



EUPORIAS climate service prototype: drought early warning in Ethiopia

Sandro Calmanti and the LEAP-EUPORIAS Team
ENEA, UTMEA-CLIM, Rome, Italy (sandro.calmanti@enea.it)

The EU-FP7 project EUPORIAS is developing a prototype climate service aimed at enhancing an existing drought early warning system developed by WFP and owned by the Government of Ethiopia based on a software platform (LEAP) which enables the assessment of the number of people in need of food assistance due to drought. Currently, LEAP uses satellite based rainfall estimates to monitor drought conditions and to compute needs. This prototype climate service developed within EUPORIAS is based on engaging the end-users (WFP, DRMFSS) in the design of the workflow and will integrate seasonal precipitation forecasts into the early assessment, which will enhance the entire decision making process.

We will discuss the workflow of the prototype and the current modelling approach for the connection between the climate driver (drought) and the corresponding impact (needs). We will also discuss the expected value of the prototype given the expected level of skill of the underlying seasonal forecasting system and a preliminary cost benefit scenario for an operational impact prediction system that is able to anticipate the occurrence of the most sever drought events.