

A severe, multi-year drought which began in 2006 had significant impacts on Syria's food producing regions. Geospatial technologies, primarily the use of remotely sensed data can be used to collect and analyze data from inaccessible or remote locations on the planet. Satellite imager collected over Syria's food producing regions just prior to the civil war show the significant decline in agricultural productivity. The Syrian regime's lack of response to the food situation resulted in mass migration, food insecurity, and accelerated protests against the government.

Satellite data from Landsat 5 and Landsat 8 before, during, and after the drought is analyzed using the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) along with image classification to show and quantify the significant impact the drought had on agricultural productivity. Additionally, datasets from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are used to highlight the decreased precipitation experienced during the prolonged drought.