



4th Forum on the agro-hydro-climatic seasonal forecast in sudano-sahelian Africa (PRESASS, 2017)

A season with overall above average rainfall, an early to normal onset and equivalent or above average water levels in most river basins is expected in 2017

The 4th Forum on Seasonal forecast of the agro-hydro-climatic characteristics of the rainy season in sudano-sahelian Africa (PRESASS, 2017) was held from 15 to 19 May 2017 in Accra, Ghana.

This forum was organized by the AGRHYMET Regional Centre (CILSS), The African Center for Applications of Meteorology to Development (ACMAD), the Ghana National Meteorological Agency and Hydrological Department, in collaboration with experts in charge of monitoring and developing agro-hydro-climatic information West and Central African countries, and representatives of the River Basin Organizations in the sub-region. Representatives of the disaster risk reduction community and humanitarian aid agencies also attended the forum.

I. Summary of the forecast results

At the end of the forum, the following is expected for the key parameters of the rainy season:

- **Above average cumulative rainfall in areas covering northern Ghana, northern Togo, northern Benin, eastern half of Burkina Faso, western Nigeria, western Niger, central Mali, southern Mauritania, The Gambia, Northern Senegal, southern Chad and eastern Cameroon.**
- **Early onset dates in the same areas, extended to the agricultural zone of Niger, Northern Nigeria and Central Chad. Countries in the western part of the Sahelo-Sudanian zone should expect an early-to-normal end of season, while elsewhere, late to normal end of season dates are more likely.** It is also expected that longer to normal dry spells will be observed during the crop installation phase throughout the Sahelo-Sudanian zone of West Africa. Most parts of Burkina Faso, southern Mali, northern Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo and Benin are expected to have longer than average dry spells during the second half of the rainy season.
- **Average or above-average flows relatively to the past 30 years in the river basins of the West African region, except for the Mono River basin (Togo and Benin) and the lower Volta River basin (Ghanaian part mainly).** Hence, the upper, middle and lower parts of the Senegal basin, the middle part of the Niger basin, the Upper and middle Ouémé basin (Benin), and the upper Volta Basin will have above average flows. In the Lake Chad basin, the southern part of the Logone tributary sub-basin, the downstream part of the Chari-Logone system and the Komadougou-Yobé sub-basin are expected to have above-average flows. As for the lower basin of the Niger River and the basin of the Benue (Cameroon and