



Intraseasonal variability of the African monsoon

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The intraseasonal time scale is critical in West Africa where resources are highly rainfall dependent. Three main modes of variability have been identified, two with a mean periodicity of 15 days and one with a mean periodicity around 40 days. These modes have a regional scale and can strongly influence precipitation and convective activity. They are mainly controlled by atmospheric dynamics and land-surface interactions. They can also modulate the very specific phase of the African summer monsoon onset. However the transfer to local scales is critical and needs efficient downscaling processes. A better knowledge of the mechanisms controlling the intraseasonal scale is necessary to improve its predictability.