



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture  
  
Foreign  
Agricultural  
Service

# Commodity Intelligence Report

February 28, 2018

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## **TURKEY: Early Dry Weather Hampers Establishment in Southern Anatolia Winter Grains Region**

Dry weather is a concern for the winter grains in southeastern Turkey. The major area of concern is Southern Anatolia that typically produces 15 percent of the total winter wheat crop (Fig. 1). Winter grains planting in Turkey begins in early October and ends by late December for both wheat and barley. During the planting season, precipitation was near-to-above average over the majority of the winter grains area with the exception of the Southern Anatolia region. Precipitation over Southern Anatolia between October, and December 2017 was well below normal (Fig. 2). This was one of the driest seasons for planting in recent years.

The resulting low soil moisture conditions are evident in the vegetation anomaly map which indicates below average plant growth conditions in the Southern Anatolia region (Fig. 3). Pockets of “greenness”, indicating above average areas, are due to the presence of irrigation; recent satellite imagery shows active pivot irrigation (Fig. 4). The satellite derived NDVI (Normalized Difference Vegetation Index) for the Harran plain region in Turkey confirms below normal crop conditions (Fig. 5). A slight up-tick of the most recent NDVI observation was due to a green up from recent rain events that have added nearly 140 mm of precipitation (Fig. 6). Soil moisture was dramatically improved by mid-January rains and was beneficial to the crop (Fig. 7). Temperatures have been mild and overall growing conditions have improved.

Last year the crop over the Central Anatolia region was beset with drought at planting. Mid-season precipitation improved leading to very favorable conditions which resulted in an abundant crop. Thus, if this year’s mid-season precipitation improves the crop in the Southern Anatolia region still has time to recover and to be productive. Winter grains harvest will begin in June. USDA will release its first estimates of Turkey wheat and barley May 10, 2018.



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Other related links at FAS for monitoring worldwide crop conditions and droughts are available at:

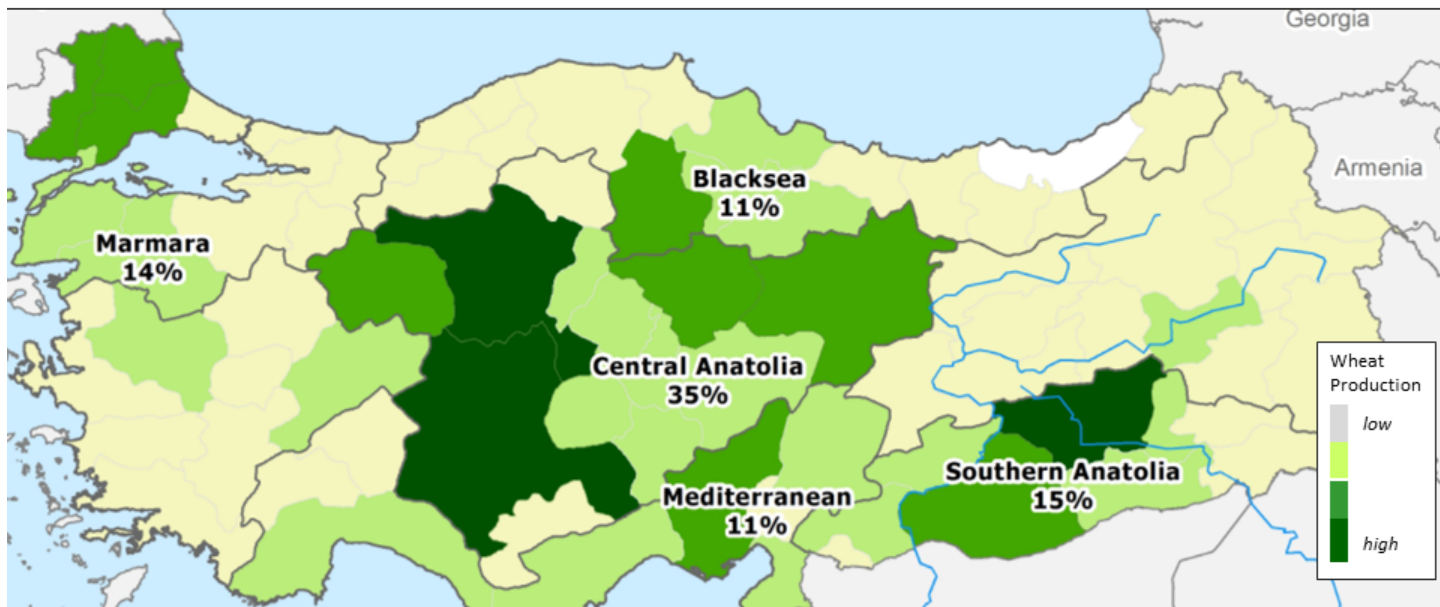
Crop Explorer (<https://ipad.fas.usda.gov/cropexplorer/Default.aspx>)

USDA and NASA's GLAM (Global Agriculture Monitoring) System for MODIS-NDVI Time Series Graphs

(<https://glam1.gsfc.nasa.gov/>)

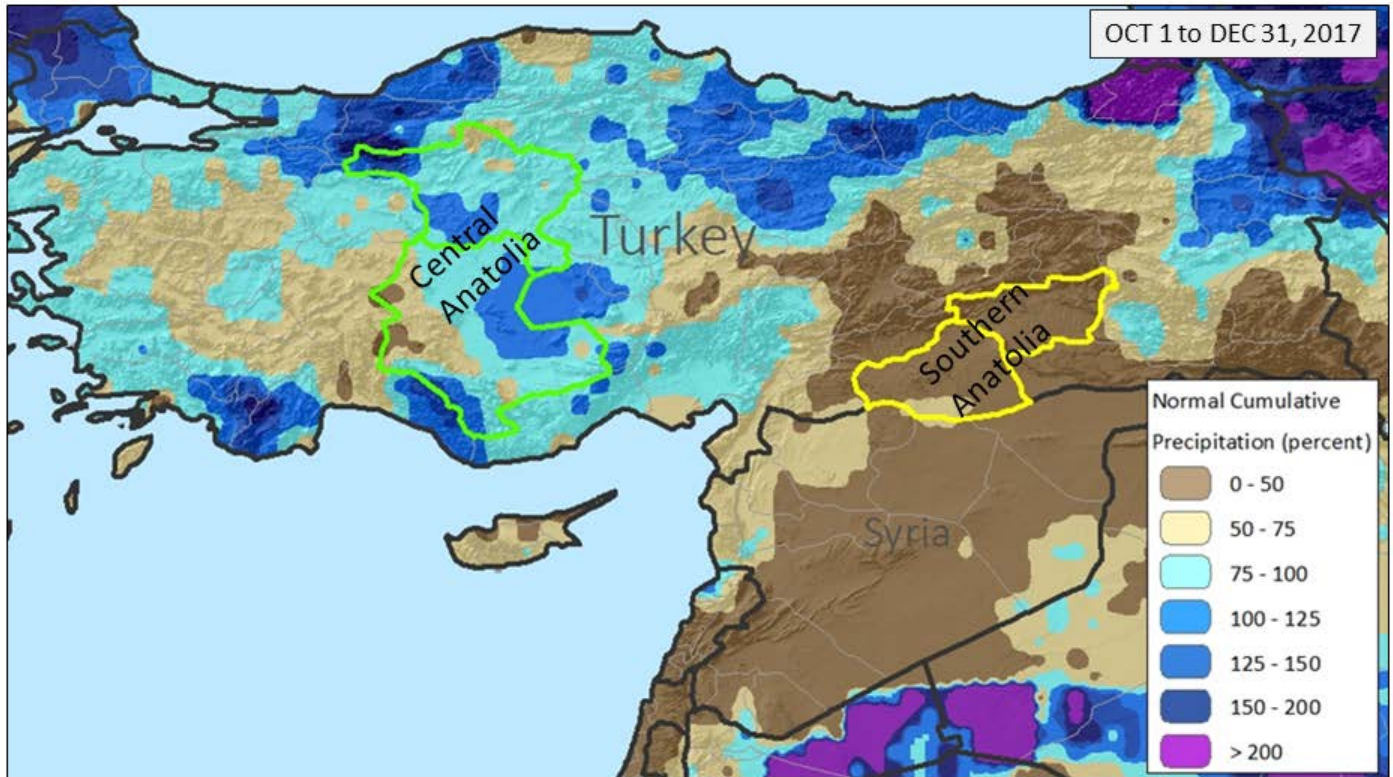
FAS World Agricultural Production (WAP) circular (<https://www.fas.usda.gov/data/world-agricultural-production>)

Figure 1. Turkey Wheat Producing Regions



Turkey Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock

Figure 2. Percent Normal Cumulative Precipitation Illustrating Below Normal Precipitation Over Southern Anatolia, Turkey During Planting



557<sup>th</sup> US Air Force Weather Wing – LIS grid cell

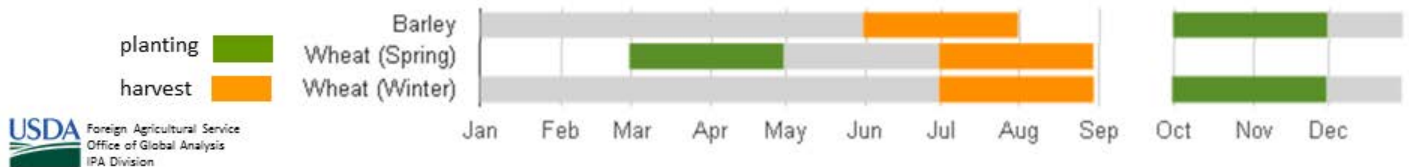




Figure 3. Vegetation Index Anomaly Map Over Southwestern Turkey

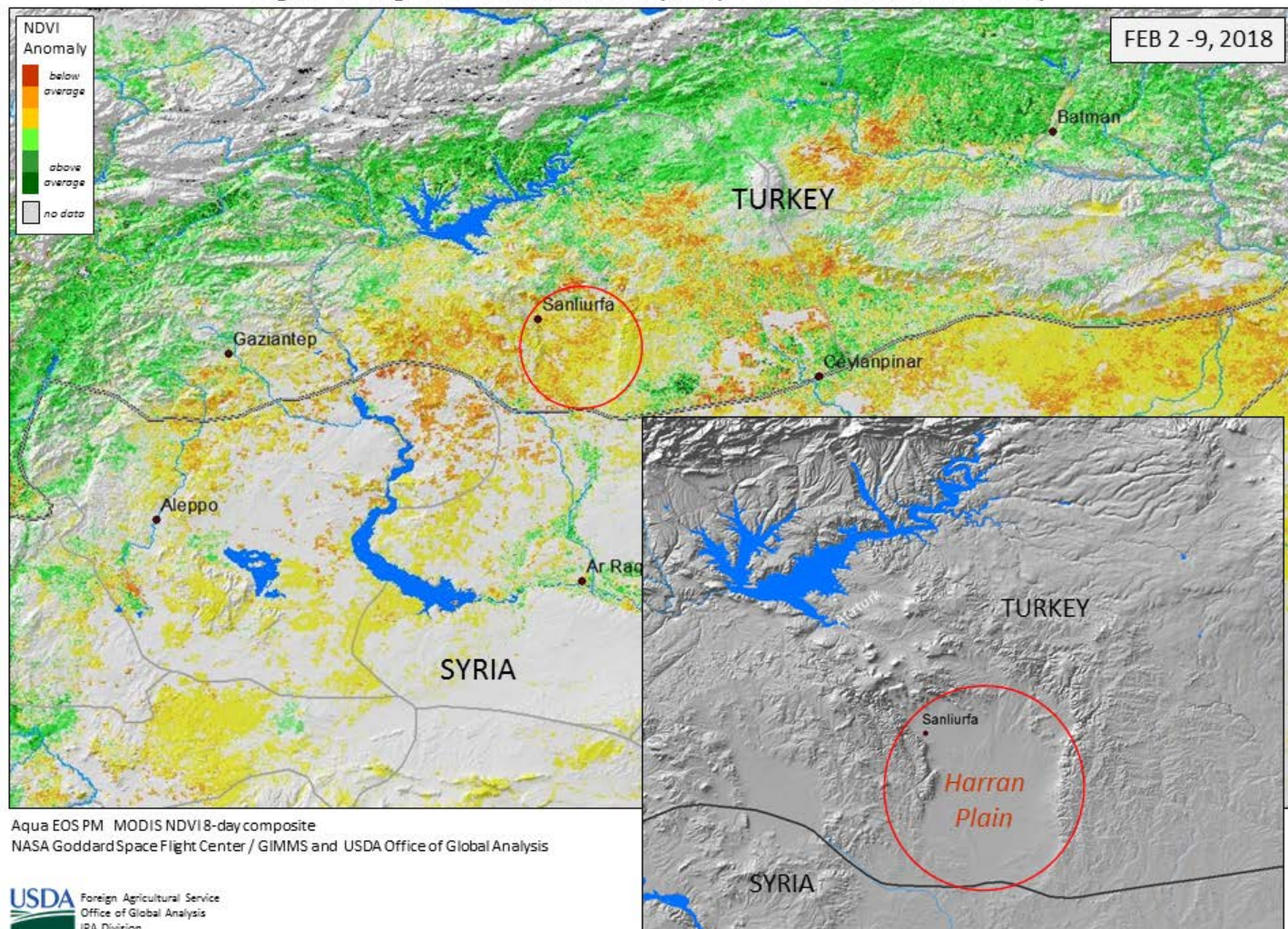




Figure 4. Satellite Image of Irrigated Winter Crops in Southwestern Turkey with High NDVI Anomaly Values

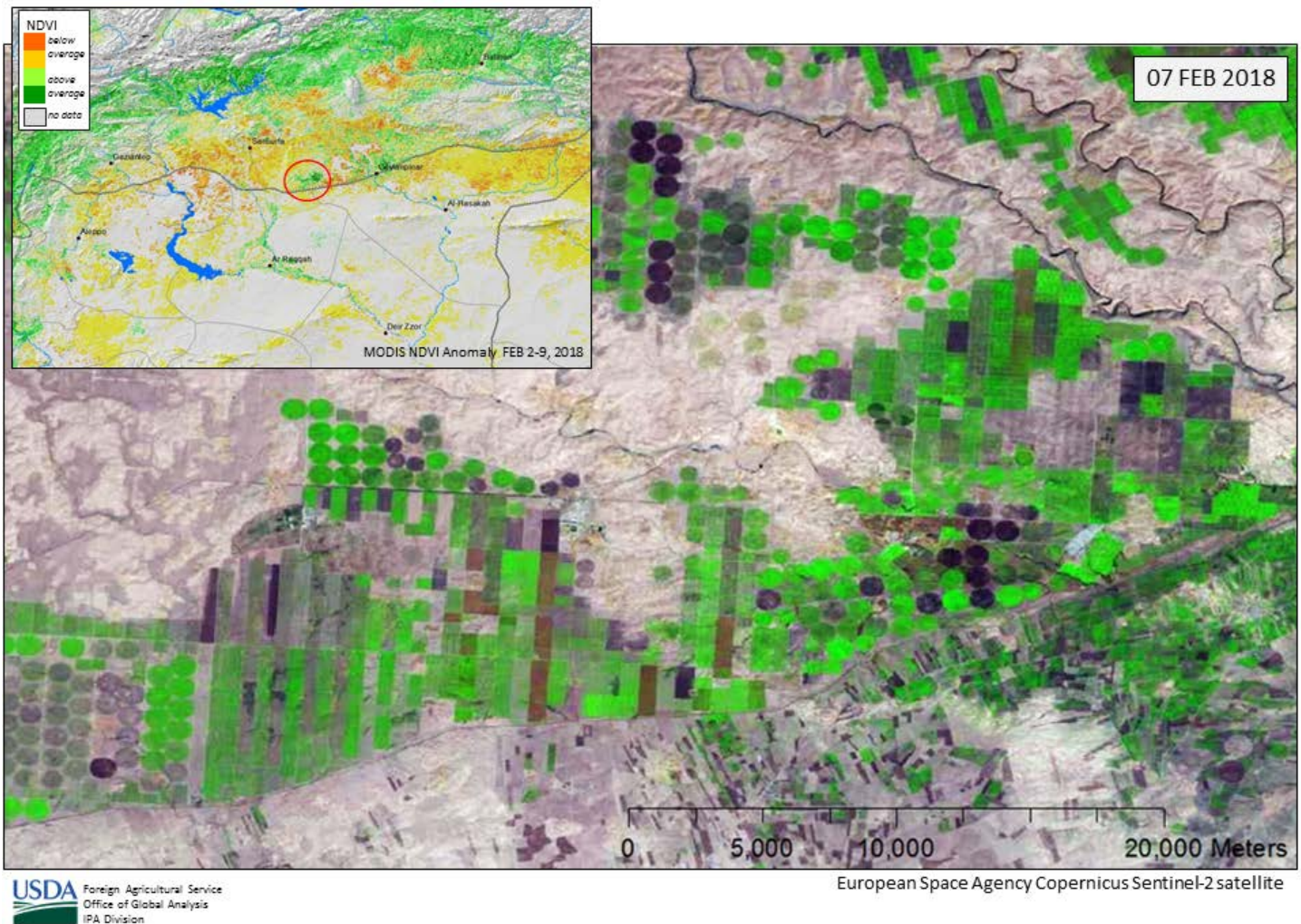


Figure 5. Vegetation Index for Winter Grains over the Harran Plain in Southern Anatolia, Turkey

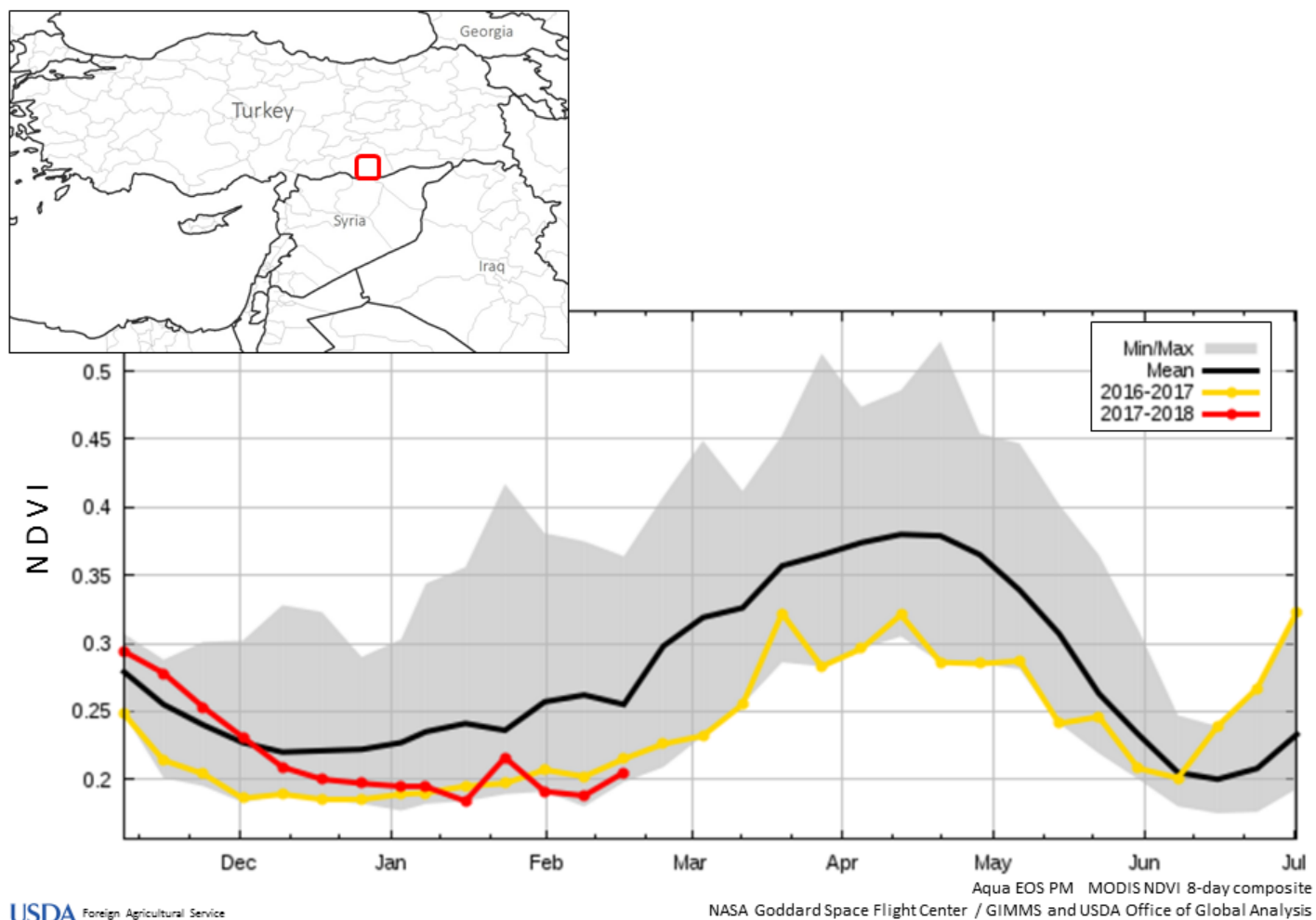


Figure 6. Cumulative Precipitation over the Harran Plain in Southern Anatolia, Turkey

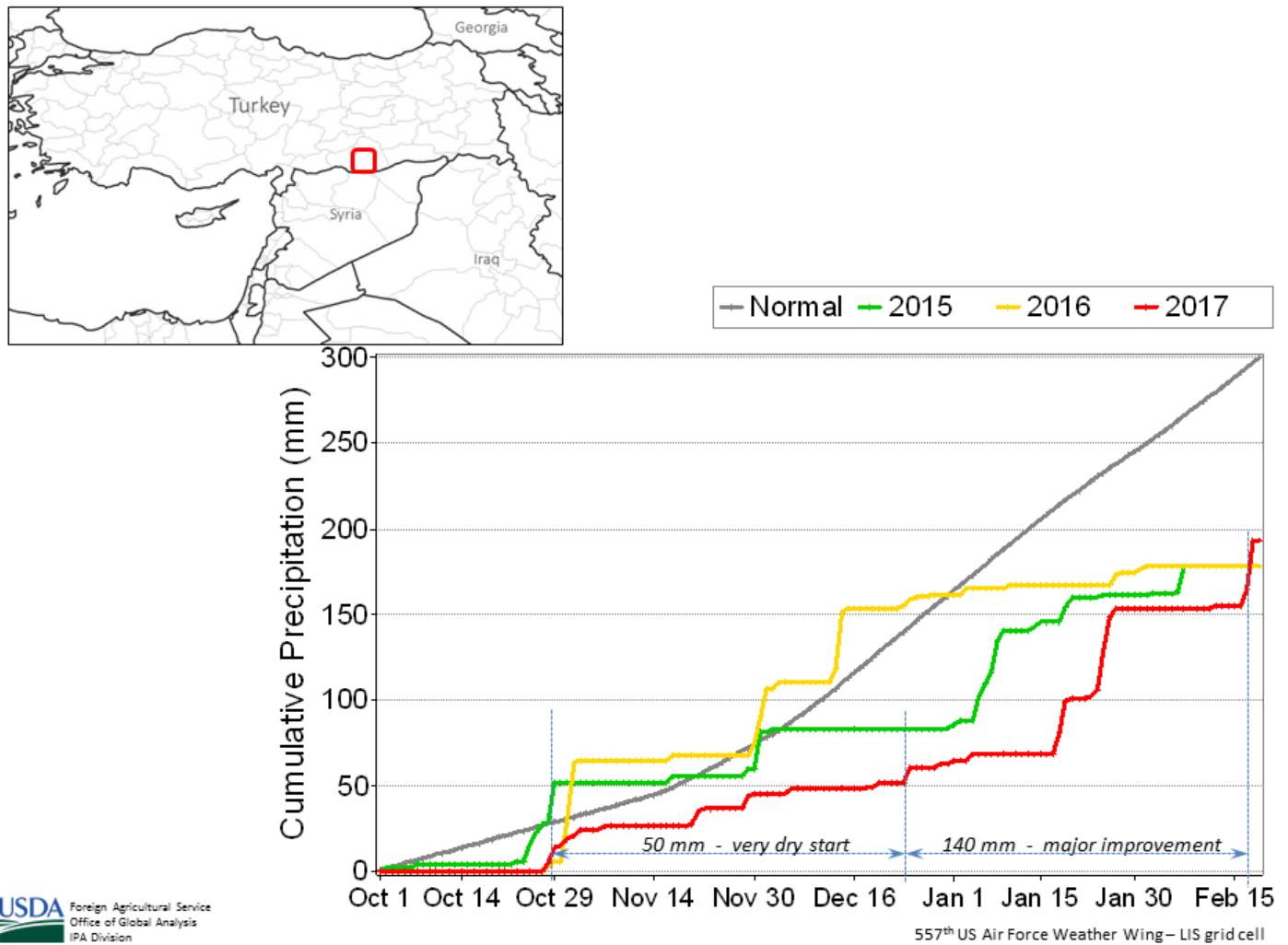
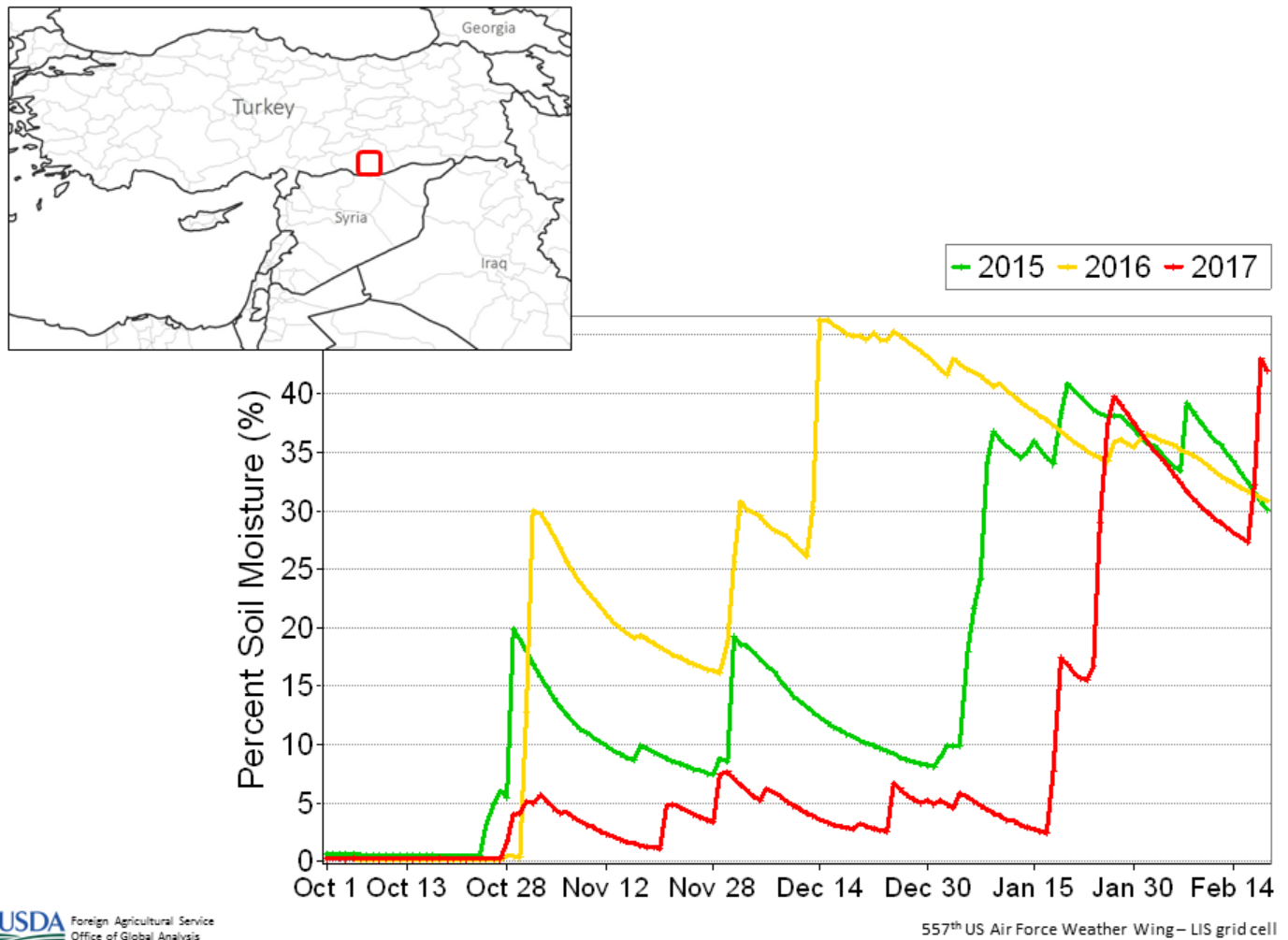




Figure 7. Percent Soil Moisture over the Harran Plain in Southern Anatolia, Turkey





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Current area and production estimates for grains and other agricultural commodities are available on  
IPAD's Agricultural Production page:  
[Crop Explorer https://ipad.fas.usda.gov/cropeexplorer/](https://ipad.fas.usda.gov/cropeexplorer/)or

Production, Supply and Distribution Database (PSD Online):  
<http://apps.fas.usda.gov/psdonline/psdHome.aspx>

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