



Extreme drought episode from August 2011 to May 2012 in the Czech Lands

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Drought in the area of the Czech Republic occurs irregularly in the periods of subnormal precipitations amounts with duration from few days to, only rarely, few months. Low precipitations are very often accompanied by higher than normal temperatures. Weather events in the second half of the year 2011 that then continued till the first half of the year 2012 caused occurrence of extreme drought in the eastern part of the Czech Republic. The episode with rainfall amounts below the normal started in August 2011 and ended only in May 2012. Spatial differences in occurrence of this phenomenon were quit noticeable. Most affected area were south and central Moravia, which belongs to the most traditionally agricultural area. Rainfall amount for the mentioned period reached only from 50 to 70 % of the long-term average 1961-2000. In autumn 2011 rainfall amount reached only 10-30 % of the long-term average in the most part of Moravia, in spring 2012 it was between 30-50 %. For the Brno station (south Moravia) precipitation from August 2011 to May 2012 were the second lowest from year 1803. We studied this dry period also in the context of hydrological cycle and agrometeorology. This dry episode had significant impact among others on the agriculture. Extreme decrease in yields of cereals was observed in the production areas.