



## Agricultural Standardised Precipitation Index (aSPI)

One of the most widely used drought indices worldwide is the Standardised Precipitation Index (SPI). Although other comprehensive indices have been introduced over the years, SPI remains the most broadly accepted index due to a number of reasons, the most important of which are its simple structure and the fact that it uses only precipitation data. A modified version of SPI is proposed, namely the Agricultural Standardised Precipitation Index (aSPI), based on the substitution of the total precipitation by the effective precipitation, which describes more accurately the amount of water that can be used productively by plants.

The conceptual enhancement of SPI aims at improving the suitability of the index for agricultural drought characterisation, while retaining the advantages of the original index, including its dependence only on precipitation data (Tigkas et al., 2018).

In Climate Insights, the empirical method proposed by FAO is applied to calculate  $P_e$  from monthly total precipitation ( $P$ ), which is based on the equation for the estimation of  $P_e$  (Brouwer and Heibloem, 1986). The aSPI is calculated with similar procedures, as already described for the SPI.

