Forecasting the onset of the rainy season for African farmers

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We provide weather forecasts to farmers in Africa and are investigating the onset of the rainy season and the skill of seasonal forecasts over Africa. As there is an increasing demand for seasonal forecasts, these forecasts have our increased attention.

We want to extend our services to farmers by providing skillful seasonal forecasts. We know how to reach the farmers. We need high quality input data. Work with us to help farmers improve their agricultural planning!

David Ngetich, Kenyan farmer: “I use the weather forecast to plan my farming activities. The onset of the rainy season is important for the planning of my planting date. If I could get a good seasonal forecast, I can even buy the seeds that are optimal for the coming season.”

Onset of rainy season
Using the method of Bombardi et al. (2017), we developed an algorithm to forecast the start of the rainy season. The algorithm uses the climatologic rainfall and combines it with the likelihood of rainfall exceeding a threshold.

References
Bombardi et al., Front. Earth. Sci. 2017, 5, 14
Richardson, Pred. weather and clim. 2006, 628