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

- Planted areas, growing conditions
- Pests, diseases
- Consumption, nutrition
- Meteorological data
- Transports and stocks
- Food prices and trade
- Governmental policies affecting production or trade
- Commercial imports, Food aid
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

\[ y = 0.8387x + 22.667 \]

\[ R^2 = 0.796 \]

\[ y = x \]

\[ R^2 = 1 \]
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)
GIEWS
The Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture

THANK YOU

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