



LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC SEASONAL MONITOR

May 2022



World Food
Programme

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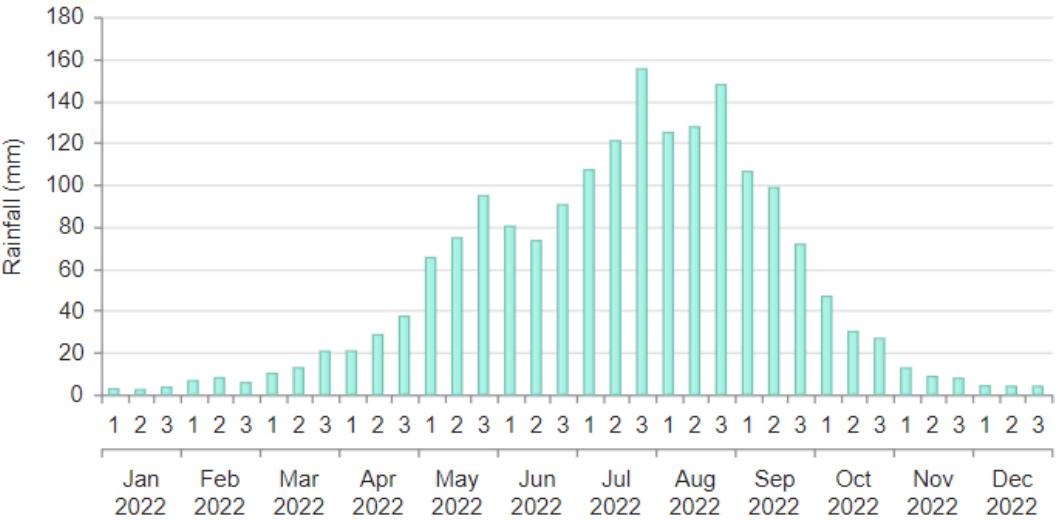
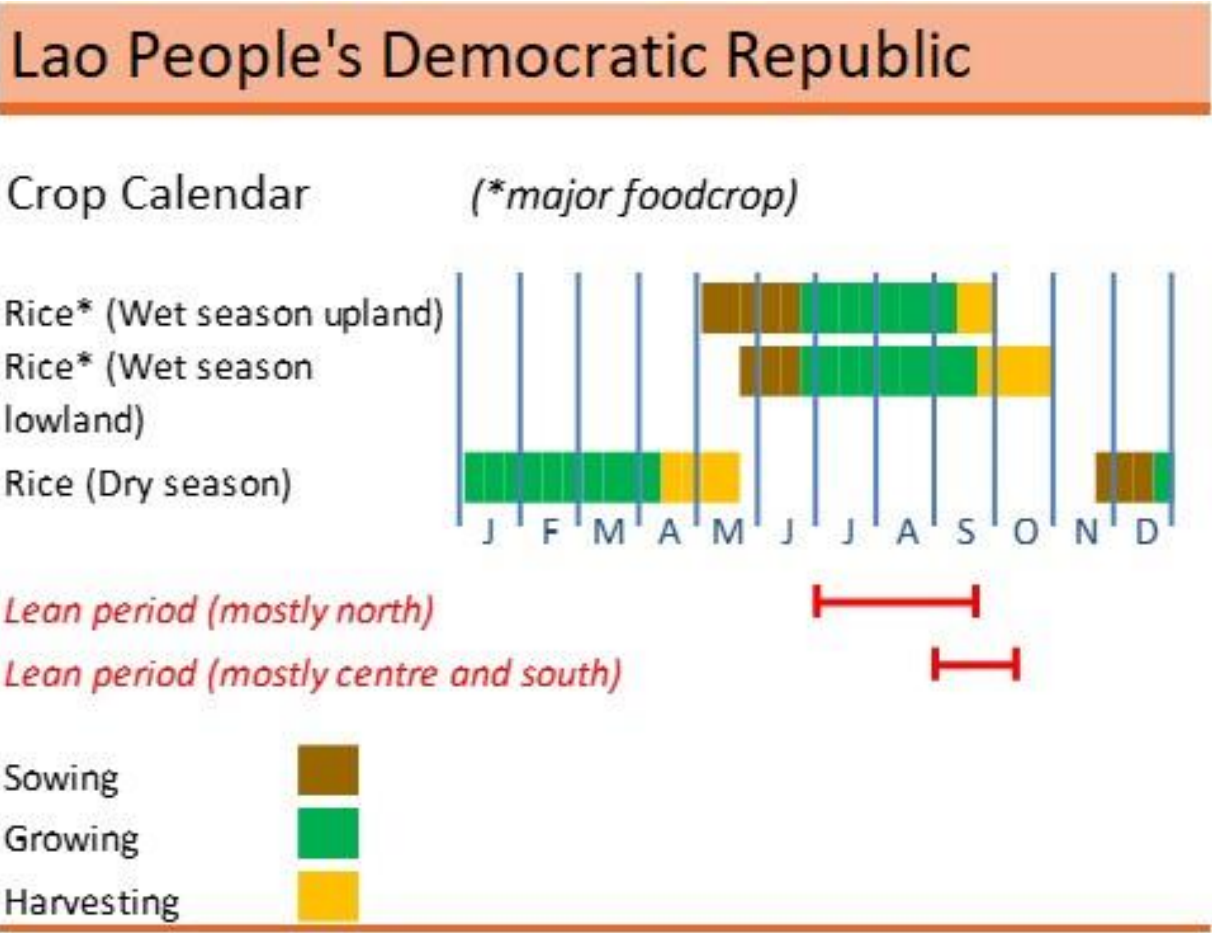
- The southern parts of the country received significantly below-average rainfall compared to the central and northern regions of the country which received above-average rainfall. However, patches of above average conditions are visible in the southern parts of the country in Attapeu province and Salavan province.
- The seasonal calendar shows that the growing season has started especially for the wet season upland (rice) and the wet season (rice).
- The short-term forecast for the month of June indicates that on average the whole country is likely to receive below-average rains, with the exceptions of the eastern parts of Xekong and Salavan provinces that are likely to receive above average rains.

Disclaimer

All content within this bulletin is based upon the most current available remote sensing data. As climate phenomena are dynamic, the current realities may differ from what is depicted in this document.

LAO PDR SEASONAL CALENDAR

Figure 1: Seasonal Calendar for Lao PDR



The rainy season in Lao PDR usually commences around April/May and ends in September/October (plot above).

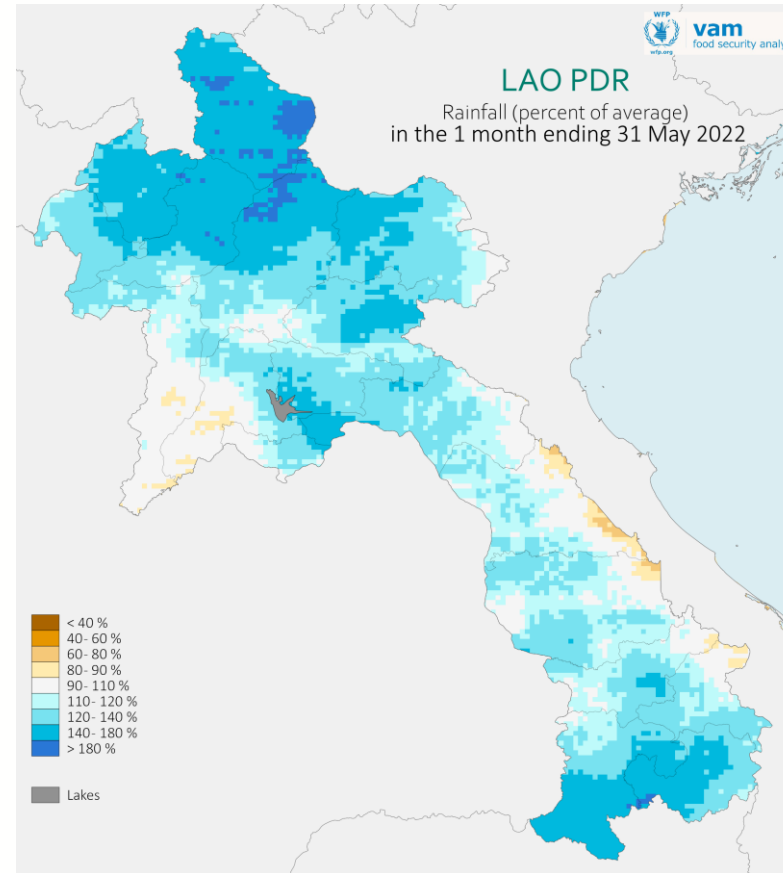
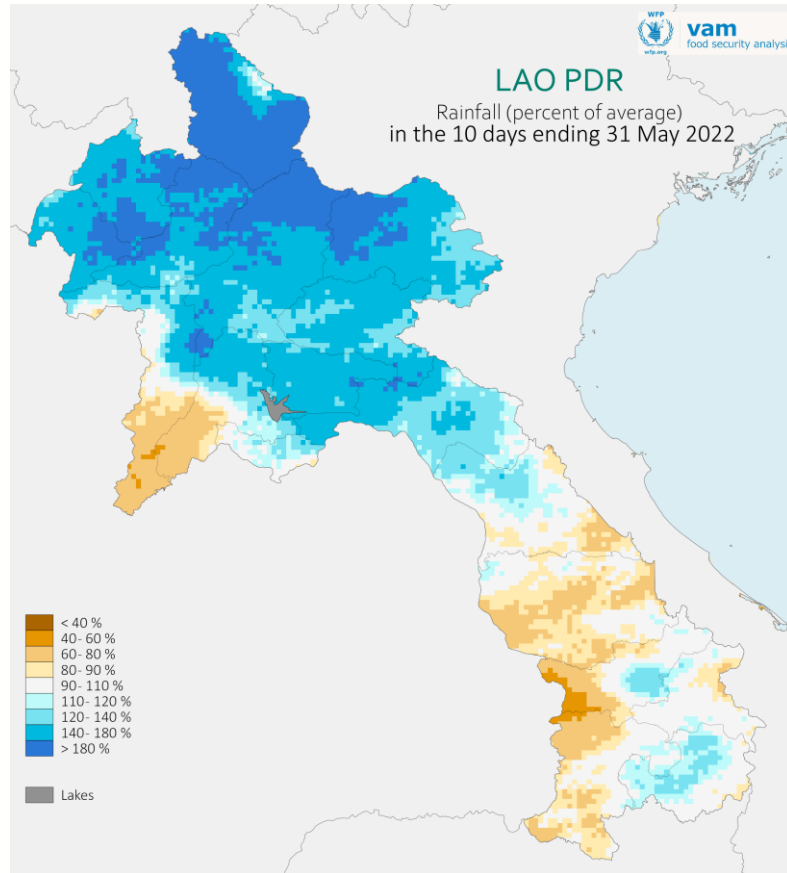
Farmers of the wet season upland rice are expected to start sowing from April until the end of June depending on the moisture content. Farmers who engage in wet season lowland rice are also expected to initiate the planting between the end of May to June (Figure 1).

Farmers who cultivate dry season crops have initiated the harvesting of the crops and are likely to complete the harvest around the end of May.

In some parts of the country, the growing of wet season rice has started under good weather conditions. This could be tied to the early season rainfall in the month of May.

Source: FAO/GIEWS, FAO/WFP CFSAM 2019.

THE SEASON SO FAR – MAY 2022



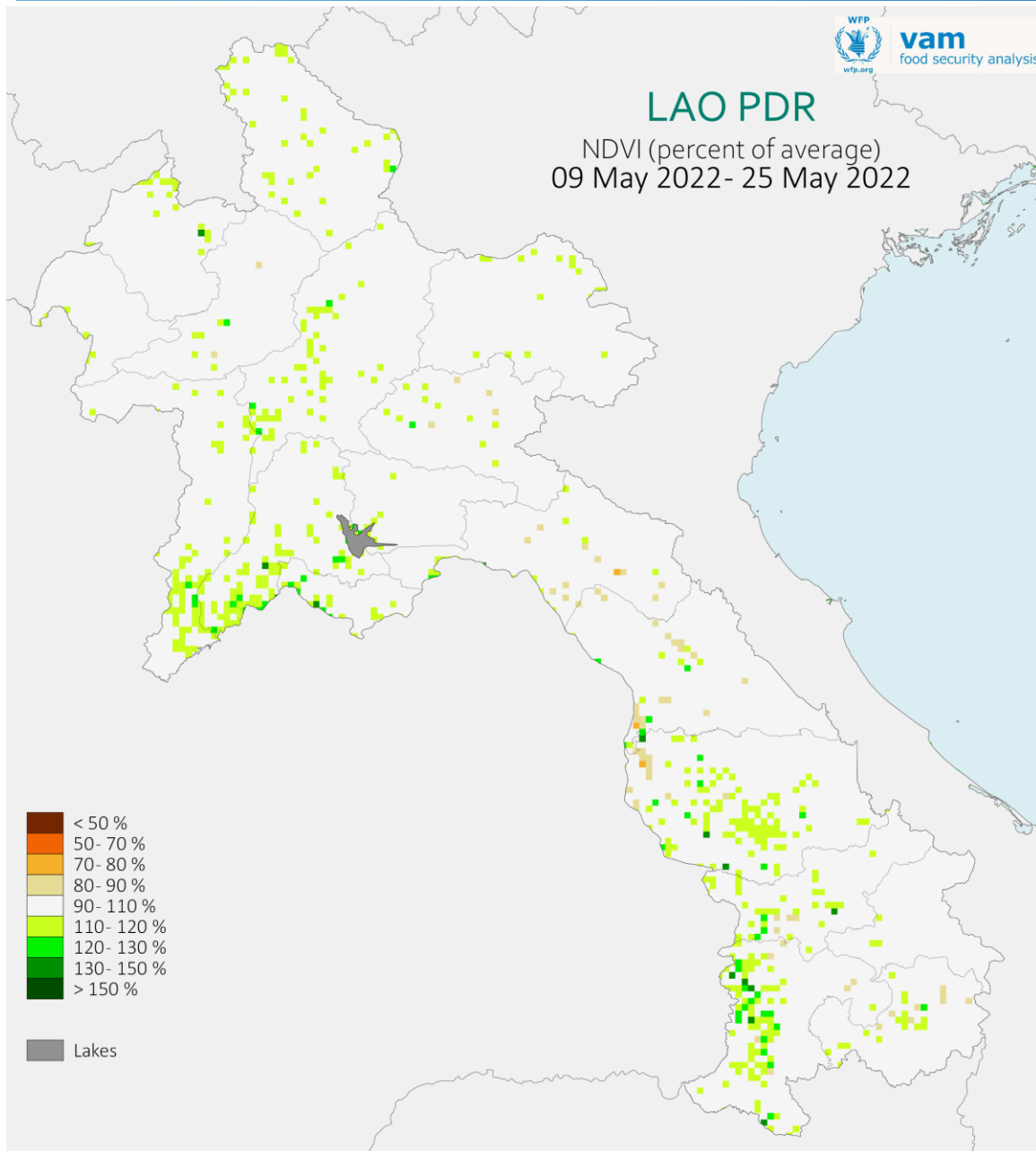
Rainfall for the period of 21–31 May (left), 1-31 May (right) as a proportion of the long-term average.

Blues for above-average conditions, oranges and browns for below-average conditions.

Clear contrast between the two extremes is still visible in the last ten days of May. The southern parts of the country received significantly below-average rainfall compared to the central and northern regions of the country which received above-average rainfall. However, patches of above average conditions are visible in the southern parts of the country in Attapeu province and Salavan province. Even though the northern region of the country reported above average wet conditions, extreme dry conditions were visible in the western parts of Vientiane and Xaignabouly provinces (map to the left).

The season is slowly improving. Compared to the month of April, in May the whole country is characterized by above average rains. Nevertheless, patches of average to below average rains are visible in the eastern parts of Khammouan, Savannakhet and Sekong. In the Northern parts the average to below average conditions are visible in the western parts of Vientiane and Xaignabouly provinces (map to the right).

NDVI-VEGETATION AND CROP CONDITION



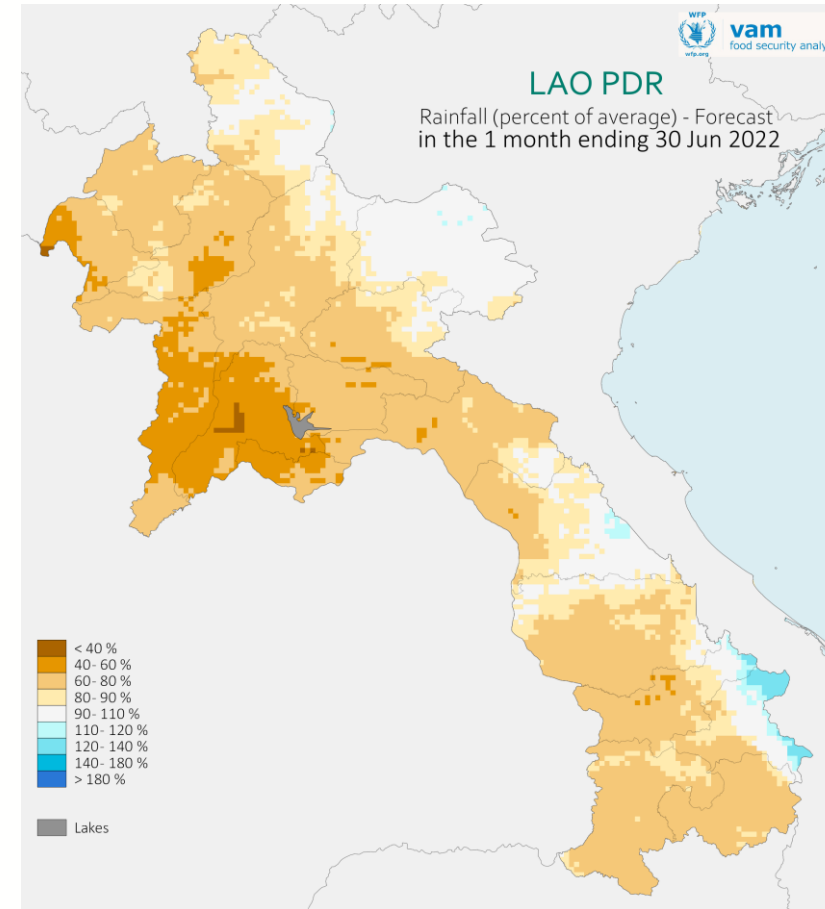
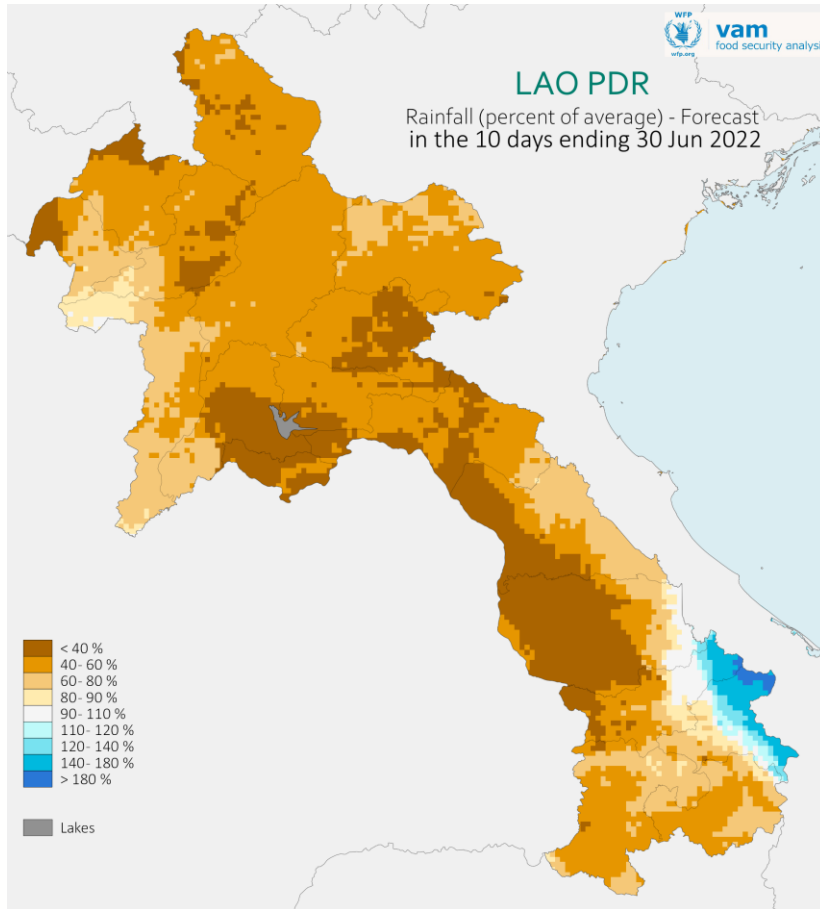
NDVI for the period of 9 May –25 May
as a proportion of the long-term
average.

Green shades for above-average
vegetation, orange shades for below-
average vegetation.

Most parts of the country have an average (90-110%) Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI). The NDVI for the month of May exhibits almost the same picture as that of the month of April.

Higher than average conditions in the NDVI are visible in some parts of the country. Even though the western parts of Vientiane and Xaignabouly provinces have been receiving average to below average rainfalls, they have above average NDVI, indicating a higher density of green vegetation.

SHORT RANGE OUTLOOK (JUNE 2022)



Rainfall in 20–30 June (left) and 1 June - 30 June (right) as a proportion of the long-term average.

Blues for above-average conditions, oranges and browns for below-average conditions.

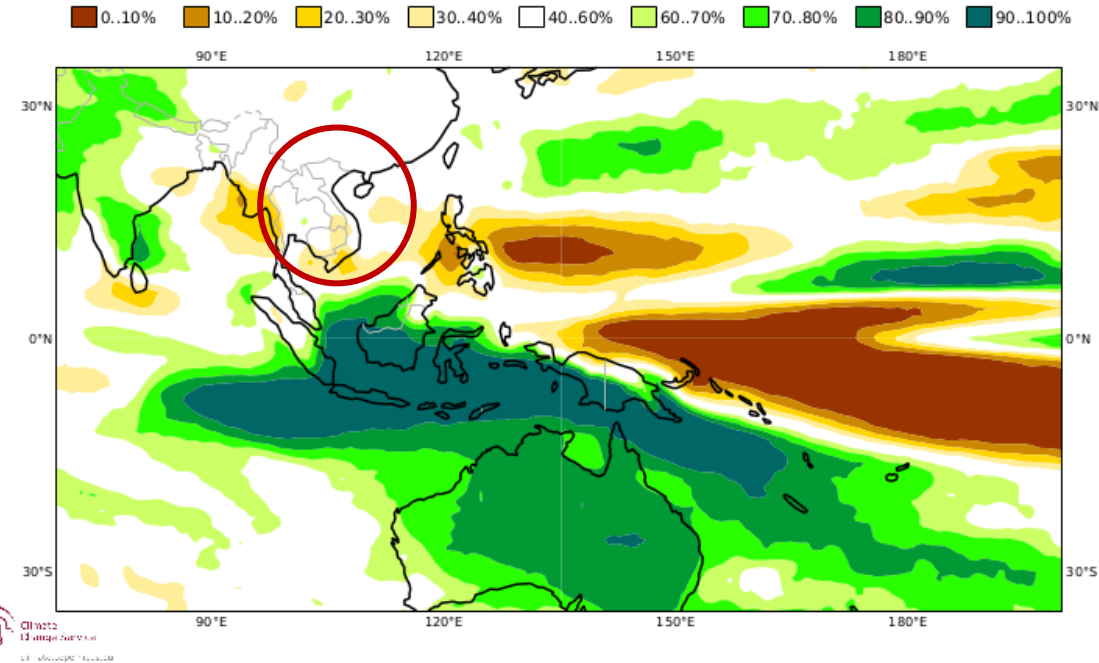
The short-range forecast for June shows below-average rainfall across the whole country, except for the eastern parts of Xekong and Salavan provinces where above average rains are expected in the 10 days ending on the 30th of June. Extreme dry conditions are expected in the central region in Savannakhet, Khammouan and Bolikamxai provinces and some parts in the northern region of Houaphan, Bokeo and Louanamtha provinces (map to the left).

The short-term forecast for the month of June indicates that on average the whole country is likely to receive below-average rains, with the exceptions of the eastern parts of Xekong and Salavan provinces that are likely to receive above average rains. As the rainy season progresses, the wet conditions in some of these locations will be favourable for the upcoming sowing period (May –June), especially for maize and rice. Extreme dry conditions should be expected in Vientiane and Xaignabouly provinces. The wet conditions tend to encourage farmers to sow on time because of the sufficient surface moisture (map to the right). While below average rainfall can delay sowing especially in areas where there are dry conditions.

LONG RANGE OUTLOOK (JULY – SEPTEMBER 2022)

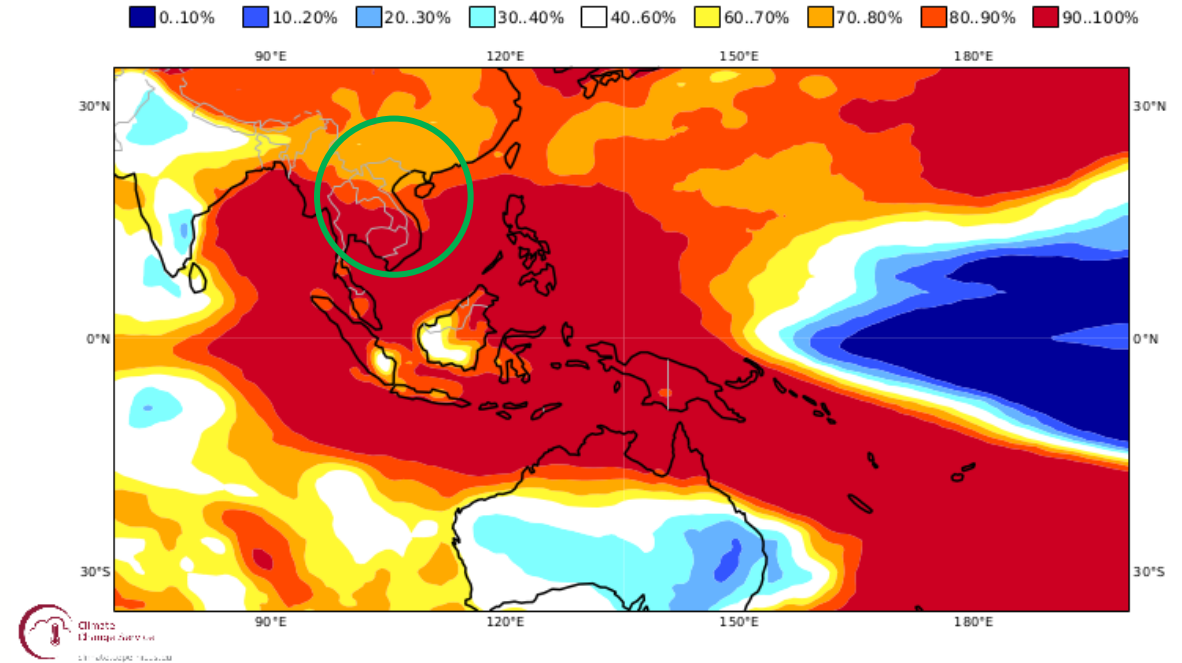
C3S multi-system seasonal forecast
Prob(precipitation > median)
Nominal forecast start: 01/06/22
Unweighted mean

ECMWF/Met Office/Météo-France/CMCC/DWD/NCEP/JMA/ECCC
JAS 2022



C3S multi-system seasonal forecast
Prob(2m temperature > median)
Nominal forecast start: 01/06/22
Unweighted mean

ECMWF/Met Office/Météo-France/CMCC/DWD/NCEP/JMA/ECCC
JAS 2022



According to the C3S multi-system seasonal forecast, the rainfall projections for the period of July to September 2022 (left map) are expected to be average (Central and northern regions) to slightly or below-average conditions in the southern parts of the country. Therefore, the growing of wet season rice (rainfed) is likely to progress well in the central and northern parts of the country.

Whereas most parts of Lao PDR are likely to experience average to above temperatures (60-90%) (right map).

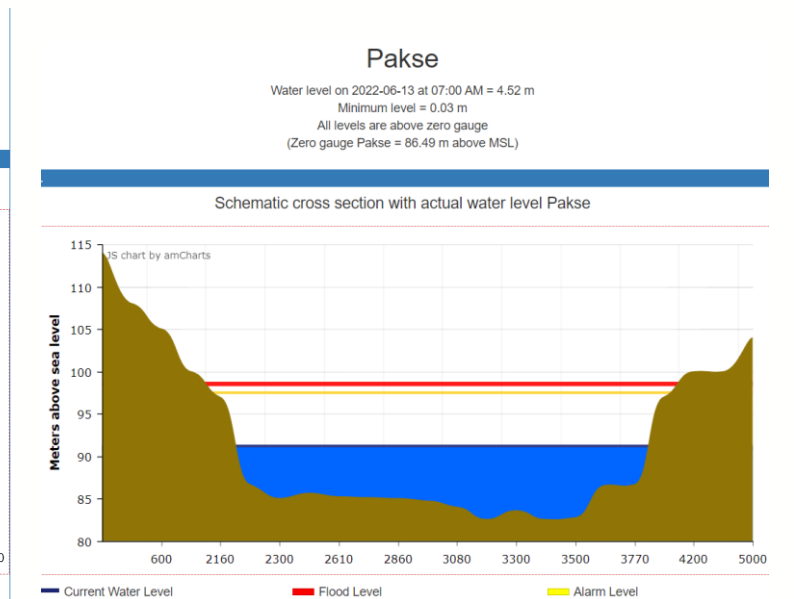
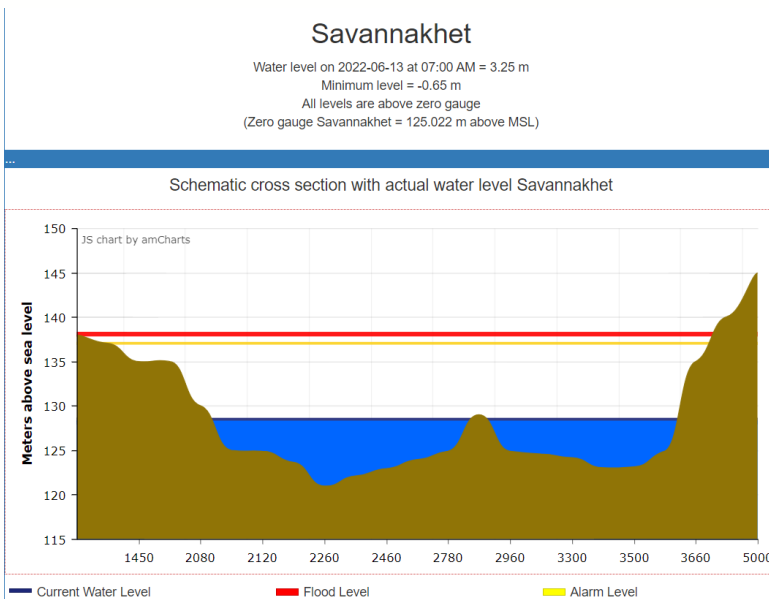
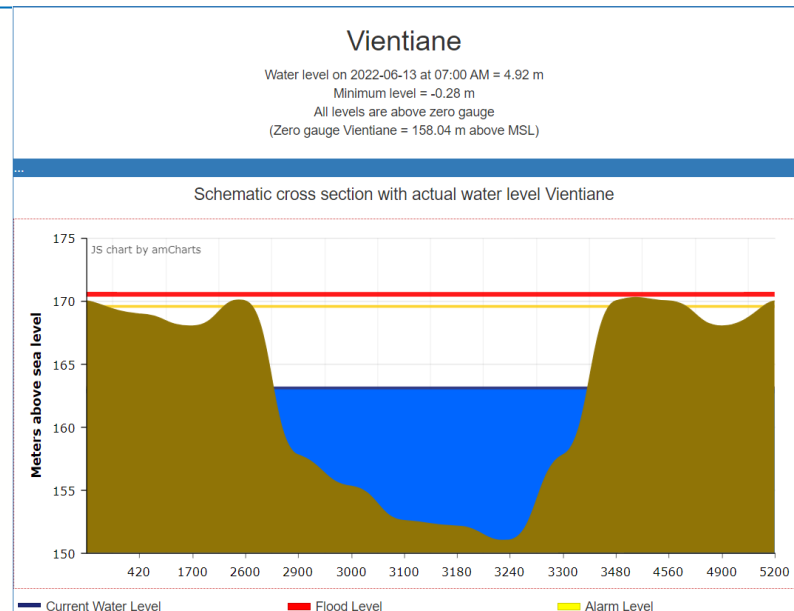
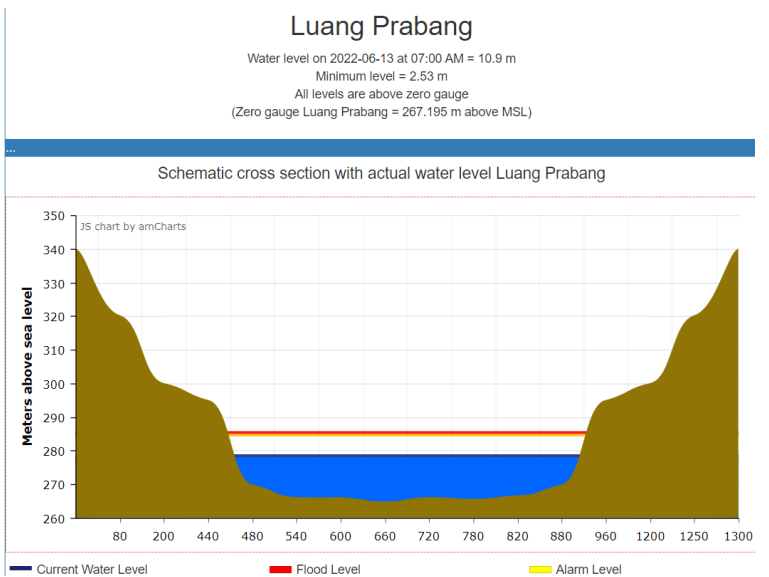
WATER LEVELS IN THE MEKONG RIVER

Water level along the Mekong will be monitored using information from the Mekong River Commission Secretariat.

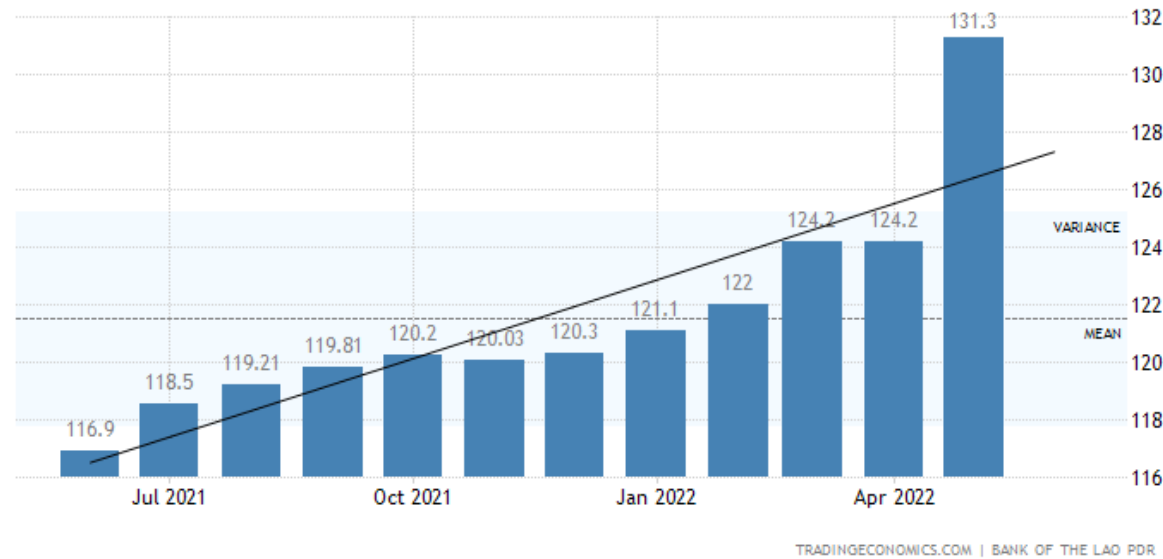
Key Water Level Stations for Lao PDR:

1. Luang Prabang
2. Vientiane
3. Paksane
4. Thakhek
5. Savannakhet
6. Pakse

As the rainy season progresses, there are likely to be fluctuations in the river levels. However, Mekong River Commission Secretariat has indicated that the flood season started around the week of the 5th of June. So far, all the stations indicate that the water levels are still below the flood and alarm levels but some of the stations have water levels that are above average (Pakse).



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI)



According to the Bank of Lao PDR, Consumer Price Index (CPI) in Lao PDR increased to 131.30 points in May from 124.20 points in April of 2022. Therefore, weakening the purchasing power of majority of the Lao PDR population since their income is stagnant, and yet prices of food and non-food items continue to rise.

According to the Lao Statistics Bureau, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) stood at 127.4 points in April, indicating an inflation rate of 12.8 percent year-on-year. Rising food prices and the weakening value of the LAK against the Thai baht and the US dollar are among the main drivers of inflation. Prices in food and non-alcohol beverage category raised 8.2 percent year on year. The cost of household goods went up by 1.4 percent month-on-month and 9.5 percent year-on-year.

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