USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

Iraq: Crop Progress Report

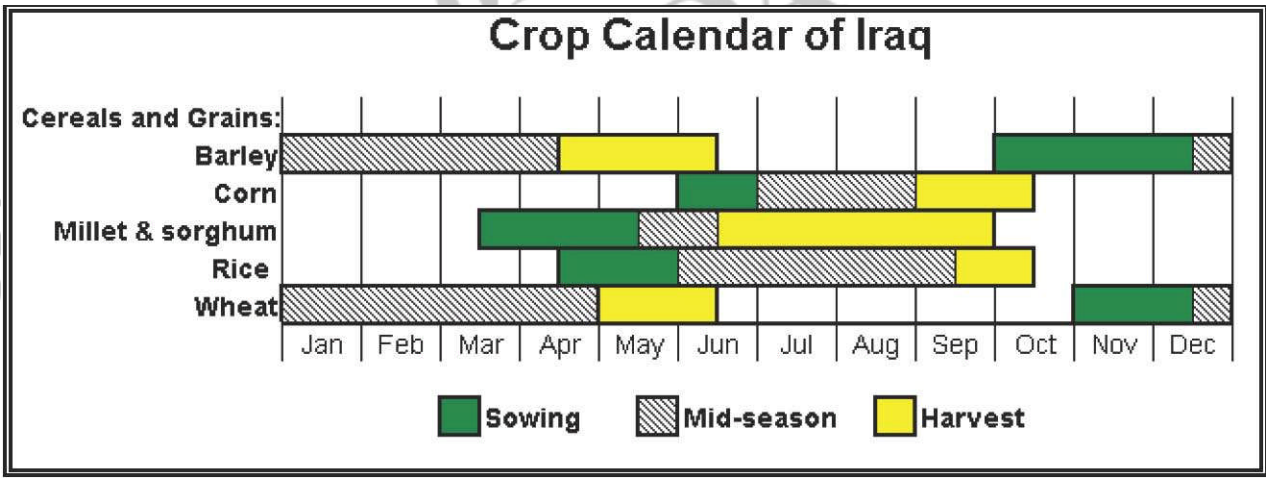
MY 2008/09

July Report (June Summary) - Week 1 **July 3rd, 2008**

1. Production for MY 2008/09 winter grains is forecasted to be lower than the previous year. Production decreases are related to late rainfall during the start of season combined with below normal seasonal precipitation. The predominantly rainfed northern governorates were impacted the most with lower production also expected in central and southern governorates.

2. High resolution Quickbird imagery acquired over the governorate of Nineveh on July 10th, 2005 and June 14th, 2008 were retrieved from the NGA WARP database. Image comparisons revealed slightly more cropland cover in 2008 in comparison to 2005 (Figure 1). NDVI change detection analysis showed that there was significantly more cropland area in 2008 combined with an earlier start of season; approximate increase of 1000 hectares (Figure 2).

3. NDVI maps derived from June AWiFS acquisitions showed large areas of green-up northeast of Baghdad in the governorates of Salah ad Din and Diyala; the green-up is associated with irrigated summer crops (Figure 3). Additional imagery acquisitions dating the summer crop season will be analyzed for comparisons with previous years and deriving regional crop area statistics.



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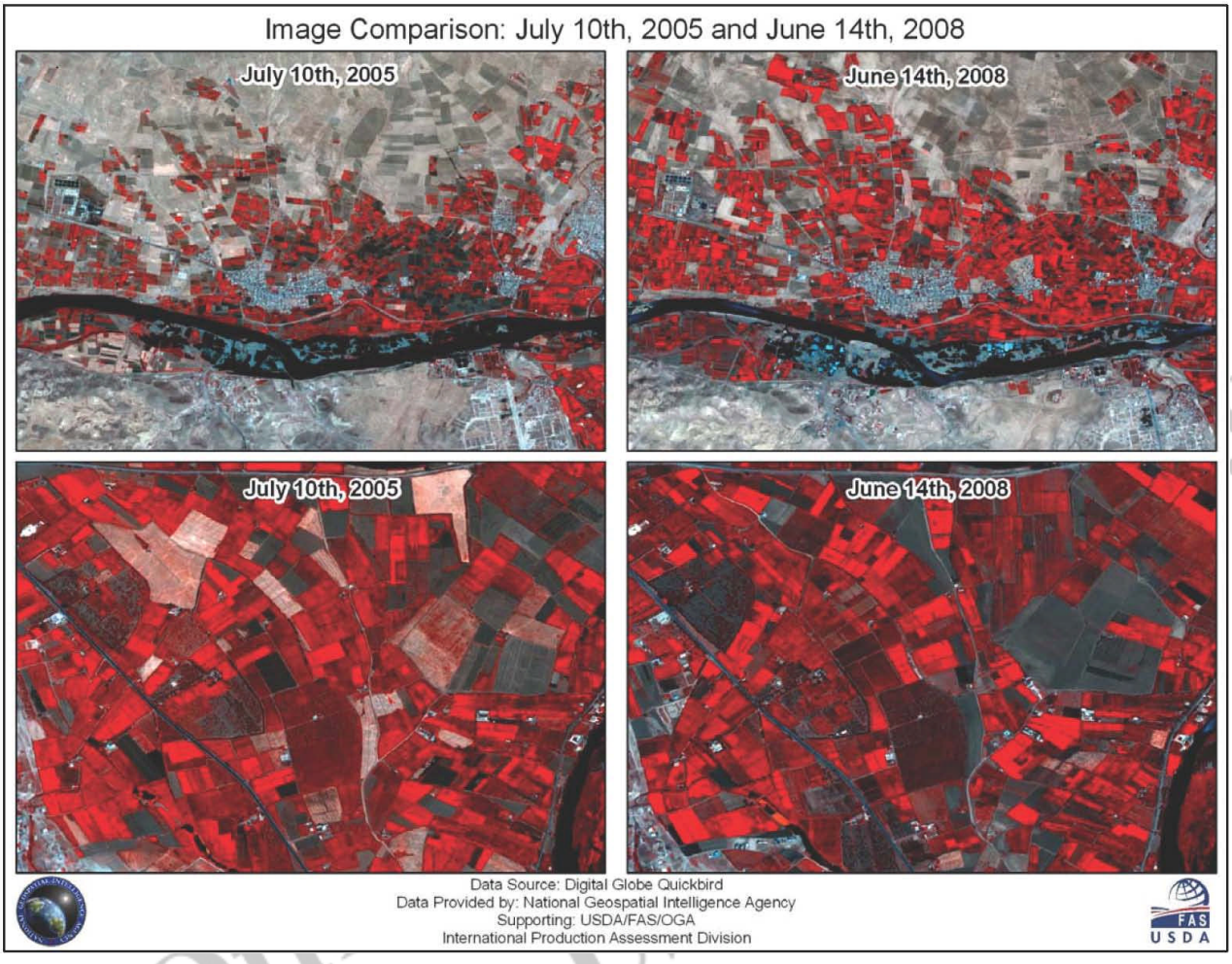

Figure 1: Image comparison between July 10th, 2005 and June 14th, 2008 (Nineveh).

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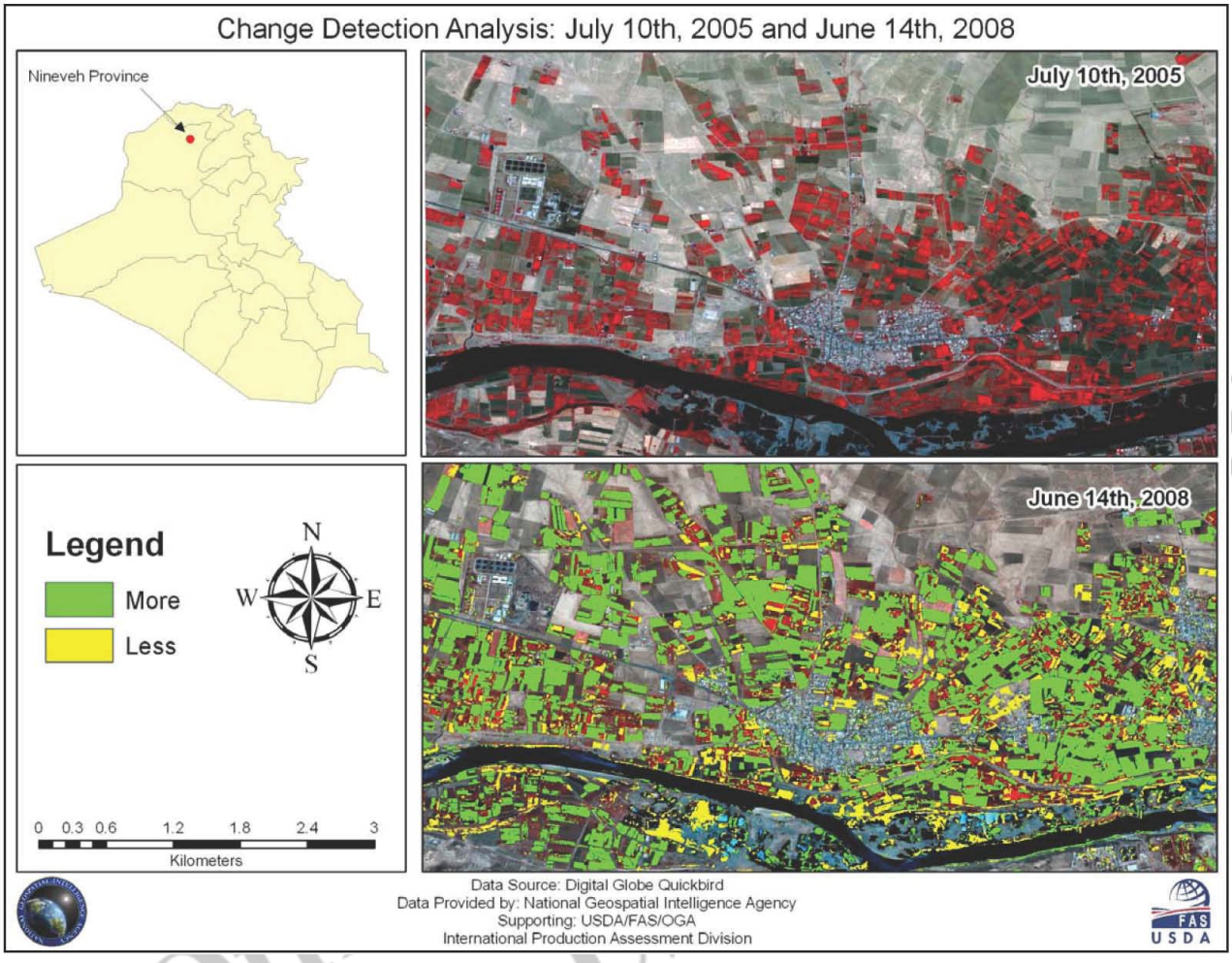

Figure 2: Change detection analysis revealing significantly more crop cover and earlier start of season in June 2008 (Nineveh).

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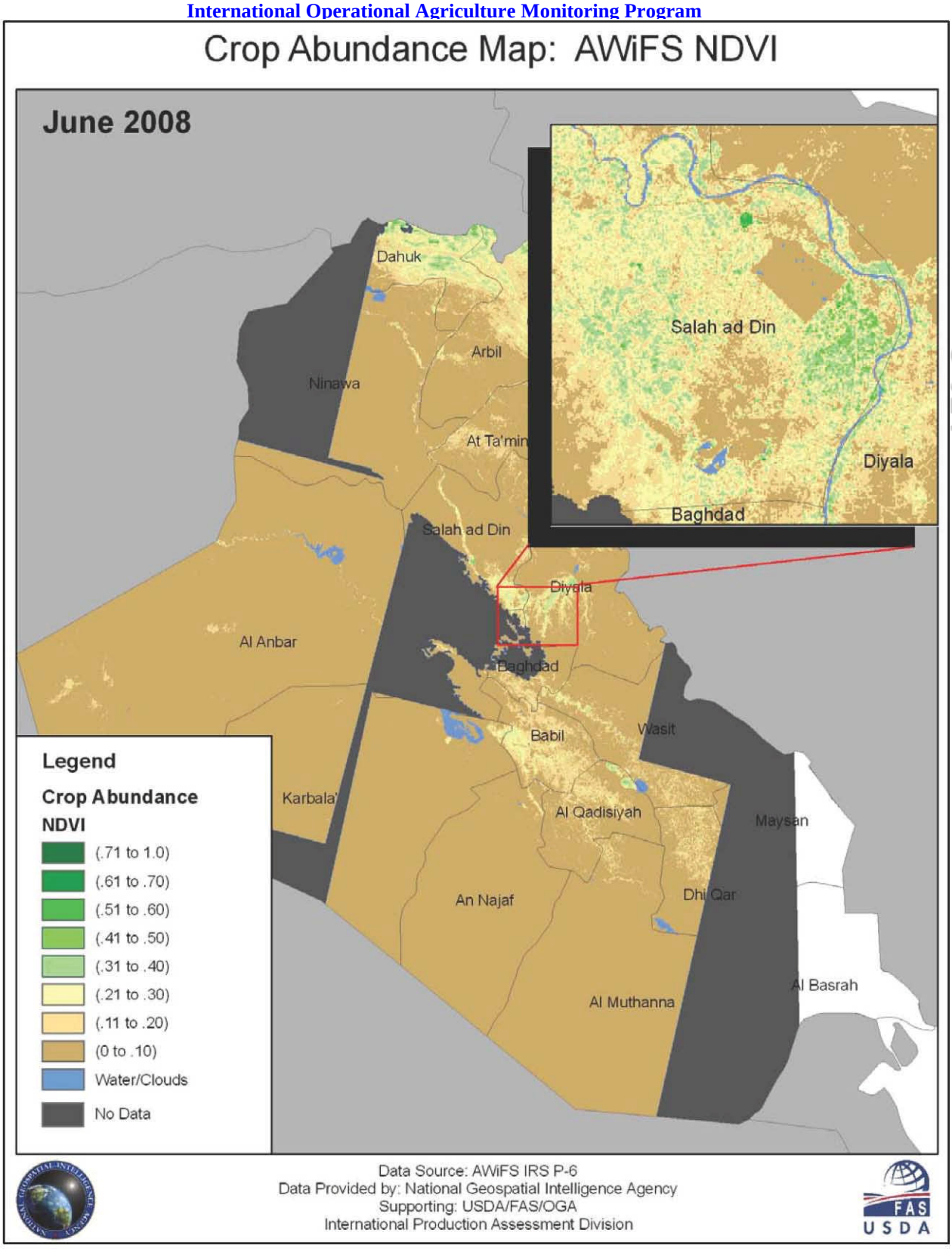

Figure 3: Crop abundance map derived from AWiFS June NDVI; green-up of summer crop near abundant water sources.