAA, USA	2.0225	2.5
GFDL-ESM2M	NOAA, USA	2.0225	2.5
IPSL-CM5A-LR	IPSL, France	1.2676	2.5
IPSL-CM5A-MR	IPSL, France	1.2676	2.5
IPSL-CM5B-LR	IPSL, France	1.2676	2.5
NorESM1-M	NCC, Norway	1.8947	2.5
MPI-ESM-LR	MPI, Germany	1.87246	1.875
MPI-ESM-MR	MPI, Germany	1.87246	1.875
CSIRO-Mk3-6-0	CSIRO, Australia	1.87246	1.875
GFDL-CM3	NOAA, USA	2	2.5

## DAILY REFERENCE POTENTIAL EVAPORATION

- **'Potential evaporation'**: a measure of **atmospheric water demand** that, combined with soil drought conditions, can put **crops and agriculture** activity under **water stress**
- **'Reference'**: considering a **reference hypothetical grass patch free from water stress**
  - > so **only depending on the atmospheric condition** (temperature, air humidity, radiation, pressure, and wind) **and available surface energy (net radiation – heat flux into the ground)**
  - > **Independent of the surface condition including** crop type or agricultural activity (at least when neglecting additional atmospheric feedbacks)
  - > **Different from the actual evaporation**, which also depends on the land-cover type (soil properties, crop type, vegetation, urbanization...) and conditions (soil moisture, soil temperature)
- In combination with precipitation and soil type/drought parameters, this parameter **can be used to select suitable crop types** for cultivation, cfr. precipitation deficit, aridity and soil moisture indicators



## DAILY REFERENCE POTENTIAL EVAPORATION

### Combination of 2 methods:

- Air humidity and available surface energy are not available on a daily basis for many climate models, so we start from the temperature-only definition by Hargreaves ( $E_{p, H}$ )
- They are still available on a monthly basis so we perform a correction to incorporate their effect on the long-term trend using the definition of Penmann-Monteith ( $E_{p, PM}$ )
- We combine the two definitions as follows:

$$E_{p, i} = E_{p, H, i} \times \sum_{j=i-15}^{i+15} E_{p, PM, j} / \sum_{j=i-15}^{i+15} E_{p, H, j}$$

with  $i$  and  $j$  a particular day in time

### Daily values according to Hargreaves ( $E_{p, H}$ )

$$E_{p, H} = 0.0022 * R_A * \delta T^{0.5} * (T + 17.8) \quad (15)$$

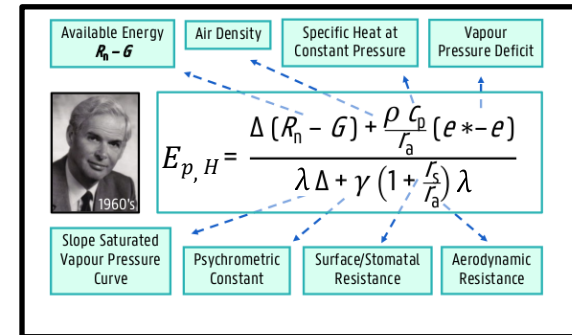
where:

$R_A$  = mean extra-terrestrial radiation [mm/day], which is a function of the latitude  $f$ , (equation 8)

$\delta T$  = temperature difference = mean monthly maximum temperature - mean monthly minimum temperature for the month of interest [°C].

$T$  = mean air temperature [°C].

### Monthly values according to Penmann-Monteith ( $E_{p, PM}$ )



# BIAS CORRECTION

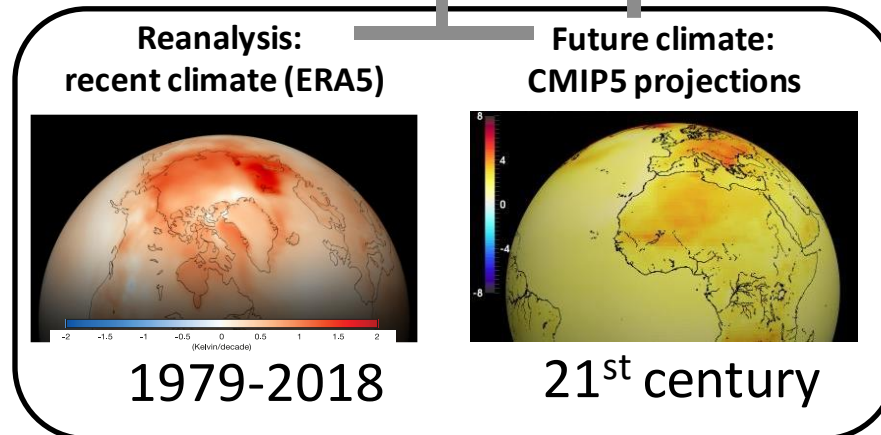
- Monthly and daily raw data of CMIP5 is bias-corrected against ERA5 by a quantile-delta mapping of daily and monthly values (QDM; Cannon et al., 2017)
- Basic idea of QDM: subtract model bias that is associated to the percentile of the model values

$$x_{m,corr}(t) = x_m(t) - B(p(x_m(t), t))$$

$x_m(t)$ : model value for a particular time  $t$

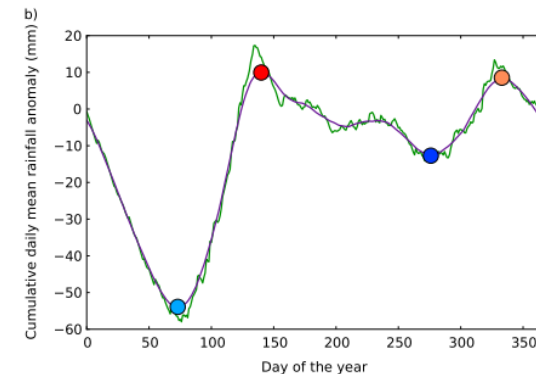
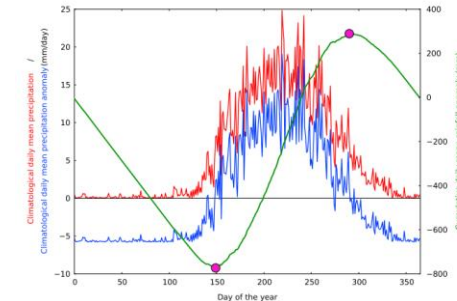
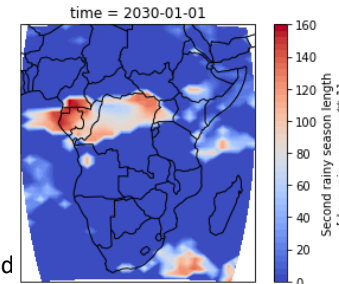
$p(x_m(t), t)$ : Percentile of the model value  $x_m(t)$  according to the time window around  $t$

$B(p(x_m(t), t))$ : Model bias associated to the percentile  $p$



## RAINY SEASON – CALCULATION WITH MULTIPLE DEFINITIONS

- **Universal** definition valid for the whole continent
- **STEP1:** identify **number** of rainy seasons (~ Dunning et al 2016: Fourier transformation)
- **STEP2:** identify search **window** (~ Dunning et al 2016: harmonic analysis)
- **STEP3: apply onset criteria** in the search window
  - ACMAD: 50 mm cumulative rainfall (ACMAD's reference)
  - Dunning et al., 2016: rainfall amount rel. to annual average (universal and peer-reviewed)
  - Ati et al., 2002: rainfall and ETo criteria (intuitive and known)
  - Sivakumar et al., 1988: first 3-day period with a cumulative precipitation of at least 20 mm and no dry spell longer than 7 days within 30 days following the determined onset.
- **Cessation:** last day of first 20-day period without rainfall



## POST-PROCESSING OF THE MODEL ENSEMBLE OF INDICATORS

- Climate statistics:
  - median and inter-quartile spread of the indicators for a 30-year moving window
- Ensemble averaging:
  - Averages of the medians and inter-quartile values are calculated to construct the final climatological spread
  - In case of rainy season indicators, we consider only the models for which the start of the rainy season start (median over 30 years) deviates less than 3 weeks than that from the climate reconstruction of the reference period (ERA5: 1981-2010). Otherwise, we keep them out of the ensemble.



## DOWNSCALING

- Downscaling of the **historical** (ERA5) indicators (ERA5) to 1km resolution using elevation height:

$$I_{HR,hist} = I_{CR} + \alpha_{CR}(h_{HR} - h_{CR})$$

$I_{CR}$ : indicator on the coarse resolution interpolated to the 1km grid

$h_{HR}$ : elevation height at 1km resolution

$h_{CR}$ : elevation height aggregated to the coarse resolution (0.5deg) and re-interpolated to the 1km resolution.

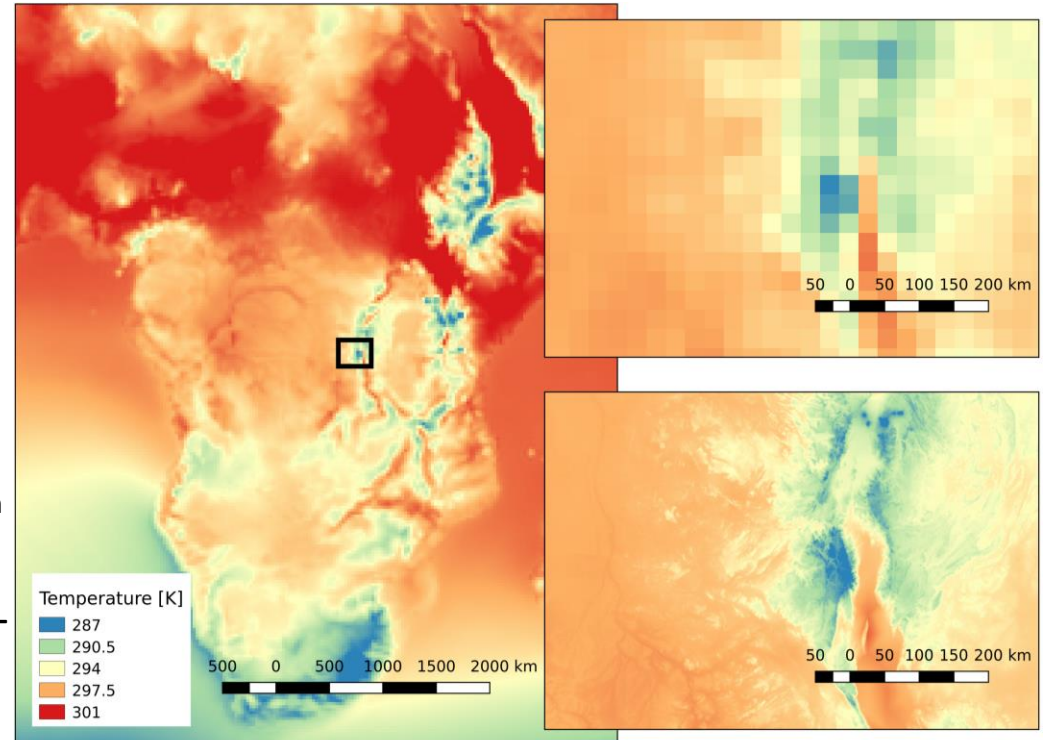
$\alpha_{CR}$ : slope of the variable derived at coarse resolution with regression for the surround 250 km x 250 km and applied on the fine resolution

- Superposition** of future change of the ensemble **coarse agro-climate indicators** on the downscaled historical indicators:

$$I_{HR}(t) = I_{HR,hist} + I_{CR,m}(t) - I_{CR,m}(t_0)$$

$I_{CR,m}(t)$ : coarse ensemble agro-climate indicator for any time t in the future

$I_{CR,m}(t)$ : coarse ensemble agro-climate indicator for any time t in the future



# Methods

- Agro-climate indicators from reanalysis and climate projections
- **Agro-seasonal weather indicators from seasonal forecasts**
- Crop suitability indicators (tomorrow)

# Methods

## Agro-seasonal weather indicators

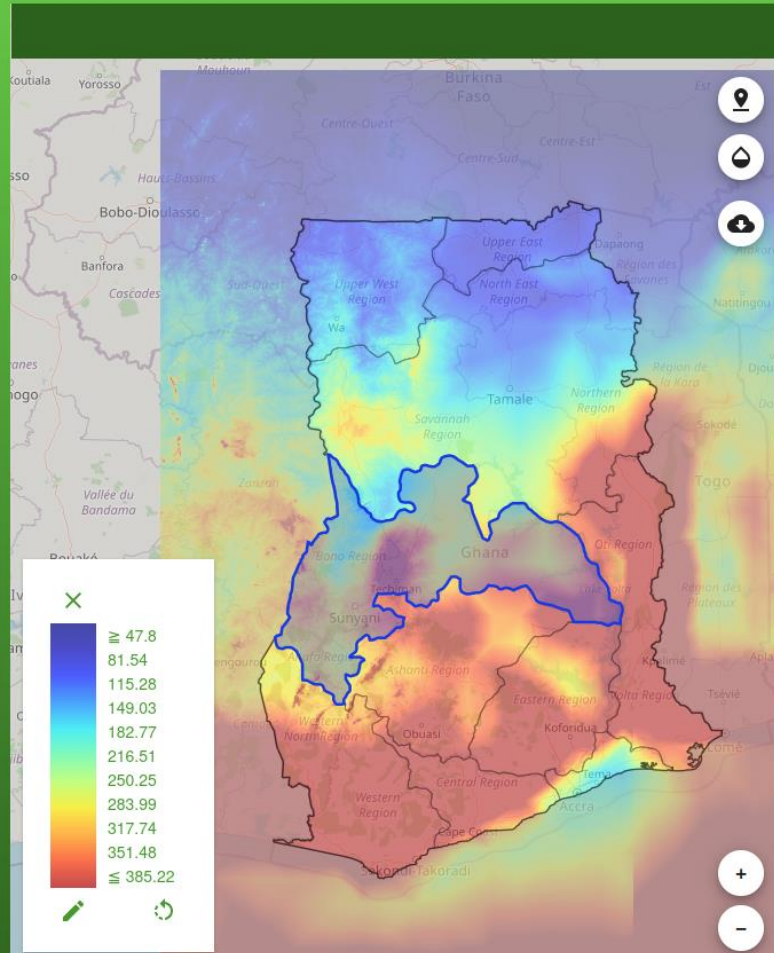
- 3-monthly precipitation statistics indicating the overall wetness or dryness of the season ahead, particularly for 1 to 3 months ahead and for 4 to 6 months ahead.
  - median and inter-quartile range of 3-monthly precipitation over the different seasonal forecast model members.
  - ‘tercile summary’ is provided, that indicates the chance of being wetter (that is, >40% of the forecast members are above second tercile value, ie., the 66.7th percentile; orange color) or drier (that is, >40% of the forecast members are below the first tercile value, ie., the 33.3th percentile; green color) than usual.
  - Median and interquartile ranges are also provided for 10-daily (decadal) precipitation to show the overall evolution of precipitation for the season ahead.

# Methods

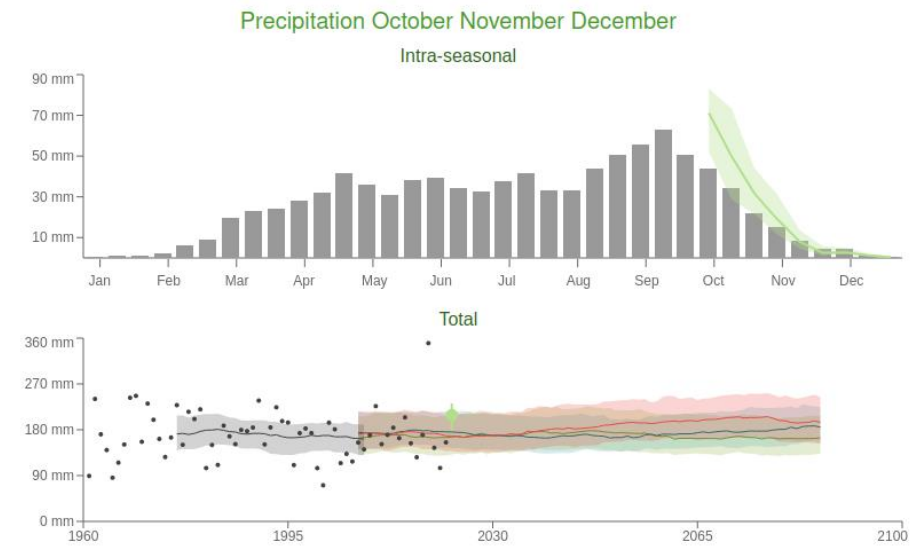
## Agro-seasonal weather indicators

- Prior to calculating the seasonal weather indicators, daily values of the seasonal forecasts are bias-corrected with the quantile-delta mapping approach similar as for the climate models. Quantile values and their associated biases are determined for a reference period 1993 until 2022. The bias is determined by the difference between the seasonal forecast and ERA5 and subtracted from the daily values of the forecasts.
  - To account for a possible intra-seasonal variation of the model bias. This is done by performing the bias correction of each month separately, in which quantile values are determined from the month before, the month itself and the month after.
  - the bias-correction accounts for a possible change in bias of the seasonal forecasts over time. For that, biases associated with the quantile values are determined separately for the months that are 0, 1, ..., 5 months ahead of the initialization of the forecast.
  - In the same way as the climate projections, the seasonal forecasts for precipitation are downscaled by overlaying a (ERA5-based) high resolution map over the seasonal forecasts interpolated to the 1km grid.
- Finally, CLIMTAG also includes the same seasonal weather indicators (ie., 3-monthly and 10-daily statistics) based on the ERA5 climate reconstruction (from 1961 until the same season of the previous year) and the future (bias-corrected) climate model scenarios (from 1950 until 2100). Thanks to the bias-correction on the seasonal forecasts, the seasonal weather indicators of the upcoming season are directly comparable, hence CLIMTAG shows at a glance how the upcoming season is similar to—or exceptional with respect to—the past climate record and future climate scenarios.

- ▼ Precipitation & Drought
- ▼ Precipitation
  - July August September
  - October November December



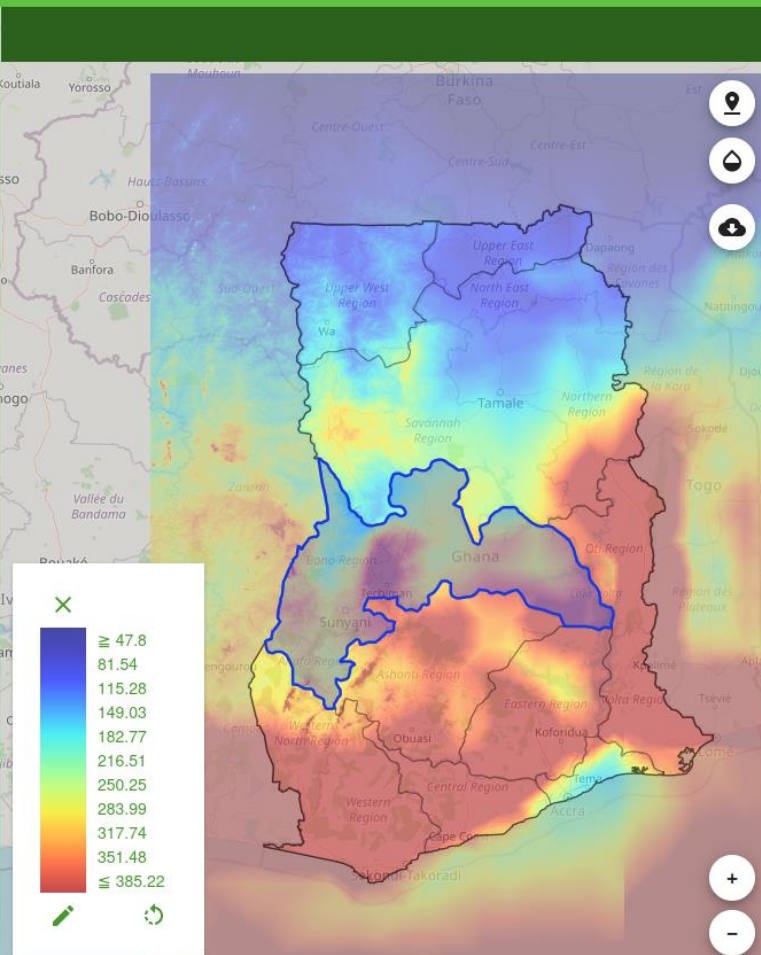
Diagnostics for Brong Ahafo seasonal weather forecast versus past climate reconstruction and future climate scenarios



Precipitation & Drought

Precipitation

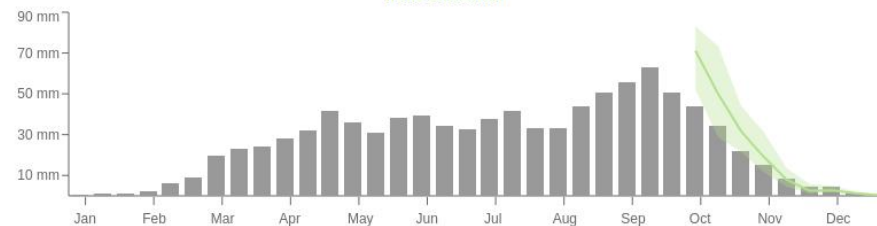
- July August September
- October November December



Diagnostics for Brong Ahafo seasonal weather forecast versus past climate reconstruction and future climate scenarios

Precipitation October November December

Intra-seasonal



Total



- 2023
- Optimistic - RCP 2.6 : 132 mm <sup>25th</sup> / 210 mm <sup>75th</sup>
- RCP 2.6 median : 166 mm
- Medium - RCP 4.5 : 145 mm <sup>25th</sup> / 217 mm <sup>75th</sup>
- RCP 4.5 median : 176 mm
- Pessimistic - RCP 8.5 : 138 mm <sup>25th</sup> / 214 mm <sup>75th</sup>
- RCP 8.5 median : 168 mm
- Predicted median : 209 mm
- Quantile predicted uncertainty Q25 : 178 mm
- Quantile predicted uncertainty Q75 : 232 mm