



Harvest forecasts evaluation - "All wheat"  
MED-Amin Working Group  
June 2017



[www.med-amin.org](http://www.med-amin.org)



### MED-Amin

is a multilateral network established between the CIHEAM's 13 member countries, at their request, working at promoting quality information regarding the evolution of cereal markets and at fostering experience-sharing on the best practices in terms of cereal policies. The network brings together Algeria, Albania, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Tunisia and Turkey.

Learn more at: [www.med-amin.org](http://www.med-amin.org) or on Twitter: [MEDAmin\\_network](https://twitter.com/MEDAmin_network)



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## Situation Update - End of April 2017

The situation update presented in this bulletin is the result of a pilot experiment: the MED-Amin working group decided during the Tunis MED-Amin meeting (December 2016) and implemented by five countries (Albania, Algeria, Greece, Lebanon, Tunisia) in spring 2017 to evaluate the feasibility and the interest for the an early-warning system providing qualitative estimates during the campaign.

The qualitative evaluation presented here for these five countries are the result of data cross-checking between:

- Earth observation indicators, provided by the MARS team from the European Commission's Joint Research Centre concerning the main wheat producing regions of these countries (i.e. covering over 90% of the total production.)
- An evaluation of conditions produced by local experts involved in the activities of the working group through the intermediary of MED-Amin focal points.

The qualitative evaluation for the other eight countries have been graciously provided by JRC in order to complete the general outlook and simulate a synthesis at the regional level.

In order to differentiate the two sources of data, the prototype bulletin is organized in two parts:

- The detailed results originated from countries' feedbacks after an analysis of Earth observation indicators provided by JRC and after a feedback from local experts;
- A general simulation of the synthesis at the regional scale for all 13 MED-Amin countries, on indicative basis and using the analysis of the Joint Research Centre.

**NB: Even when commentaries are identical, the information are repeated in the section corresponding to each country in order to simplify the reading of the final user.**

## Legend



The selected categories and drivers are based on the example promoted by GEOGLAM: Crop Monitor for AMIS et Early Warning for countries at risk. [www.geoglam.org](http://www.geoglam.org)

### Conditions

- **Exceptional:** Conditions are much better than average at the time of reporting. This label can only be used between the grain-filling stages to the harvest stage
- **Favorable:** Conditions range from slightly below to slightly above average at the time of reporting.
- **Watch:** Conditions are not far from average but there is a potential risk regarding the final production. However, at this time, it is considered that crops might still recover if conditions improve. This label may only be used between planting/early-vegetative stage and vegetative/reproductive stages.
- **Poor:** Conditions are well below average. Crop conditions are likely to be more than 10% below average and impact on production is very likely.
- **Crop failure:** Crops have been strongly damaged. Crops conditions are likely to be more than 25% below average.
- **No data**

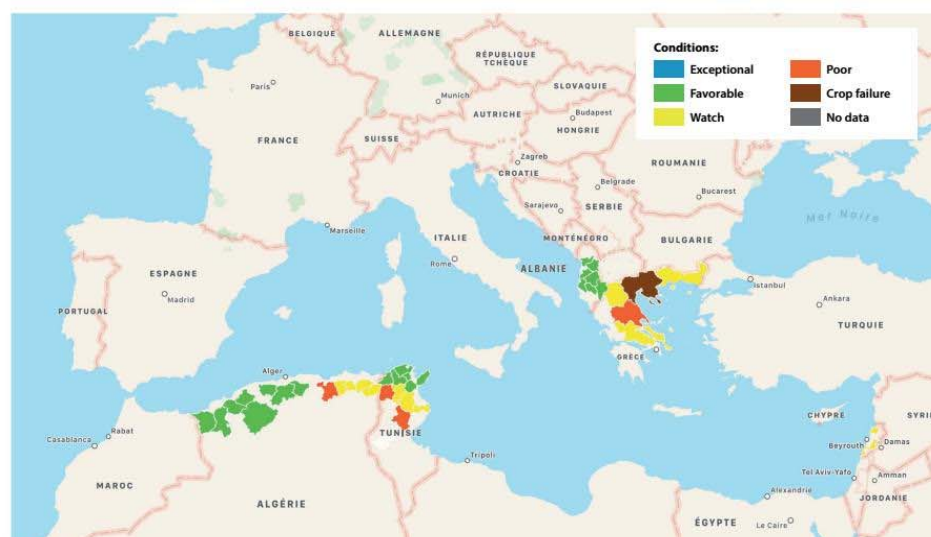
### Drivers

- ☁ **Wet:** Higher than average wetness
- ☀ **Dry:** Drier than average
- 🔥 **Hot:** Hotter than average
- ❄ **Cold:** Cooler than average
- 🌀 **Extreme events:** Presence of extreme events such as: hurricane, typhoon, frost, hail, wind damage, etc.
- 🕒 **Delayed onset:** Late start of the season

### Pie-charts

The proportional size of each segment summarizing crop conditions was calculated on the base of the average of regional and national production for the last 5 years (4 years in the case of Egypt).

## Crop Conditions - Working group countries



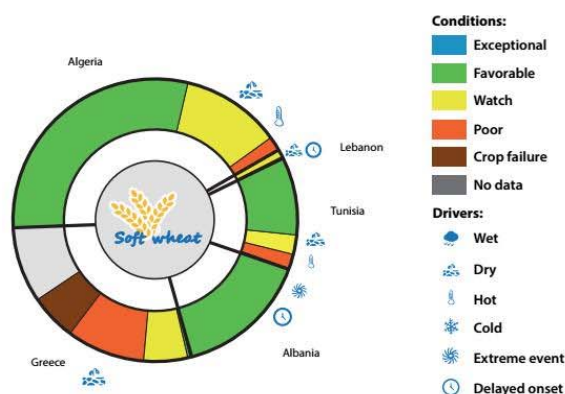
Map: Synthesis of crop conditions (Working group participating countries)

**Albania** The current campaign has been characterized by a late but crisp winter in January, characteristic of a weather cycle repeated every 31 years. Planting were delayed as a consequence of late rainfalls. In high plains areas (Korce, Berat, Elbasan), very low temperatures were observed (-6/-8°C) and resulted in delayed plant development.

Rainfall levels were a little lower than the long-term average, but did not cause negative outlooks for wheat crops in the country. The observed temperatures and rainfall levels in spring compensated the difficulties met in winter and led analysts to forecast favourable conditions.

**Algeria** In Fall, planting was delayed as a result of the rainfall deficits observed during the month of September and October 2016. The situation however improved thanks to the return of rainfalls during the second and third decade of the

month of November 2016. The period extending between the month of February and April 2017 was characterized by an absence of rainfall as well as by heat waves. These factors affected vegetative growth, inducing reduced yields in the oriental part of the country. As opposed to last year, the western wilayas are characterized by more favourable outlooks.



Graph: Synthesis of the evaluation of crop conditions (Working group countries)

The size of each each sector of the pie-chart depends of the share of production of each country/region as compared to the total estimated productions (here for 5 countries).



**Greece** The on-going agricultural campaign is mainly characterized by the hydric stress impacting crops (Main driver : "Dry"). With regard to the estimated proposed by local experts, crop conditions vary from "Favorable" to "Crop failures", according to the regions. The estimations of conditions used for the maps do not cover the total of each region (estimations of some local experts of each region). The colour used correspond to the majority evaluation for the region.

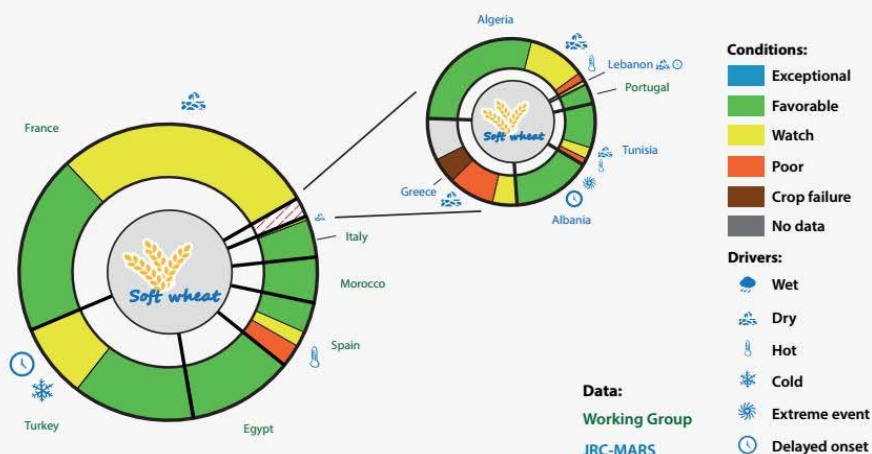
**Lebanon** The observed conditions display levels globally oscillating around the long-term average for the period covered by the report. Vegetative conditions may consequently be characterized by a "normal" status for the Beqaa and North Lebanon regions. Weak rainfall levels in the South however are resulting in subnormal values for the vegetative growth indicator (fAPAR. No exceptional event has been observed by local experts in terms of diseases or other.

**Tunisia** The generalized lack of rainfall during the month of March 2017 had a very negative impact on vegetative growth in the north-western part of the country, in particular in the El Kef region that observed a very important drop in yields. The episodes of frost observed in the centre of the country also had a negative impact on crops.

The effect of climate change is significant in all regions. There are also problems caused by land fragmentation and farming practices (absence of crop rotation) leading to soil depletion and degraded yields. Finally, the soft wheat total planted area is recoiling year after year in favour of durum wheat, which is better remunerated, and barley, which is less demanding.

## Crop conditions - All MED-Amin countries

Evaluation of harvests realized at the national level (not subnational as before) by the MARS Unit from the Joint Research Center for MED-Amin countries.



### Graph: Synthesis of the evaluation - MED-Amin Area

The size of each sector of the pie-chart depends of the share of production of each country/region as compared to the total estimated productions (here for 12 and 6 countries respectively).

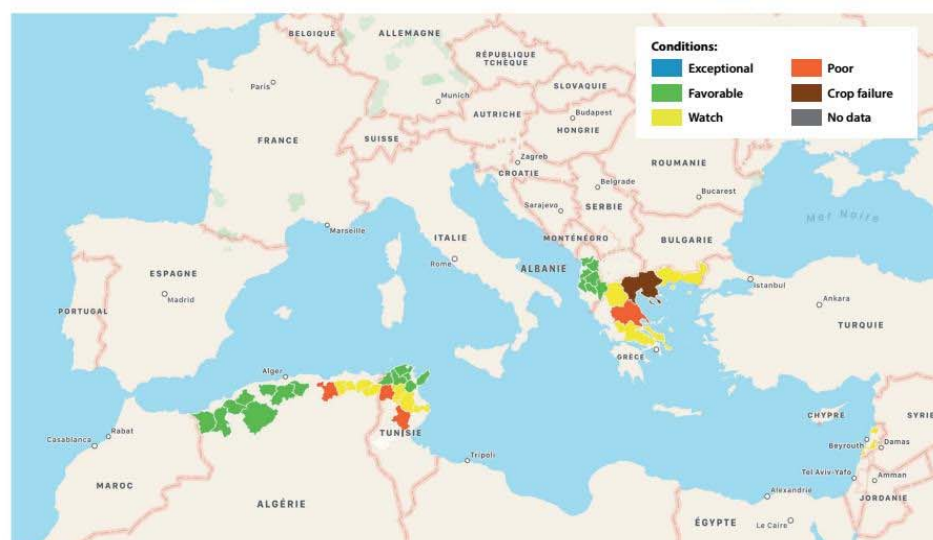
#### Commentary - MARS Data

The commentary presented below is a short synthesis of the MARS Bulletins 2017 that can be consulted fully at the following address: <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/mars/bulletins>

In most European countries, crop conditions were very favourable for winter crops and spring planting. However, rainfall deficits have been observed in some countries of the mediterranean region. In **Spain**, the North of the country remains under a "watch" status (Castilla la Mancha) or faces difficulties (Castilla y Leon). Droughts have also been reported in the North-East (Manche) and in the South of **Italy**, in the North/North-East of **France** (Nord Pas de Calais, Picardie, Champagne-Ardenne, Lorraine), and the North of **Greece** (Central Macedonia, Thessalia).

Additionally, frost episodes may have affected the eastern part of **France** and the oscillating temperatures may have some non-negligible impact in the Centre and in the West of Anatolia, a region responsible for about 20% of production in **Turkey** (with important delays pushing back the flowering and filling stages during the summer when high temperatures could lead to reduced fertility and to a reduction in the final weight of grain).

## Crop Conditions - Working group countries

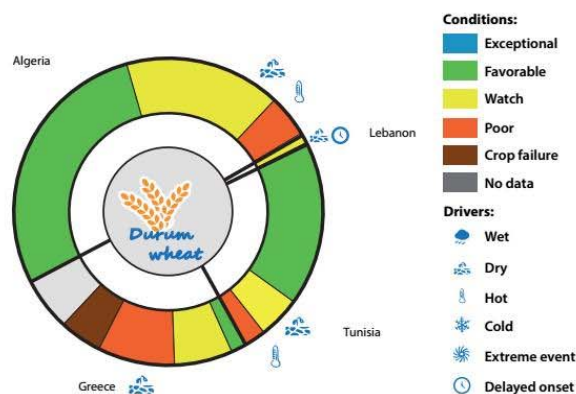


Map: Synthesis of crop conditions (Working group participating countries)

**Albania** Durum wheat is not grown in Albania.

**Algeria** In Fall, planting was delayed as a result of the rainfall deficits observed during the month of September and October 2016. The situation however improved thanks to the return of rainfalls during the second and third decade of the month of November 2016.

The period extending between the month of February and April 2017 was characterized by an absence of rainfall as well as by heat waves. These factors affected vegetative growth, inducing reduced yields in the oriental part of the country. As opposed to last year, the western wilayas are characterized by more favourable outlooks.



Graph: Synthesis of the evaluation of crop conditions (Working group countries)

The size of each each sector of the pie-chart depends of the share of production of each country/region as compared to the total estimated productions (here for 4 countries).

**Greece** The on-going agricultural campaign is mainly characterized by the hydric stress impacting crops (Main driver : "Dry"). With regard to the estimated proposed by local experts, crop conditions vary from "Favorable" to "Crop failures", according to the regions. The estimations of conditions used for the maps do not cover the total of each region (estimations of some local experts of each region). The colour used correspond to the majority evaluation for the region.

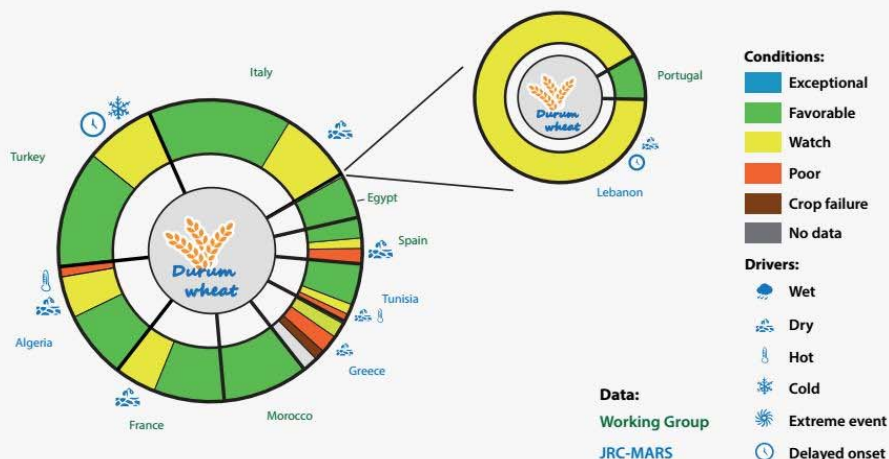
**Lebanon** The observed conditions display levels globally oscillating around the long-term average for the period covered by the report. Vegetative conditions may consequently be characterized by a “normal” status for the Beqaa and North Lebanon regions. Weak rainfall levels in the South however are resulting in subnormal values for the vegetative growth indicator (fAPAR). No exceptional event has been observed by local experts in terms of diseases or other.

**Tunisia** Durum wheat covers a large part of planted areas (as compared to soft wheat in particular) as it is less demanding. It is present in all favourable regions (subhumid and semi-arid) in Tunisia with numerous varieties adapted to each region.

The generalized lack of rainfall during the month of March 2017 had a very negative impact on vegetative growth in the north-western part of the country, in particular in the El Kef region that observed a very important drop in yields. The episodes of frost observed in the centre of the country also had a negative impact on crops.

## Crop conditions - All MED-Amin countries

Evaluation of harvests realized at the national level (not subnational as before) by the MARS Unit from the Joint Research Center for MED-Amin countries.



### Graph: Synthesis of the evaluation - MED-Amin Area

The size of each sector of the pie-chart depends of the share of production of each country/region as compared to the total estimated productions (here for 11 and 2 countries respectively).

### Commentary - MARS Data

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