



GIEWS

The Global Information and
Early Warning System on
Food and Agriculture

From Early Warning to Response

Third International Conference on Early Warning
Bonn, March 27-29, 2006

FAO Global Information and Early Warning System

Since 1975:

- to monitor the food supply and demand situation at global, regional and country levels**
- to provide early warnings of impending serious food shortages.**

Serving the International Community

➤ **Monitoring & Reporting:**

Current food production/supply, utilization, import requirements and food aid needs

➤ **Early Warning:**

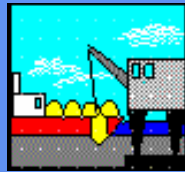
Impending food security crises

➤ **Needs Assessments**

With WFP, others, at the country level

Variables related to crop growing or food supply conditions

Commercial imports, Food aid



Planted areas, growing conditions

Pests, diseases



Consumption, nutrition

Transports and stocks

Food prices and trade

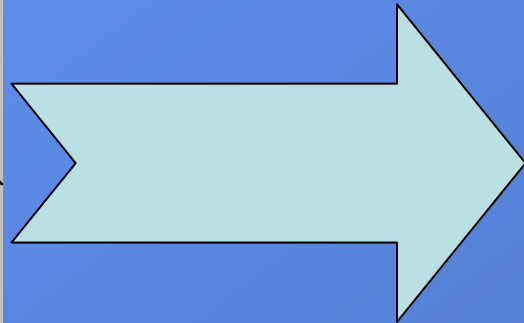
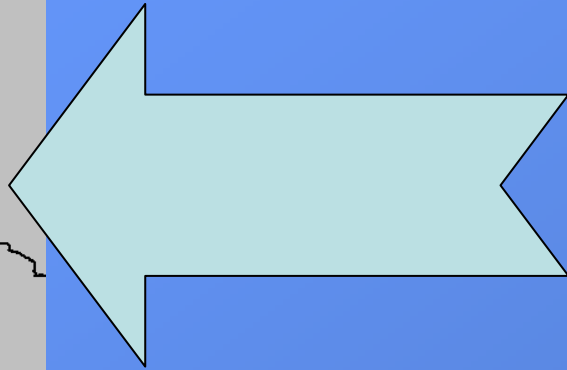
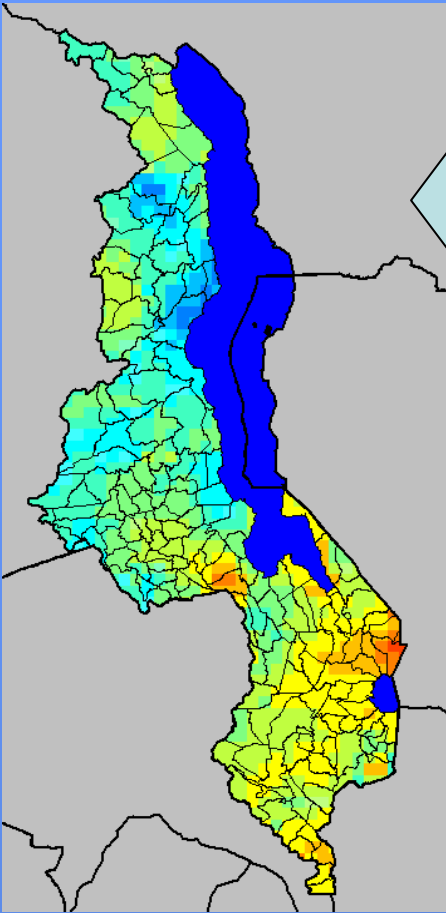
Governmental policies affecting production or trade



Meteorological data



Units of Analysis

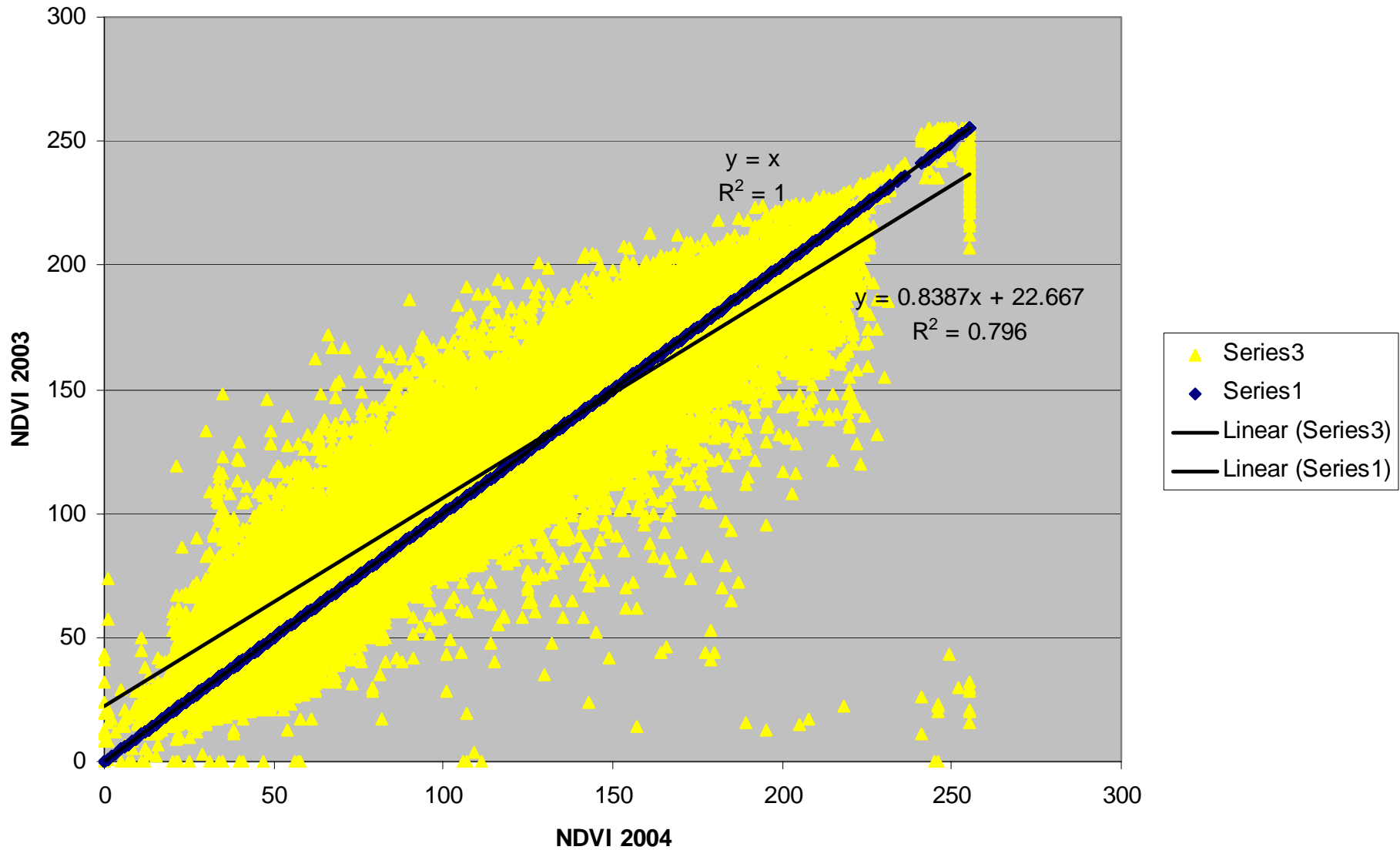


Sahel 2004 - Key Findings

- 2004 close to the 5-year average, overall
- Wide disparities between, within countries
- Pastoral and marginal areas most deeply affected by a combination of drought, desert locusts



Regression NDVI september dek 3: 2004 - 2003



Timeline

- Nov. 2003 first confirmed DL alert
- Dec. 2003 First appeal
- Jan. 2004 More appeals, FAO spends \$5m of its own
- June-October growing season
- July-August 2004 up to \$80m available
- Dec. 2004 1/3 of funds unspent, substantial stockpiles of chemicals

2004 Issues - Institutions

- Early Warning unheeded for some time
- Difficult to sustain institutions dealing with infrequent crises
- Inefficiency, cost, of late action
- Little access to heterogeneous, often unusable data on DL
- Wide differences in information collection systems across and within countries of the Sahel, NW Africa

2004 Issues - Rural Communities

- Detailed knowledge not harnessed, supported:
- Limited geographical scope and technical usefulness of data
- Lost opportunities to enlist communities in early warning, countermeasures



“Response-ible” Early Warning

- Clear and convincing evidence
- Spelling out implications
- Strong, concordant messages
- Enlisting all stakeholders
- Rapid response mechanisms (flexibility in programming, contingency financing /insurance)

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THANK YOU

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