# Annex B. Quick reference to CropWatch indicators, spatial units and methodologies

The following sections give a brief overview of CropWatch indicators and spatial units, along with a description of the CropWatch production estimation methodology. For more information about CropWatch methodologies, visit CropWatch online at www.cropwatch.com.cn.

# **CropWatch indicators**

The CropWatch indicators are designed to assess the condition of crops and the environment in which they grow and develop; the indicators—RAIN (for rainfall), TEMP (temperature), and RADPAR (photosynthetically active radiation, PAR)—are not identical to the weather variables, but instead are value-added indicators computed only over crop growing areas (thus for example excluding deserts and rangelands) and spatially weighted according to the agricultural production potential, with marginal areas receiving less weight than productive ones. The indicators are expressed using the usual physical units (e.g., mm for rainfall) and were thoroughly tested for their coherence over space and time. CWSU are the CropWatch Spatial Units, including MRUs, MPZ, and countries (including first-level administrative districts in select large countries). For all indicators, high values indicate "good" or "positive."

INDICATOR					
BIOMSS					
Biomass ac	cumulation potenti	al			
Crop/	Grams dry	An estimate of biomass that could	Biomass is presented as maps by pixels, maps		
Ground	matter/m <sup>2</sup> , pixel	potentially be accumulated over the	showing average pixels values over CropWatch		
and	or CWSU	reference period given the prevailing	spatial units (CWSU), or tables giving average values		
satellite		rainfall and temperature conditions.	for the CWSU. Values are compared to the average		
			value for the last five years (2012-2016), with		
			departures expressed in percentage.		
CALF					
Cropped ar	able land and cropp	bed arable land fraction			
Crop/	[0,1] number,	The area of cropped arable land as	The value shown in tables is the maximum value of		
Satellite	pixel or CWSU	fraction of total (cropped and	the 8 values available for each pixel; maps show an		
	average	uncropped) arable land. Whether a	area as cropped if at least one of the 8 observations		
		pixel is cropped or not is decided	is categorized as "cropped." Uncropped means that		
		based on NDVI twice a month. (For	no crops were detected over the whole reporting		
		each four-month reporting period,	period. Values are compared to the average value		
		each pixel thus has 8 cropped/	for the last five years (2012-2016), with departures		
		uncropped values).	expressed in percentage.		
CROPPING	INTENSITY				
Cropping in	ntensity Index				
Crop/	0, 1, 2, or 3;	Cropping intensity index describes the	Cropping intensity is presented as maps by pixels		
Satellite	Number of	extent to which arable land is used over	or spatial average pixels values for MPZs, 31		
	crops growing	a year. It is the ratio of the total crop	countries, and 7 regions for China. Values are		
	over a year for	area of all planting seasons in a year to	compared to the average of the previous five		
	each pixel	the total area of arable land.	years, with departures expressed in percentage.		
NDVI					
Normalized	Difference Vegeta	tion Index			
Crop/	[0.12-0.90]	An estimate of the density of living	NDVI is shown as average profiles over time at		
Satellite	number, pixel or	green biomass.	the national level (cropland only) in crop		
	CWSU average		condition development graphs, compared with		

# CROPWATCH BULLETIN AUGUST 2019 | 211

INDICATOR				
			previous year and recent five-year average (2012-	
			2016), and as spatial patterns compared to the	
			average showing the time profiles, where they	
			occur, and the percentage of pixels concerned by	
			each profile.	
RADPAR				
CropWatch	indicator for Photo	osynthetically Active Radiation (PAR), base	d on pixel based PAR	
Weather	W/m <sup>-</sup> , CWSU	The spatial average (for a CWSU) of PAR	RADPAR is shown as the percent departure of the	
/Satellite		accumulation over agricultural pixels,	RADPAR value for the reporting period compared	
		weighted by the production potential.	to the recent fifteen-year average (2002-2016),	
			per CWSU. For the MPZS, regular PAR is shown as	
			man showing where the profiles occur and the	
			nap showing where the promes occur and the	
PAIN			percentage of pixels concerned by each prome.	
CronWatch	indicator for rainfa	all based on nivel-based rainfall		
Weather	Liters/m <sup>2</sup> CWSU	The spatial average (for a CWSU) of	RAIN is shown as the percent departure of the	
/Ground	Eltersynn , CW50	rainfall accumulation over agricultural	RAIN value for the reporting period compared to	
and		nixels weighted by the production	the recent fifteen-year average (2002-16) ner	
satellite		notential	CWSU For the MP7s, regular rainfall is shown as	
Succince		potentian	typical time profiles over the spatial unit, with a	
			map showing where the profiles occur and the	
			percentage of pixels concerned by each profile.	
ТЕМР				
CropWatch	n indicator for air te	mperature, based on pixel-based tempera	ture	
Weather	°C, CWSU	The spatial average (for a CWSU) of the	TEMP is shown as the departure of the average	
/Ground		temperature time average over	TEMP value (in degrees Centigrade) over the	
		agricultural pixels, weighted by the	reporting period compared with the average of	
		production potential.	the recent fifteen years (2002-16), per CWSU. For	
			the MPZs, regular temperature is illustrated as	
			typical time profiles over the spatial unit, with a	
			map showing where the profiles occur and the	
			percentage of pixels concerned by each profile.	
VCIx				
Maximum	vegetation conditio	n index		
Crop/	Number, pixel	Vegetation condition of the current	VCIx is based on NDVI and two VCI values are	
Satellite	to CWSU	season compared with historical data.	computed every month. VCIx is the highest VCI	
		Values usually are [0, 1], where 0 is	value recorded for every pixel over the reporting	
		"NDVI as bad as the worst recent year"	period. A low value of VCIx means that no VCI	
		and 1 is "NDVI as good as the best	value was high over the reporting period. A high	
		recent year." Values can exceed the	Value means that at least one VCI value was high.	
		the worst	volue by CWSU	
VIII		the worst.		
Vegetation	health index			
Cron/	Number nivel	The average of VCI and the	Low VHL values indicate upusually poor crop	
Satellite	to CWSU	temperature condition index (TCI) with	condition but high values when due to low	
Satemite	10 0 00 50	TCI defined like VCI but for	temperature may be difficult to interpret VHI is	
		temperature. VHI is based on the	shown as typical time profiles over Major	
		assumption that "high temperature is	Production Zones (MPZ), where they occur, and	
		bad" (due to moisture stress), but	the percentage of pixels concerned by each	
		ignores the fact that low temperature	profile.	
		may be equally "bad" (crops develop		

		INDICATOR	
		and grow slowly, or even suffer from	
		frost).	
VHIn			
Minimum	Vegetation health in	ndex	
Crop/	Number, pixel	VHIn is the lowest VHI value for every	Low VHIn values indicate the occurrence of water
Satellite	to CWSU	pixel over the reporting period. Values	stress in the monitoring period, often combined
		usually are [0, 100]. Normally, values	with lower than average rainfall. The spatial/time
		lower than 35 indicate poor crop	resolution of CropWatch VHIn is 16km/week for
		condition.	MPZs and 1km/dekad for China.

*Note:* Type is either "Weather" or "Crop"; source specifies if the indicator is obtained from ground data, satellite readings, or a combination; units: in the case of ratios, no unit is used; scale is either pixels or large scale CropWatch spatial units (CWSU). Many indicators are computed for pixels but represented in the CropWatch bulletin at the CWSU scale.

## CropWatch spatial units (CWSU)

CropWatch analyses are applied to four kinds of CropWatch spatial units (CWSU): Countries, China, Major Production Zones (MPZ), and global crop Monitoring and Reporting Units (MRU). The tables below summarize the key aspects of each spatial unit and show their relation to each other. For more details about these spatial units and their boundaries, see the CropWatch bulletin online resources.

SPATIAL LUNITS			
CHINA			
Overview	Description		
Seven monitoring regions	The seven regions in China are agro-economic/agro-ecological regions that together cover the bulk of national maize, rice, wheat, and soybean production. Provinces that are entirely or partially included in one of the monitoring regions are indicated in color on the map below.		
	Care Nagila Care Nagila Care Nagila Care Nagila Care Nagila Care Nagila Care Nagila Care Nagila Care Charge Care Care Care Care Care Care Care Care Care Care Care Care Care Care Care Care Care		



Overview "Forty one plus one" countries to represent main producers/exporters and other key countries. Description CropWatch monitored countries together represent more than 80% of the production of maize, rice, wheat and soybean, as well as 80% of exports. Some countries were included in the list based on criteria of proximity to China (Uzbekistan, Cambodia), regional importance, or global geopolitical relevance (e.g., four of five most populous countries in Africa). The total number of countries monitored is "forty one plus one," referring to forty one countries and China itself. For the nine largest countries—, United States, Brazil, Argentina, Russia, Kazakhstan, India, China, and Australia, maps and analyses may also present results for the first-level administrative subdivision. The CropWatch agroclimatic indicators are computed for all countries and included in the analyses when abnormal conditions occur. Background information about the countries' agriculture and trade is available on the CropWatch Website, **www.cropwatch.com.cn**.



Agro-ecological Zones 42 key agi for 42 key countries zones, and not releva coverage c

42 key agricultural countries are divided into 212 sub-national regions based on cropping systems, climatic zones, and topographic conditions. Each countries are considered separately. A limited number of regions are not relevant for the crops currently monitored by CropWatch but are included to allow for more complete coverage of the 42 key countries. Some regions are more relevant for rangeland and livestock monitoring which is also essential for food security.



#### Major Production Zones (MPZ)

Description

Overview Seven globally important areas of agricultural production

The six MPZs include West Africa, South America, North America, South and Southeast Asia, Western Europe and Central Europe to Western Russia. The MPZs are not necessarily the main production zones for the four crops (maize, rice, soybean, wheat) currently monitored by CropWatch, but they are globally or regionally important areas of agricultural production. The seven zones were identified based mainly on production statistics and distribution of the combined cultivation area of maize, rice, wheat and soybean.



#### **Global Monitoring and Reporting Unit (MRU)**

Overview 65 agroecological/agroeconomic units across the world

#### Description

MRUs are reasonably homogeneous agro-ecological/agro-economic units spanning the globe, selected to capture major variations in worldwide farming and crops patterns while at the same time providing a manageable (limited) number of spatial units to be used as the basis for the analysis of environmental factors affecting crops. Unit numbers and names are shown in the figure below. A limited number of units (e.g., MRU-63 to 65) are not relevant for the crops currently monitored by CropWatch but are included to allow for more complete coverage of global production. Additional information about the MRUs is provided online under **www.cropwatch.com.cn**.



# **Production estimation methodology**

The main concept of the CropWatch methodology for estimating production is the calculation of current year production based on information about last year's production and the variations in crop yield and cultivated area compared with the previous year. The equation for production estimation is as follows:

$$Production_{i} = Production_{i-1} * (1 + \Delta Yield_{i}) * (1 + \Delta Area_{i})$$

Where i is the current year,  $\Delta Yield_i$  and  $\Delta Area_i$  are the variations in crop yield and cultivated area compared with the previous year; the values of  $\Delta Yield_i$  and  $\Delta Area_i$  can be above or below zero.

For the 31 countries monitored by CropWatch, yield variation for each crop is calibrated against NDVI time series, using the following equation:

$$\Delta Yield_i = f(NDVI_i, NDVI_{i-1})$$

Where  $NDVI_i$  and  $NDVI_{i-1}$  are taken from the time series of the spatial average of NDVI over the crop specific mask for the current year and the previous year. For NDVI values that correspond to periods after the current monitoring period, average NDVI values of the previous five years are used as an average expectation.  $\Delta Yield_i$  is calculated by regression against average or peak NDVI (whichever yields the best regression), considering the crop phenology of each crop for each individual country.

A different method is used for areas. For China, CropWatch combines remote-sensing based estimates of the crop planting proportion (cropped area to arable land) with a crop type proportion (specific type area to total cropped area). The planting proportion is estimated based on an unsupervised classification of high resolution satellite images from HJ-1 CCD and GF-1 images. The crop-type proportion for China is obtained by the GVG instrument from field transects. The area of a specific crop is computed by multiplying farmland area, planting proportion, and crop-type proportion of the crop.

To estimate crop area for wheat, soybean, maize, and rice outside China, CropWatch relies on the regression of crop area against cropped arable land fraction of each individual country (paying due attention to phenology):

$$Area_i = a + b * CALF_i$$

Where a and b are the coefficients generated by linear regression with area from FAOSTAT or national sources and CALF the Cropped Arable Land Fraction from CropWatch estimates.  $\Delta Area_i$  can then be calculated from the area of current and the previous years.

The production for "other countries" (outside the 31 CropWatch monitored countries) was estimated as the linear trend projection for 2014 of aggregated FAOSTAT data (using aggregated world production minus the sum of production by the 31 CropWatch monitored countries).

# Methods for crop pest and disease monitoring

For the crop pest and disease monitoring part, we bring together and produce cutting edge research to provide pest and disease monitoring and forecasting information, integrating multi-source (Earth Observation-EO, field survey, meteorological, entomological and plant pathological, etc.) data to monitor pests and diseases damaged areas and levels. For different type of pest or disease, different models are developed, which are as follows.

# Wheat stripe rust

For wheat stripe rust (Puccinia striiformis), it forms yellow stripe or oval-shaped spots on the leaves of wheat, which results in leaf yellowing, chlorophyll content and water content reduction. In this report, the standard for wheat stripe rust is based on China's "Rules for investigation and forecasting of wheat stripe rust"(GB/T15795 -2011), and the detail standards is listed in Table B.1. Based on the standards,

the ground survey data and remote sensing observation data were obtained through the integrated experiment of crop diseases on satellite ground synchronization. Additionally, the levels 1 and 2 in Table 1 refer to the slight occurrence of wheat rust, the level 3 refers to moderate, and levels 4 and 5 refer to severe.

Firstly, the spatial distribution of wheat stripe rust is taken as prior knowledge based on literature research and ground survey. Then Wheat Rust Index (WRI) is constructed based on Plant Senescence Reflectance Index (PSRI) (Equation 1) and Red-edge Vegetation Stress Index (RVSI) (Equation 2) to monitor wheat stripe rust, for which WRI (Equation 3) considering crop growth, chlorophyll content and their variation characteristics. At last, we integrated with disease habitat information including land surface temperature (LST, MODIS product), rainfall and wind (meteorological data), also historical data to construct Disease Index (DI) (Equation 4) for wheat stripe rust monitoring.

$$PSRI = (PR - RB)/RNIR$$
(1)

$$RVSI = ((R712 + R752)/2) - R732$$
(2)

$$WRI = f(\Delta PSRI, \Delta RVSI)$$
(3)

$$DI = f(WRI, LST - LST_{avg}, R - R_{avg}, W)$$
(4)

Where, RR, RB and RNIR are the reflectance of red, blue, and near infrared (NIR) band, R712, R752 and R732 are the reflectance of 712nm, 752nm and 732nm band. LST is land surface temperature while LSTavg is the average historical land surface temperature. R is rainfall while Ravg is the average historical rainfall. W is wind direction. f and g are constructed with regression analysis based on filed survey datasets. The data range of DI is 0~100%. When  $0 < DI \le 30\%$ , the damaged level of stripe rust is slight,  $30\% < DI \le 60\%$  is moderate, DI > 60% is severe.

Table B.1	. Wheat st	ripe rust	t field i	investigation	indices
-----------	------------	-----------	-----------	---------------	---------

Index			Level		
	1	2	3	4	5
Disease index	0.001 <y≤5< td=""><td>5<y≤10< td=""><td>10<y≤20< td=""><td>20<y≤30< td=""><td>Y&gt;30</td></y≤30<></td></y≤20<></td></y≤10<></td></y≤5<>	5 <y≤10< td=""><td>10<y≤20< td=""><td>20<y≤30< td=""><td>Y&gt;30</td></y≤30<></td></y≤20<></td></y≤10<>	10 <y≤20< td=""><td>20<y≤30< td=""><td>Y&gt;30</td></y≤30<></td></y≤20<>	20 <y≤30< td=""><td>Y&gt;30</td></y≤30<>	Y>30
The rate of disease field / %	1 <r≤5< td=""><td>5<r≤10< td=""><td>10<r≤20< td=""><td>20<r≤30< td=""><td>R&gt;35</td></r≤30<></td></r≤20<></td></r≤10<></td></r≤5<>	5 <r≤10< td=""><td>10<r≤20< td=""><td>20<r≤30< td=""><td>R&gt;35</td></r≤30<></td></r≤20<></td></r≤10<>	10 <r≤20< td=""><td>20<r≤30< td=""><td>R&gt;35</td></r≤30<></td></r≤20<>	20 <r≤30< td=""><td>R&gt;35</td></r≤30<>	R>35

Note: Y is the disease index, which is used to reflect the severity of disease occurrence. The calculation formula is Y=F\*D\*100, F is the disease leaf rate, and D is the average severity of the disease leaf. R is the disease field rate, referring to the percentage of the number of damaged fields in the total field.Reference: http://doc.mbalib.com/view/2e0ae53c7f397af70deb37edb07c5a12.html

### Wheat Fusarium head blight

For wheat Fusarium head blight (Fusarium graminearum), it destroyed the cellular integrity of the impacted tissues leading to cell death and degradation of chlorophylls. In this report, the standard for wheat Fusarium head blight is based on China's 'Rules for monitoring and forecasting of wheat head blight' (GB/T 15796 -2011), and the detail standards is listed in Table B.2. Based on the standards, the ground survey data and remote sensing observation data were obtained through the integrated experiment of crop diseases on satellite ground synchronization. Additionally, the levels 1 and 2 in Table 2 refer to the slight occurrence of wheat rust, the level 3 refers to moderate, and levels 4 and 5 refer to severe.

Firstly, the spatial distribution of wheat Fusarium head blight which provided by CAB international (CABI) is taken as prior knowledge based on literature research and ground survey. Then Wheat Fusarium Head Blight Index (WFHBI) is constructed based on Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) (Equation 5) and Difference Vegetation Index (DVI) (Equation 6) to monitor wheat Fusarium head blight, for which WFHBI (Equation 7) considering spectral reflectance of ear and canopy, and their variation characteristics.

At last, integrated with disease habitat information including growth stage, LST and rainfall, also historical data to construct DI (Equation 8) for wheat fusarium head blight monitoring.

$$NDVI = (RNIR - RR)/(RNIR + RR)$$
(5)

$$DVI = RNIR - RR \tag{6}$$

$$WFHBI = f(\Delta NDVI, \Delta DVI)$$
(7)

$$DI = g(WFHBI, G, LST - LST_{ava}, R - R_{ava})$$
(8)

Where, G is the wheat growth stage, f and g are constructed with regression analysis based on filed survey datasets. The data range of DI is  $0^{-100\%}$ . When  $0 < DI \le 30\%$ , the damaged level of Fusarium head blight is slight,  $30\% < DI \le 60\%$  is moderate, DI > 60% is severe.

Table	B.2.	Criteria	for whe	eat sheath	blight	occurrence	level

Index			Level		
	1	2	3	4	5
The ratio of diseased panicle / %	0. 1 <y≦10< td=""><td>10<y≦20< td=""><td>20<y≤30< td=""><td>30<y≤40< td=""><td>Y&gt;40</td></y≤40<></td></y≤30<></td></y≦20<></td></y≦10<>	10 <y≦20< td=""><td>20<y≤30< td=""><td>30<y≤40< td=""><td>Y&gt;40</td></y≤40<></td></y≤30<></td></y≦20<>	20 <y≤30< td=""><td>30<y≤40< td=""><td>Y&gt;40</td></y≤40<></td></y≤30<>	30 <y≤40< td=""><td>Y&gt;40</td></y≤40<>	Y>40
The incidence area ratio / %	R>30	R>30	R>30	R>30	R>30

*Note:* Y is the rate of diseased panicle, which refers to the ratio of the number of wheat ears to the total number of ears investigated, and R is the incidence area ratio. Reference: https://www.taodocs.com/p-86284688.html

#### Wheat sheath blight

For wheat sheath blight (Rhizotonia cerealis), its main damage to wheat is appearing brown spot around leaf sheath and water loss of stem wall, which results in nutrient and water deficiency and death. In this report, the standard for wheat sheath blight is based on China's 'Rules for investigation and forecasting of wheat sheath blight' (NY/T 614 -2002), and the detail standards is listed in Table B.3. Based on the standards, the ground survey data and remote sensing observation data were obtained through the integrated experiment of crop diseases on satellite ground synchronization. Additionally, the levels 1 and 2 in Table 3 refer to the slight occurrence of wheat sheath blight, the level 3 refers to moderate, and levels 4 and 5 refer to severe.

Firstly, the spatial distribution of wheat sheath blight is taken as prior knowledge based on literature research and ground survey. Then Wheat Sheath Blight Index (WSBI) is constructed based on Triangular Vegetation Index (TVI) (Equation 9) and Normalized Difference Water Index (NDWI) (Equation 10) to monitor wheat sheath blight, for which WSBI (Equation 11) considering crop growth and its variation characteristics. At last, integrated with disease habitat information including LST and rainfall, also historical data to construct DI (Equation 12) for wheat sheath blight monitoring.

$$TVI = 0.5 * (120 * (RNIR - RG) - 200 * (RR - RG))$$
(9)

$$NDWI = (RG - RNIR)/(RG + RNIR)$$
(10)

$$WSBI = f(\Delta TVI, \Delta NDWI)$$
(11)

$$DI = g(WSBI, LST - LST_{avg}, R - R_{avg})$$
(12)

Where, RG is the reflectance of green band. f and g are constructed with regression analysis based on filed survey datasets. The data range of DI is 0~100%. When  $0 < DI \le 30\%$ , the damage level of sheath blight is slight,  $30\% < DI \le 60\%$  is moderate, DI > 60% is severe.

Index			Level				
	1	2	3	4	5		
Disease index	Y≤5	5 <y≤15< td=""><td>15<y≤25< td=""><td>25<y≤35< td=""><td>Y&gt;35</td></y≤35<></td></y≤25<></td></y≤15<>	15 <y≤25< td=""><td>25<y≤35< td=""><td>Y&gt;35</td></y≤35<></td></y≤25<>	25 <y≤35< td=""><td>Y&gt;35</td></y≤35<>	Y>35		
Source: https://max.baok/118.com/html/2017/0718/122811227.chtm							

## Table B.3. Wheat sheath blight field investigation indices

Source: https://max.book118.com/html/2017/0718/122811227.shtm

### Wheat aphid

For wheat aphid (Sitobion avenae and Rhopalosiphum padi), its main damage to wheat is feeding on the sap of young or senescent leaves, stalks and heads, which endangers the normal growth of wheat, and the honeydew emitted by aphids adheres to the leaf surface, seriously affects the photosynthesis of wheat leaves, cause the wheat seedlings becoming yellow and die. In this report, the standard for wheat aphid is based on China's 'Rules for investigation and forecasting of wheat aphid' (NY/T612-2002), and the detail standards are listed in Table B.4. Based on the standards, the ground survey data and remote sensing observation data were obtained through the integrated experiment of crop pests on satellite ground synchronization. Additionally, the levels 1 and 2 in Table 4 refer to the slight occurrence of wheat aphid, the level 3 refers to moderate, and levels 4 and 5 refer to severe.

Firstly, the spatial distribution of wheat aphid is taken as prior knowledge based on literature research and ground survey. Then Wheat Aphid Damage Index (WADI) is constructed based on NDVI and Photochemical Reflectance Index (PRI) (Equation 13) to monitor wheat aphid, for which WADI (Equation 14) considering crop growth and its variation characteristics. At last, integrated with pest habitat information including LST and rainfall, also historical data to construct Pest Index (PI) (Equation 15) for wheat aphid monitoring.

$$PRI = (R531 - R570)/(R531 + R570)$$
(13)

$$WADI = f(\Delta NDVI, \Delta PRI)$$
(14)

$$PI = g(WADI, LST - LST_{avg}, R - R_{avg})$$
(15)

Where, R531 and R570 are the reflectance of 531nm and 570nm bands. f and g are constructed with regression analysis based on filed survey datasets. The data range of PI is 0~100%. When 0 < PI≤ 30%, the damaged level of aphid is slight, 30% < PI≤ 60% is moderate, PI > 60% is severe.

Table D.4. Wheat aping here investigation multe	Table B.4.	Wheat aphid	field investigation	indices
---	------------	-------------	---------------------	---------

Index			Level		
	1	2	3	4	5
Aphid number of hundred plants (head, Y)	Y≤500	500 <y≤1500< td=""><td>1500<i>≤</i>Y≤2500</td><td>2500<y≤3500< td=""><td>Y&gt;3500</td></y≤3500<></td></y≤1500<>	1500 <i>≤</i> Y≤2500	2500 <y≤3500< td=""><td>Y&gt;3500</td></y≤3500<>	Y>3500

Source: https://max.book118.com/html/2017/0718/122811227.shtm