

## Experimental Climate Monitoring and Prediction

by: Prabodha Agalawatte, Sewwandhi Chandrasekara, Zeenas Yahiya,  
Lareef Zubair and Michael Bell (FECT and IRI<sup>1</sup>)

14 August 2014

### FECT BLOG

Past reports available at  
<http://fectsl.blogspot.com/> and  
<http://fectsl.wordpress.com/>

### FECT WEBSITES

<http://www.climate.lk> and  
<http://www.tropicalclimate.org/>

### 7 August, 2014 PACIFIC SEAS STATE

During June through July the observed ENSO conditions remained near the borderline of a weak El Niño condition in the ocean, but the atmosphere so far has shown little involvement. Most of the ENSO prediction models indicate more warming coming in the months ahead, leading to sustained El Niño conditions by the middle or late portion of northern summer.

(Text Courtesy IRI)

### INDIAN OCEAN STATE

A 0.5°C positive sea surface anomaly was observed around Sri Lanka

### MJO STATE

MJO is at phase 2 in the Indian Ocean and shall affect rainfall in Sri Lanka.

### Highlights

#### Monitoring and Predictions:

*Rather heavy rainfall events were observed in south western and north eastern coastal region of the country during the past week. Despite these events severe drought condition still persists in north central region of the country. Higher rainfall is expected in the next week by some climate models while the presence of the MJO in the Indian Ocean shall enhance rainfall in Sri Lanka.*

### Summary

#### Monitoring

**Weekly Monitoring:** Light rainfall was observed in south western and eastern regions of the country on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August. On the 6<sup>th</sup> no rainfall was observed in any part of the country. Thereafter heavy rainfall up to (100 mm) was observed in North eastern coastal regions and south western region on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Rainfall diminished on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August and on the next day once again high rainfall was observed in north eastern coastal area and the adjacent sea. Colombo and Badulla districts received rainfall up to 20 mm on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Monthly Monitoring:** A less than average rainfall was observed throughout the country during July.

#### Predictions

**14 day prediction:** Up to 55 mm rainfall is expected in the entire country during 13<sup>th</sup>- 19<sup>th</sup> of August and during 20<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> rainfall shall decrease with only up to 25 mm rainfall expected in south western Sri Lanka.

**IMD WRF & IRI Model Forecast:** According to the IMD WRF model heavy rainfall (65 mm) is expected in the south western region of the country during 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of August. Apart from this eastern region of the country shall receive rainfall too. Based on IRI prediction south western region of the country shall receive total precipitation up to 200 mm during 13<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup> of August. Up to 150 mm of rainfall is expected in north eastern coastal region and up to 50 mm rainfall in the north and north central region during this period. Unusually heavy rainfall events are not expected in any part of the country during these six days.

**Seasonal Prediction:** As per IRI Multi Model Probability Forecast issued on July 2014; for August 2014 to October 2014, the precipitation shall be climatological while there is a 70% chance that temperature shall be above normal.

### Inside this Issue

#### 1. Monitoring

- Daily Satellite Derived Rain fall Estimates
- Monthly Rain fall Estimates
- Decadal (10 Day) Satellite Derived Rainfall Estimates
- Weekly Average SST Anomalies

#### 2. Predictions

- NCEP GFS Ensemble 1-14 day predictions
- WRF model forecast Regional Meteorological Center, Chennai, Indian Meteorological Department)
- Weekly precipitation forecast (IRI)
- Seasonal Predictions from IRI

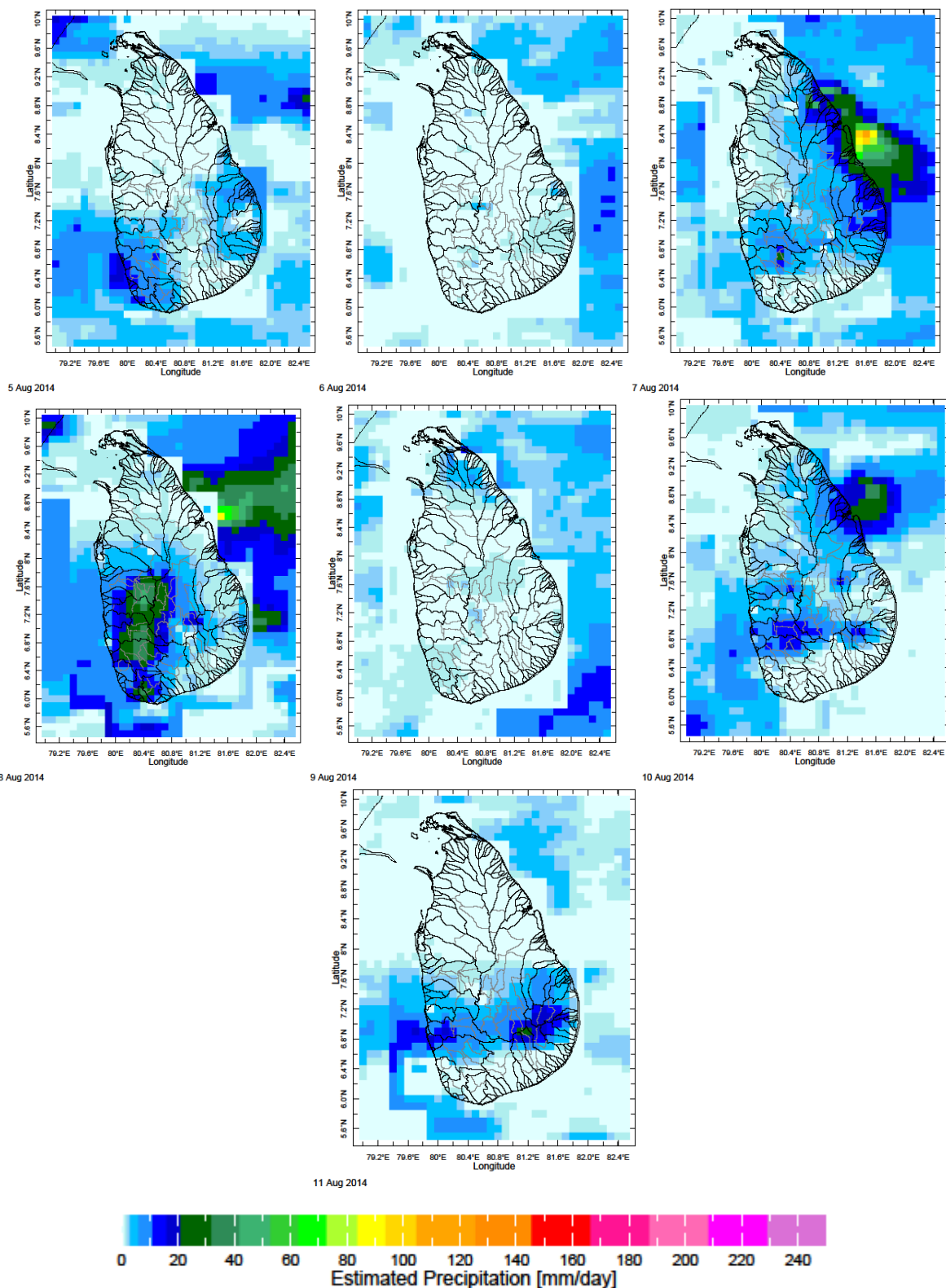
<sup>1</sup> International Research Institute for Climate and Society, Earth Institute at Columbia University, New York.

<sup>2</sup> These interpretations of hydro-meteorological conditions for the Mahaweli basins are provided for the use of the WMS/MASL.

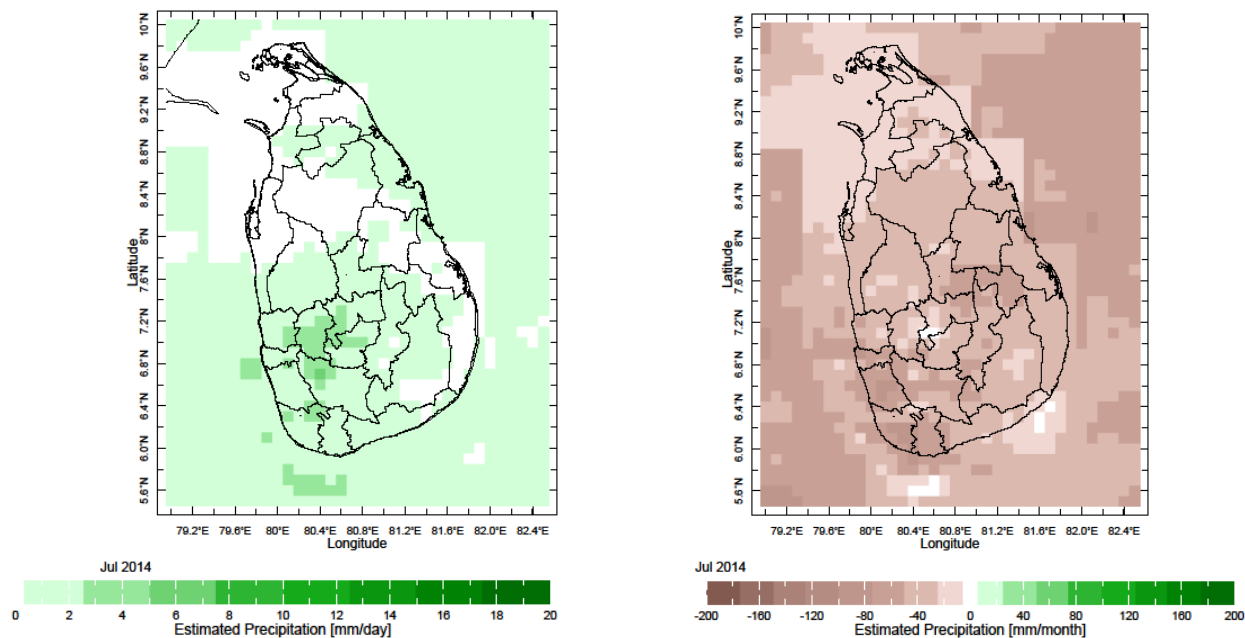
Official hydro-meteorological statements are provided by the Sri Lanka Department of Meteorology and Department of Irrigation.

## 1. Monitoring

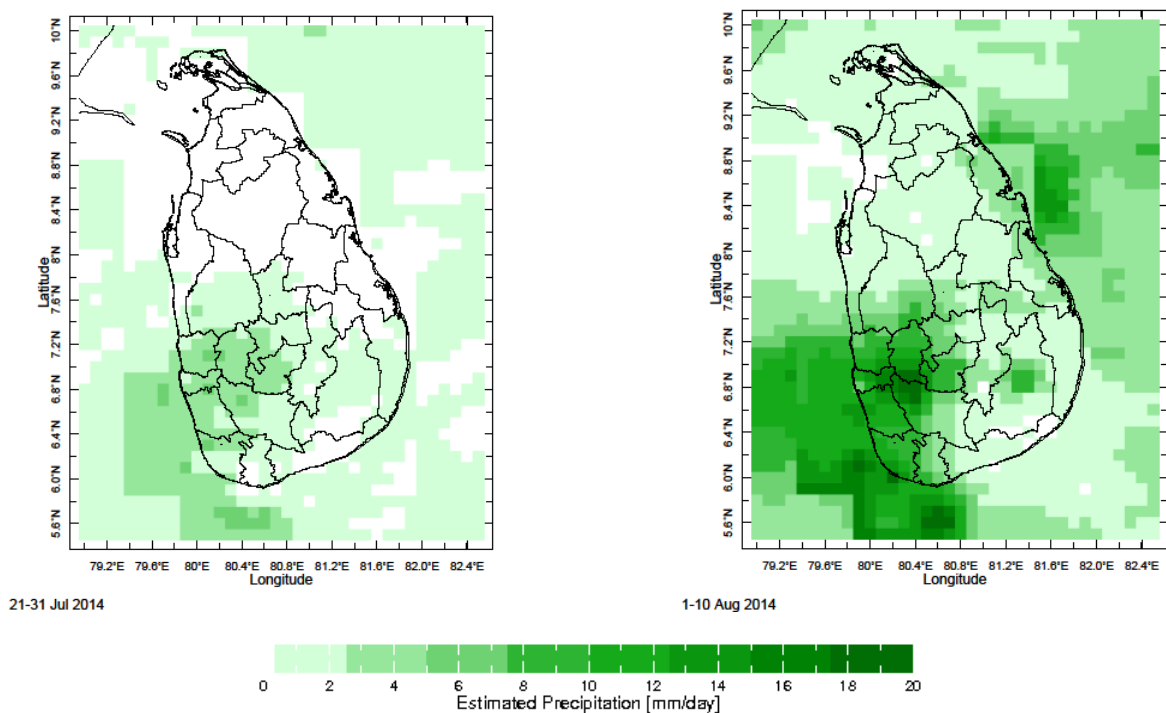
### a) Daily Satellite Derived Rainfall Estimate Maps: 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> August 2014 (Left-Right, Top-Bottom)



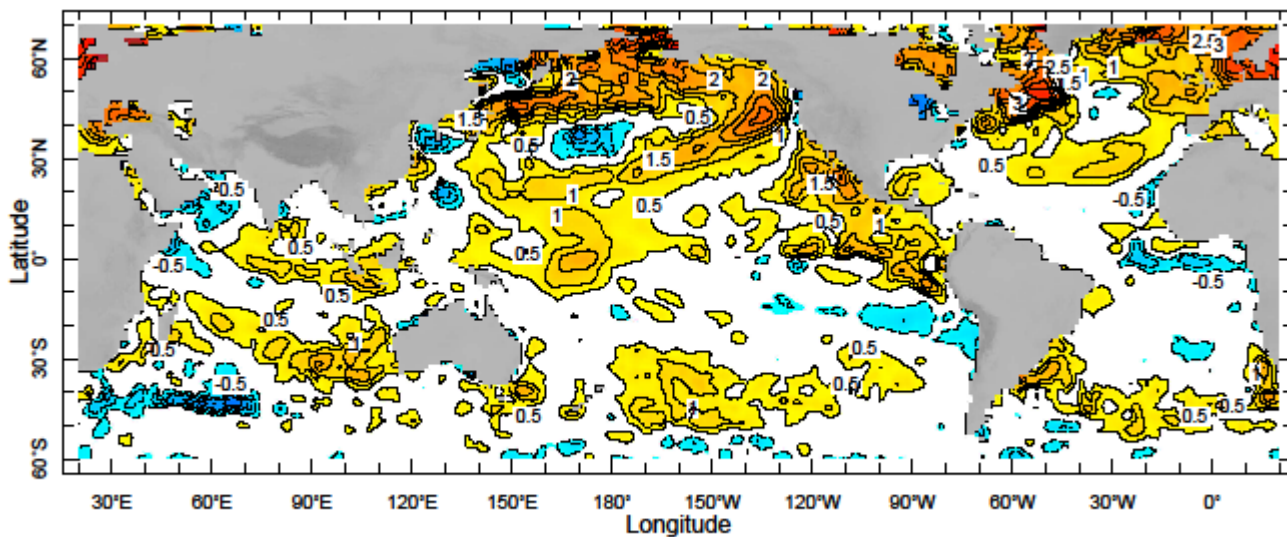
**b) Monthly Satellite Derived Rainfall Estimates for July 2014 (Average – Left and Anomaly - Right)**



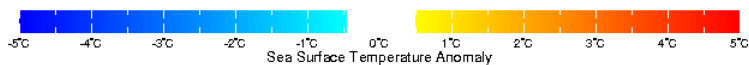
**c) Dekadal (10 Day) Satellite Derived Rainfall Estimates (21- 31 July and 1-10 Aug, 2014)**



**d) Weekly Average SST Anomalies**



3-9 Aug 2014



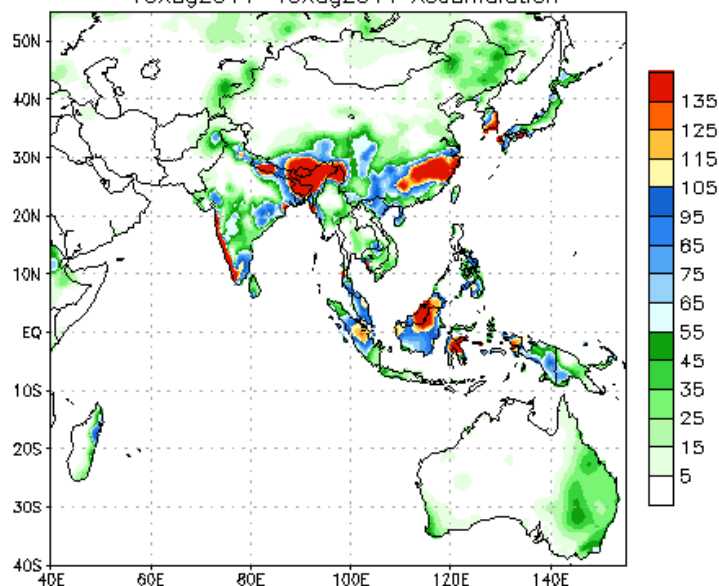
**Weekly Average SST Anomalies ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), 3<sup>rd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2014**

Data Source: NCEP Environmental monitoring center (Climatology 1971-2000)

## 2. Predictions

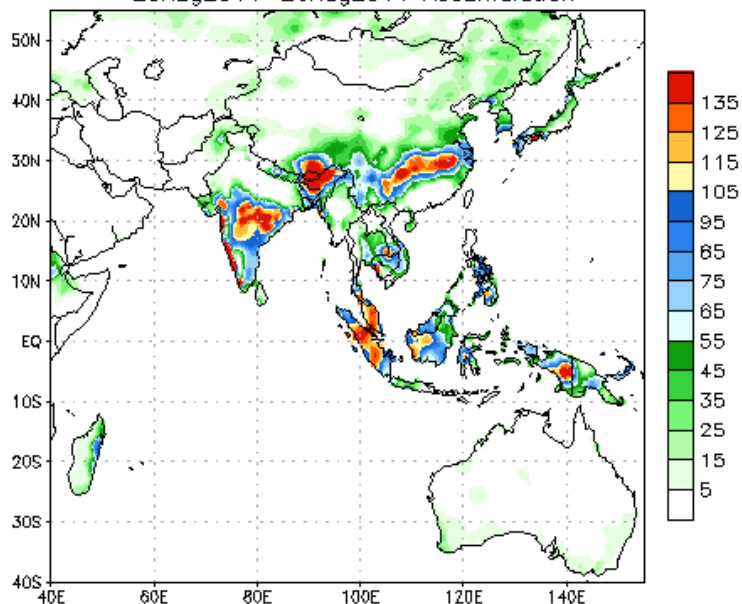
### a) NCEP GFS Ensemble 1-14 day predictions, NOAA, Climate Prediction Centre, USA.

NCEP GFS Ensemble Forecast 1-7 Day Precipitation (mm)  
from: 13Aug2014  
13Aug2014-19Aug2014 Accumulation



Bias correction based on last 30-day forecast error

NCEP GFS Ensemble Forecast 8-14 Day Precipitation (mm)  
from: 13Aug2014  
20Aug2014-26Aug2014 Accumulation

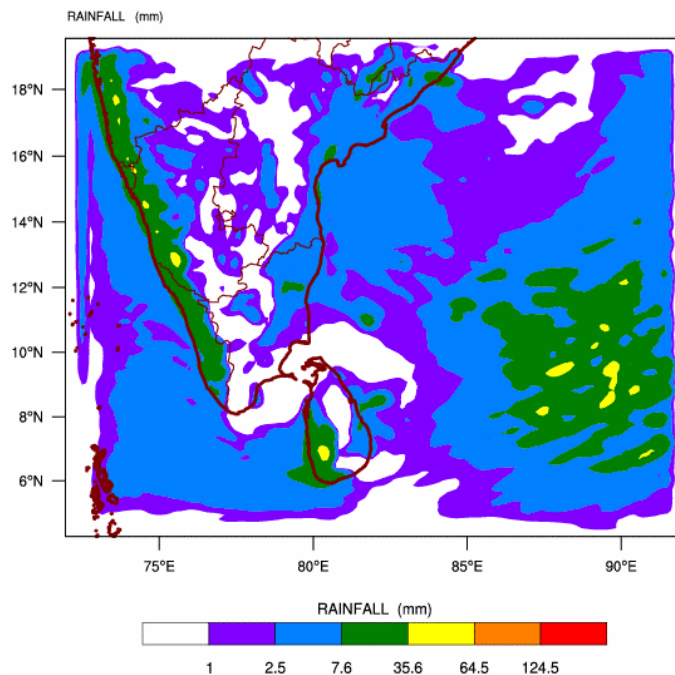


Bias correction based on last 30-day forecast error

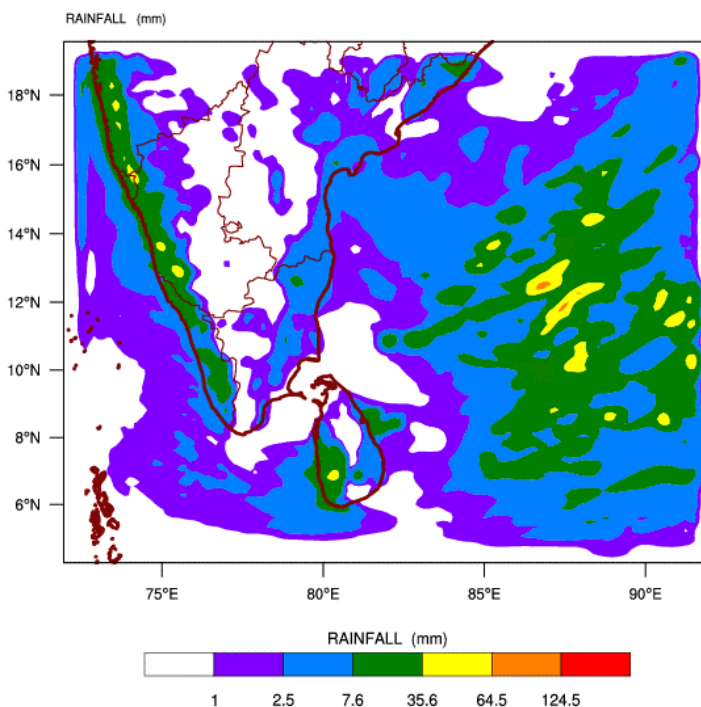
Source – NOAA Climate Prediction Center

**b) WRF model forecast from Regional Meteorological Center, Chennai of Indian Meteorological Department**

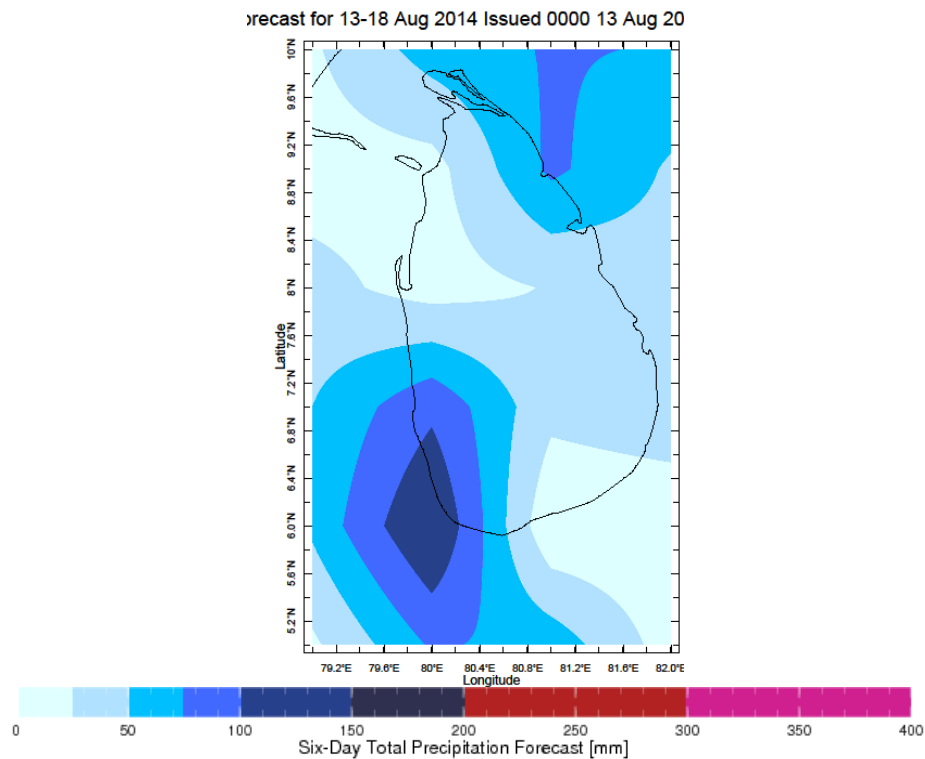
WRF MODEL FORECAST (48 HR.) RAINFALL(mm)\  
based on 00 UTC of 13-08-2014 valid for 03 UTC of 15-08-2014



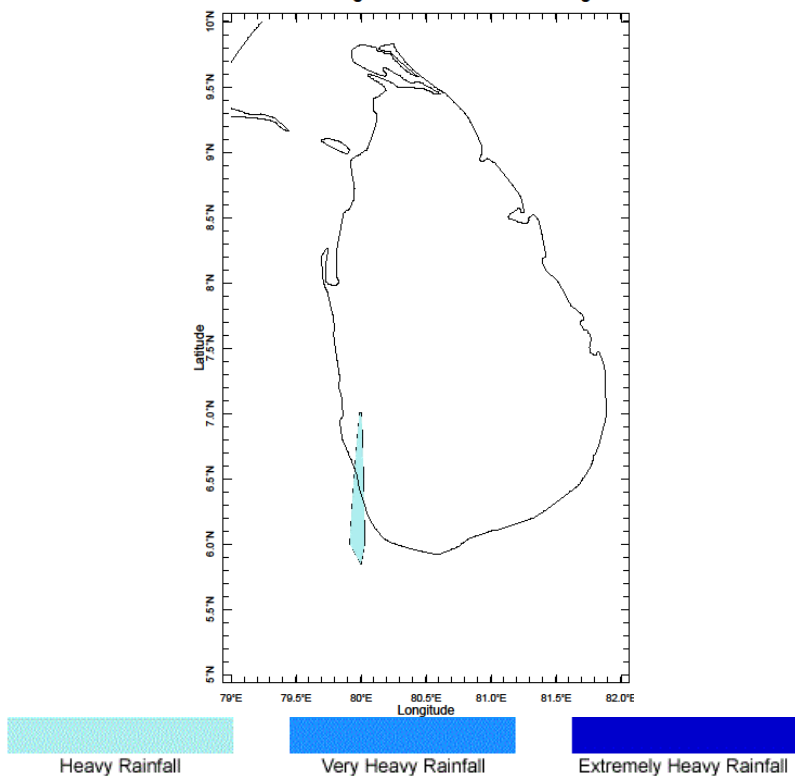
WRF MODEL FORECAST (72 HR.) RAINFALL(mm)\  
based on 00 UTC of 13-08-2014 valid for 03 UTC of 16-08-2014



**c) Weekly Precipitation Forecast for 13<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> August 2014 (Precipitation Forecast in Context Map Tool, IRI)**

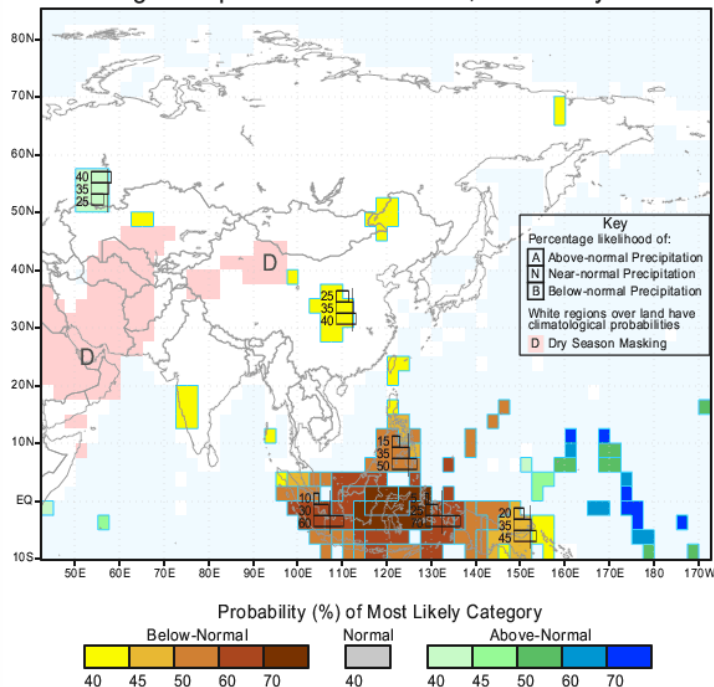


Forecast for 13-18 Aug 2014 Issued 0000 13 Aug 2014



## e) Seasonal Rainfall and Temperature Predictions from IRI

IRI Multi-Model Probability Forecast for Precipitation  
for August-September-October 2014, Issued July 2014



IRI Multi-Model Probability Forecast for Temperature  
for August-September-October 2014, Issued July 2014

