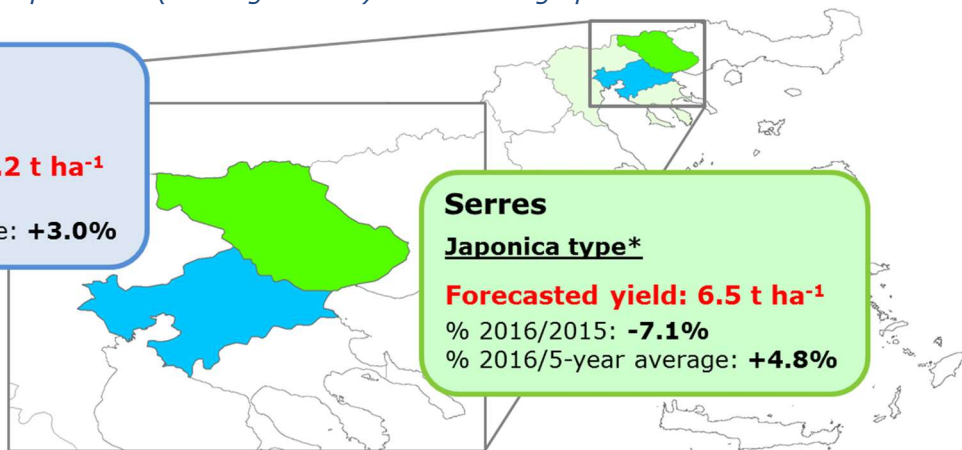


Forecasted yields for Indica (rice district of Thessaloniki) and Japonica (Serres) type cultivars are slightly higher than the 5-year average. Weather conditions until August were particularly favorable for rice with the absence of relevant heat or cold waves. Moreover, the occurrence of few rainy days from June to August contributed to generate unfavorable conditions for blast infections. However, lower yields are forecasted compared to 2015 season, which was also characterized by favorable weather conditions. Indeed, the rainfalls at the beginning of September could have generated for this year problems (although minor) to harvesting operations.

Thessaloniki
Indica type*
Forecasted yield: 9.2 t ha⁻¹
 % 2016/2015: **-7.5%**
 % 2016/5-year average: **+3.0%**

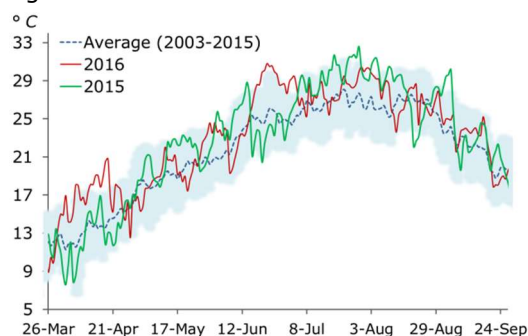
Serres
Japonica type*
Forecasted yield: 6.5 t ha⁻¹
 % 2016/2015: **-7.1%**
 % 2016/5-year average: **+4.8%**



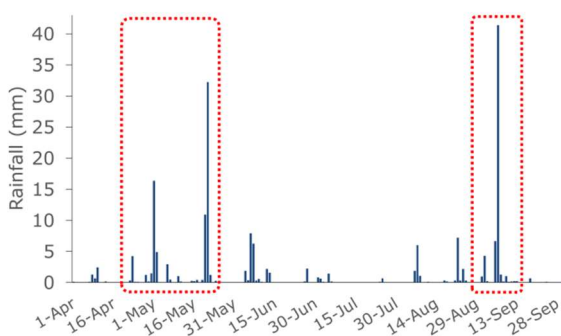
*Most representative cultivars of the study area

Agro-meteorological analysis

Mean temperatures were slightly above the 2003-2015 average during the entire growing period. The warmest conditions, although without the occurrence of relevant heat waves, were recorded during the second half of June and the beginning of August.

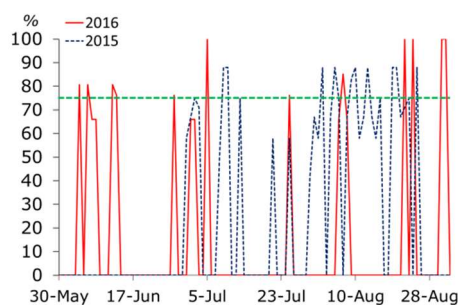


Mean temperature in Thessaloniki



Rainfall events (Thessaloniki)

Rainfalls were abundantly lower than the 10-year average until August, with the exception of some days in May. This, according to the simulations, contributed to generate a low risk of blast infections in the period when the plant was more susceptible (July-August). However, few isolated days of high risk were simulated at the end of August.



Potential blast infection risk (Thessaloniki)

Rainfalls at the beginning of September (with a pick of 40 mm at September 6th) might have caused problems during the harvesting operations. Moreover, an undesired germination of seeds on rice panicles could have caused a reduction of final yields.

Methodology: simulations were run with the WARM model on 2 × 2 km cells. Outputs were post-processed against the series 2003-2014 of official yields (source: Instituto Valenciano de Investigaciones Agrarias). **Editorial staff:** V. Pagani, T. Guarneri, L. Ranghetti, E. Movedi, L. Busetto, M. Boschetti, R. Confalonieri. Data produced by the Cassandra lab of the University of Milan and the National Research Council (IREA).