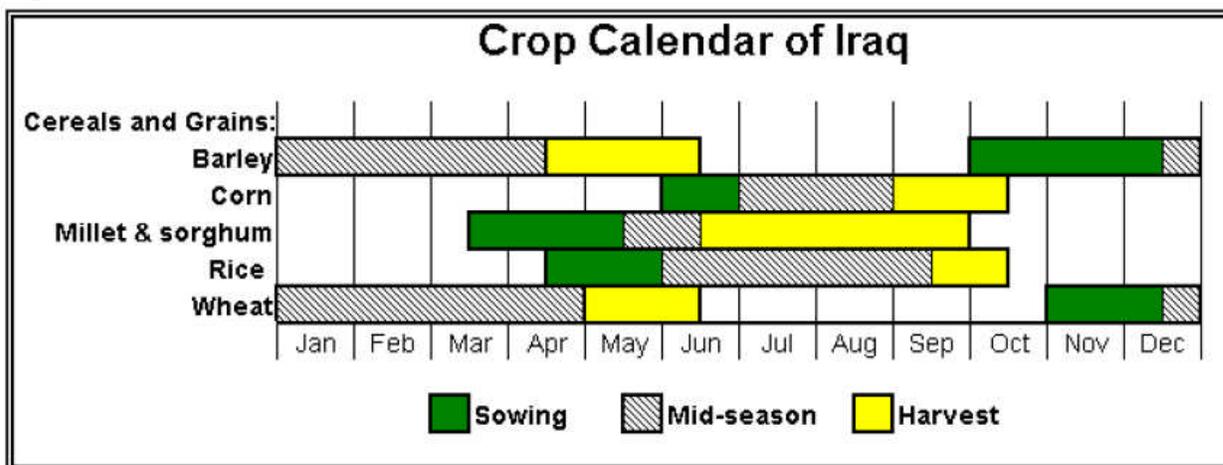




**February Report – Week 1**

**February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

1. Winter grains (wheat & barley) production prospects in the northern rainfed governorates are better than the previous year, with the exception of Dahuk and Ninawa; At Ta'min has improved slightly since the last crop progress report. The southern irrigated provinces are also showing improvement over the previous year with the exception of isolated areas of decrease in Diyala and Wasit.
2. The last significant rain event occurred in late-December 2008. Season-to-date cumulative precipitation averages 75% of normal in most of the country with January precipitation falling below normal. Despite a forecasted 10mm to 50mm of accumulated rainfall in the Northern provinces over the next week (Figure 1), more rainfall is needed to alleviate dry conditions and assure a healthy crop.
3. MODIS NDVI departure from the 5-year average shows significant increases in crop vigor for most of the Northern provinces (Figure 2). Ninawa is experiencing higher crop NDVI in the northern portions of the province, but a large remainder of the cropland is sparse. Dahuk is showing similar declines compared to last season. Overall cropland NDVI in the southern irrigated provinces is improved with the exception of large field areas in southern Diyala and central Wasit.
4. High resolution imagery analysis of At Ta'min province showed a 65% increase in crop vigor and abundance over the previous year (Figure 3). Unlike most Northern provinces, At Ta'min winter grains further benefit from additional irrigation inputs such as canal systems and center pivot irrigation (Figures 4). Image analysis revealed 4 active center pivot fields, 3 inactive fields, and 3 that remain unplanted during both seasons (Figure 5). The active center pivots range between 20 and 30 hectares.



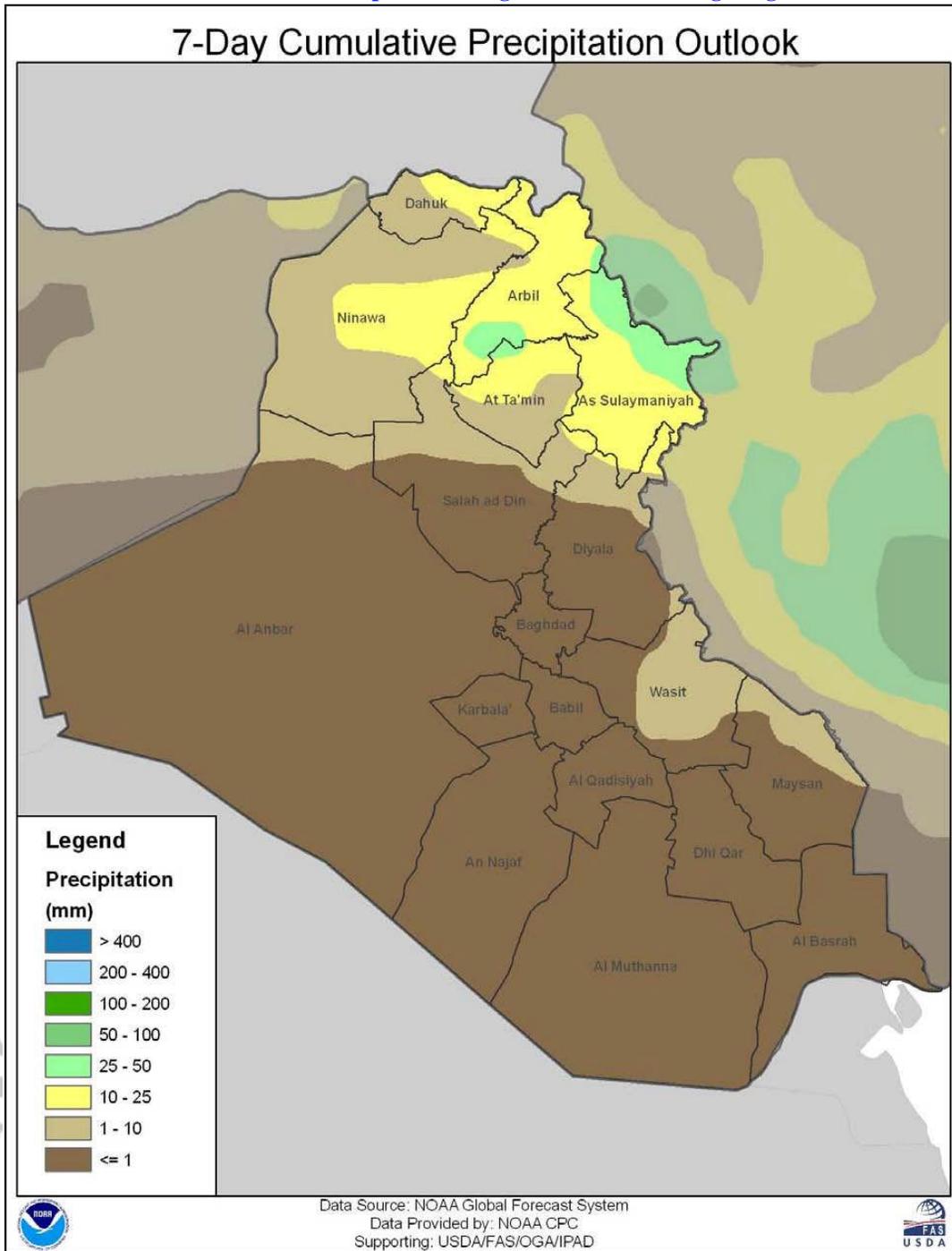


Figure 1: 7-day precipitation outlook.

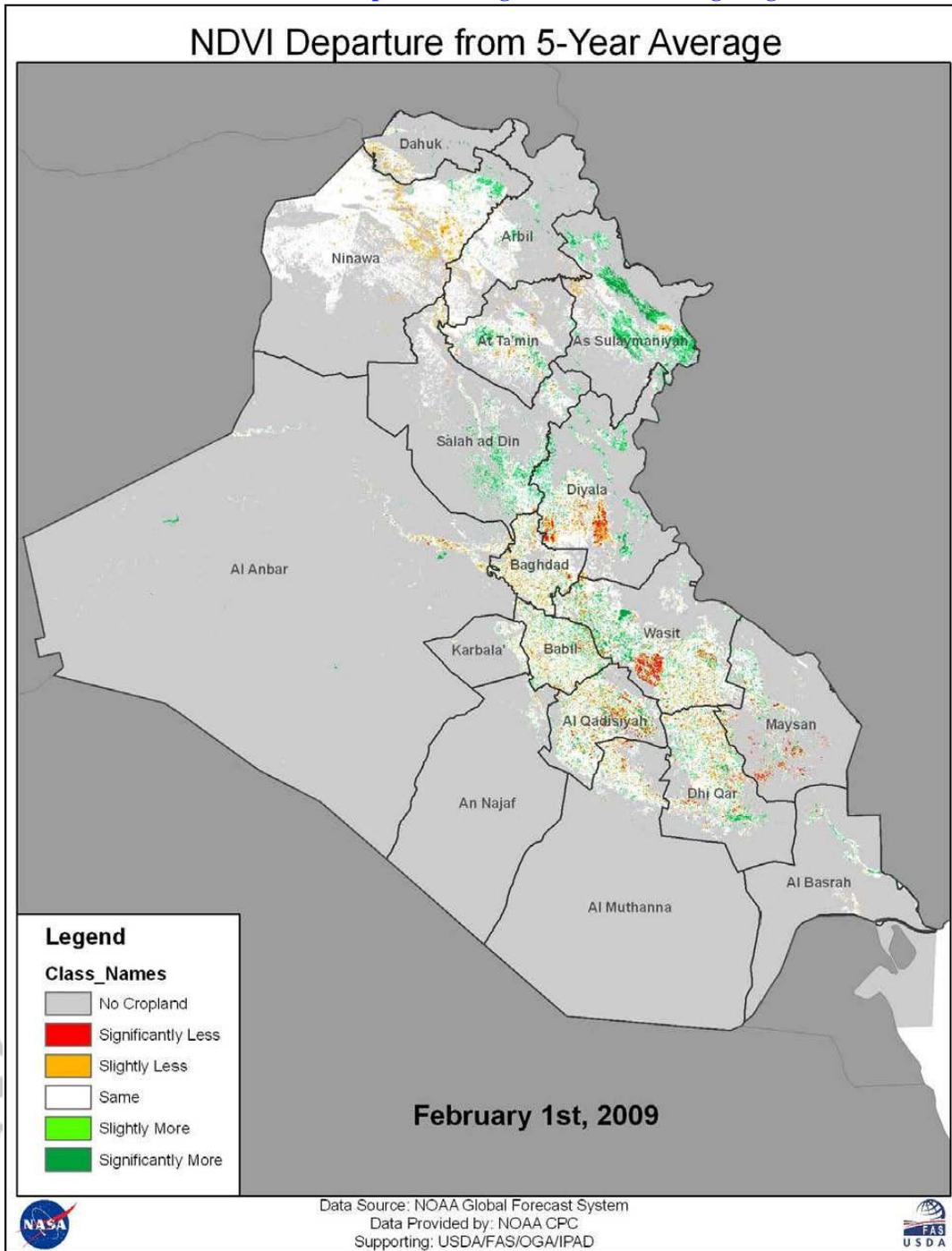


Figure 2: MODIS NDVI departure from 5-year average (cropland mask applied).

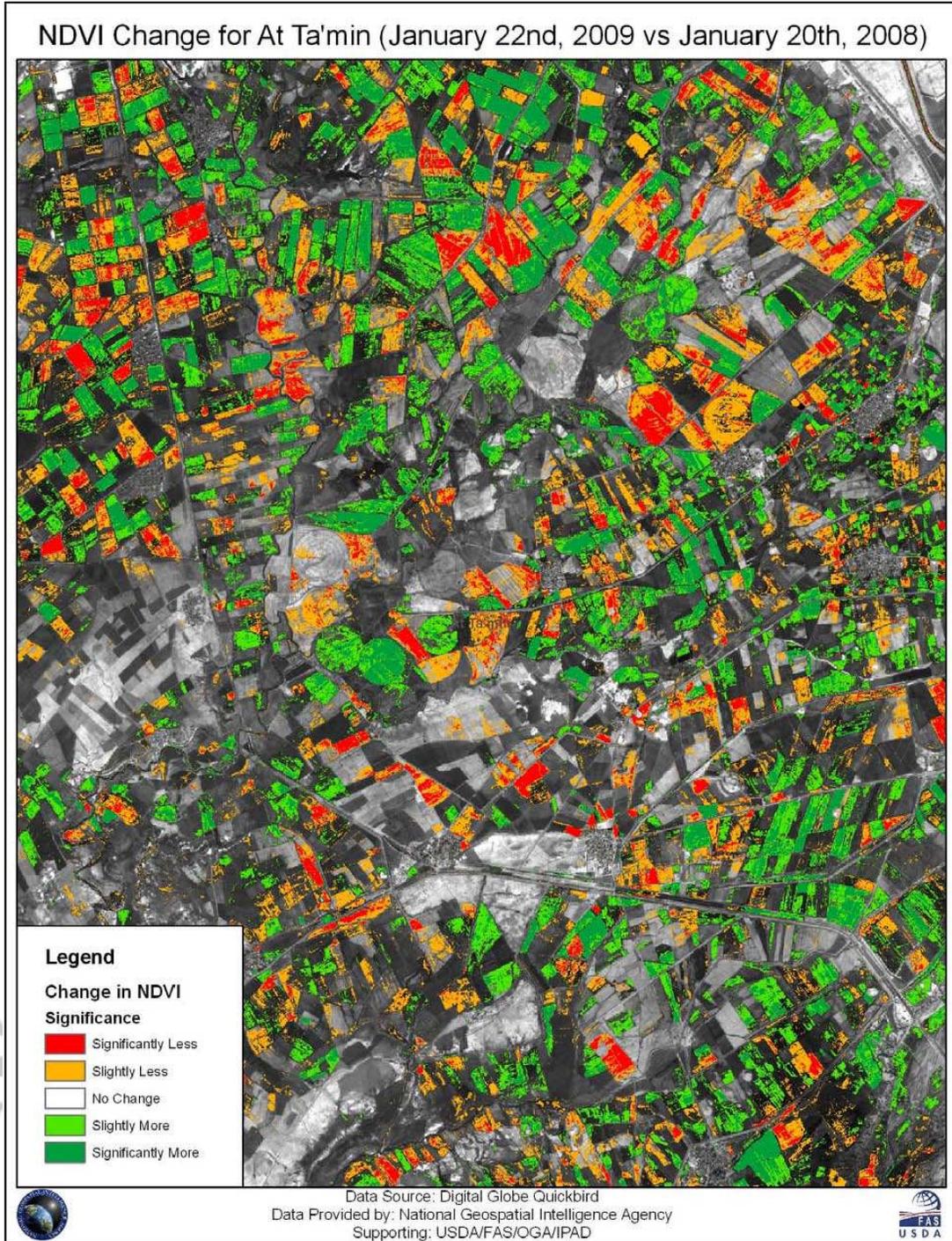


Figure 3: High resolution NDVI change from previous year, At Ta'min: (January 20th, 2008 vs. January 22nd, 2009).

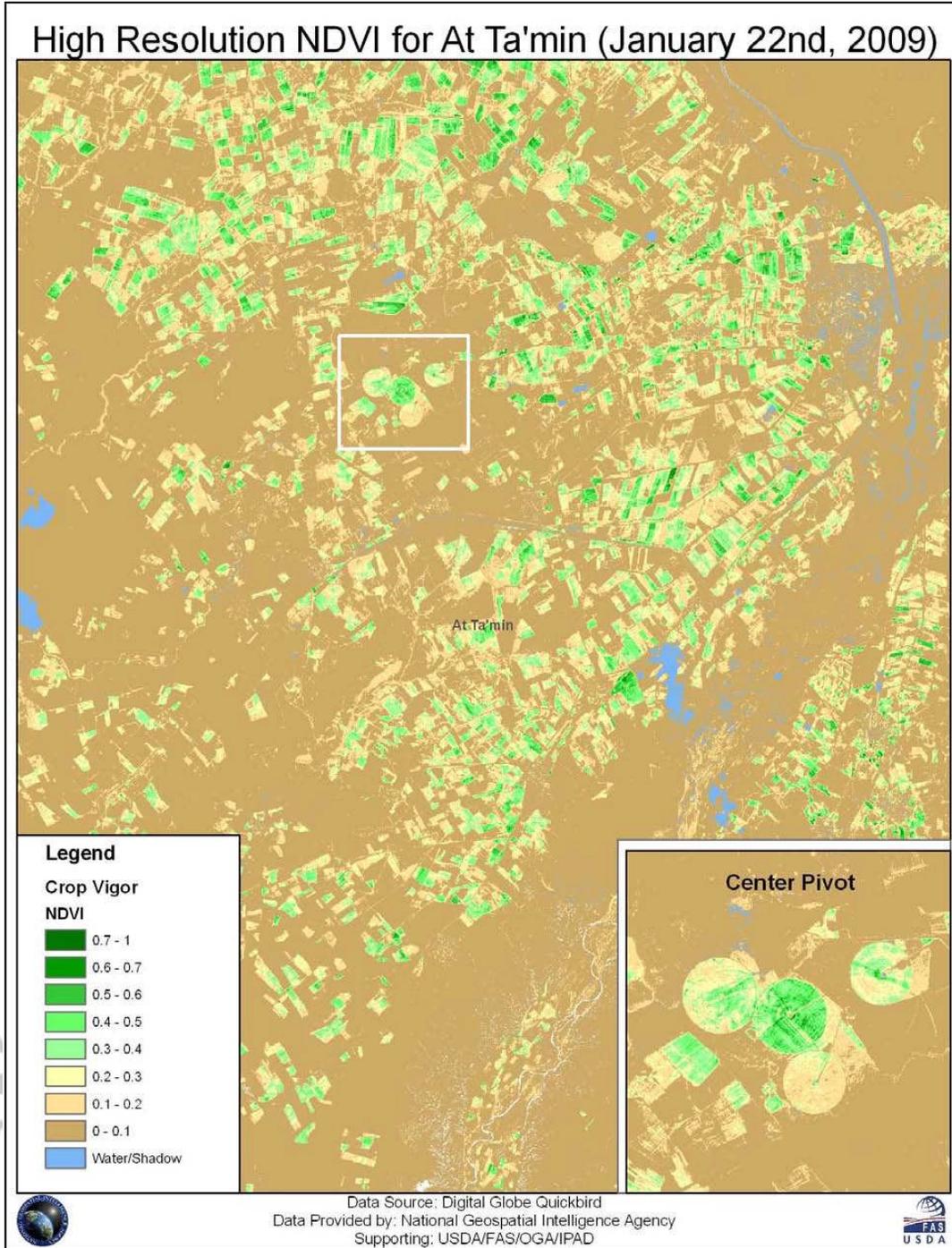


Figure 4: High resolution NDVI displaying current crop vigor for central At Ta'min.

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Center Pivot Activity in At Ta'min (January 22nd, 2009 vs January 20th, 2008)

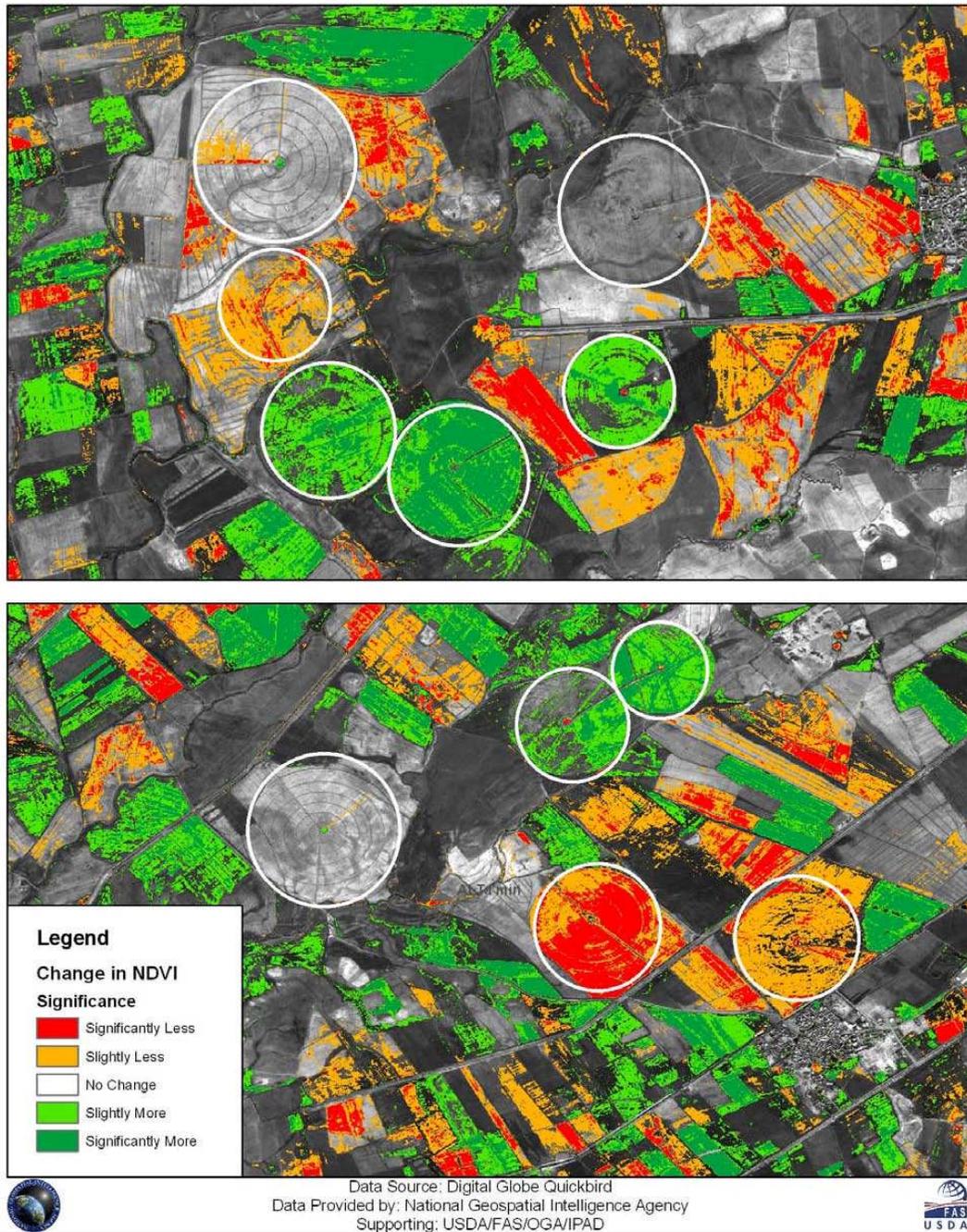


Figure 4: NDVI change analysis revealing planted and unplanted center pivot fields in central At Ta'min.

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