



Uses of the climatic information in agriculture

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Hydrometeorological extreme events have serious impacts on agricultural activities. The variation from a year to year of the annual accumulated precipitation can be substantial and have a large impact on agriculture. In Mexico it is known that a strong relation between the El Niño/Oscillation of Sur (ENOS) and annual precipitation exists. This relationship is one reason why climate information is a fundamental element that must be considered when making decisions and planning activities each agricultural cycle.

Through the analysis of climate variability and crop vulnerability the risk of crop loss under adverse climate can be considered. If this risk is considered in agricultural planning, the work strategies will vary. Using calculations of the probability of rain occurrence, the vulnerability to hydrometeorological extreme events can be considered, thus determining the probability of crop destruction due to rain deficit. This information can be used by farmers or agricultural insurance agencies to determine whether or not there will be sufficient rainfall for an agricultural cycle and what crops to cultivate. This type of information can be obtained from seasonal climate prognoses. At present we know that the prognosis schemes work better when conditions appear La Niña or El Niño.