

Land Suitability Ratings for Spring Seeded Small Grains

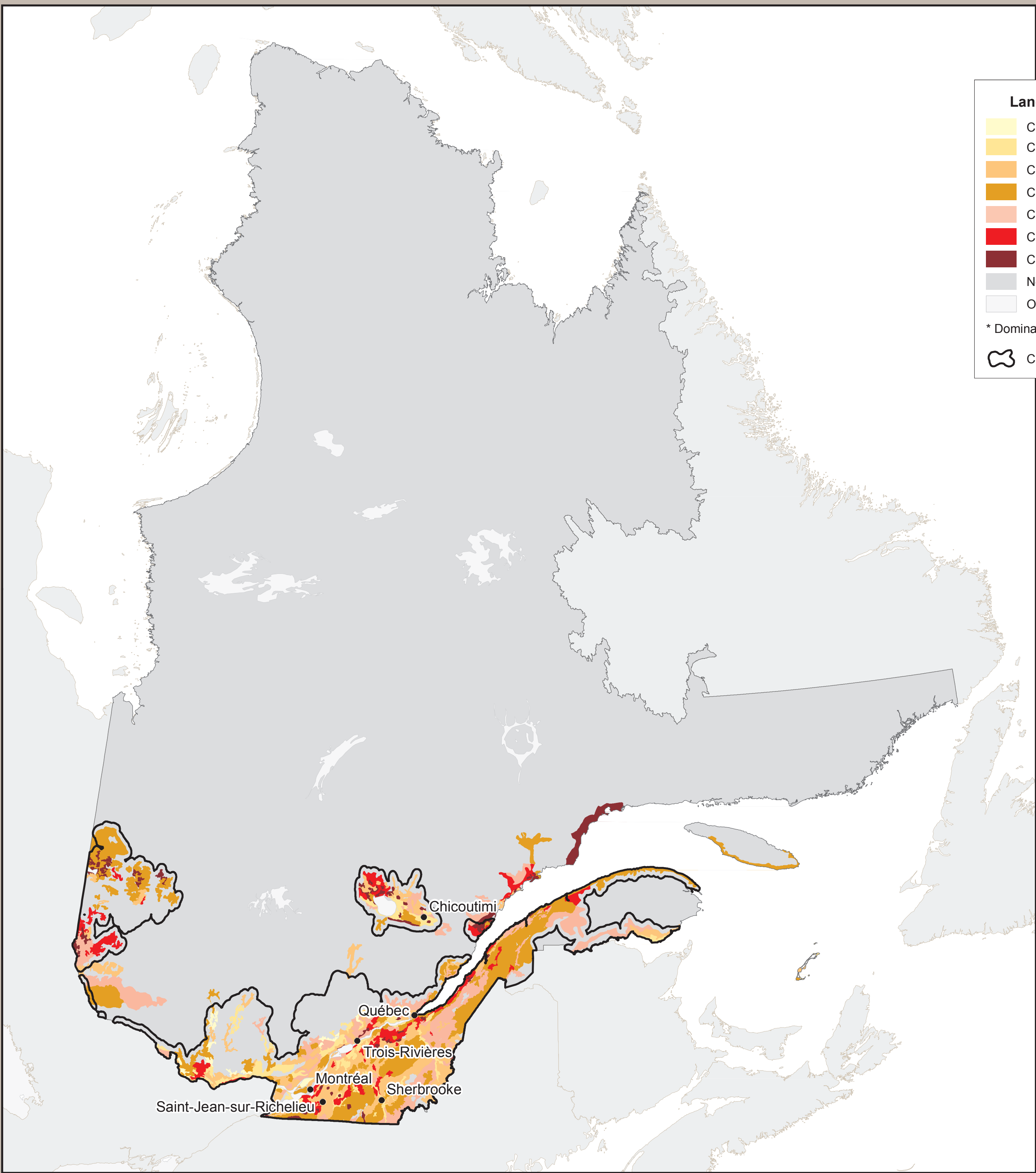


Quebec

Land Suitability Rating System (LSRS):

- The system recognizes three major components that determine the suitability of land for crops: climate (EGDD and P-PE), soils and landscape.

Baseline: 1971-2000



Climate Change Scenario: 2010-2039

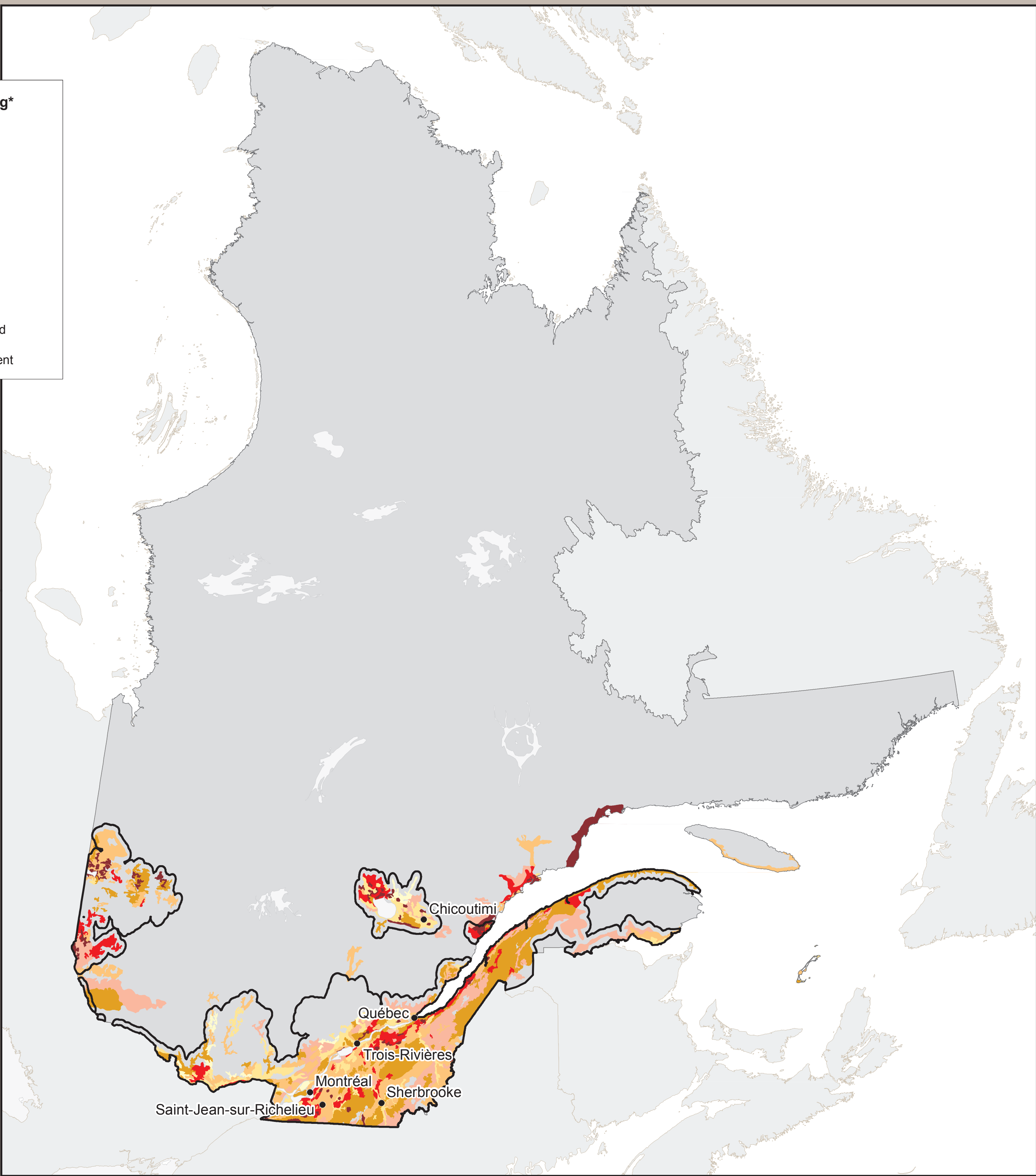


Table 1: Land Suitability Ratings
and Class Descriptions

Suitability Class	Description
Class 1	none to slight limitations
Class 2	slight limitations
Class 3	moderate limitations
Class 4	severe limitations
Class 5	very severe limitations
Class 6	extremely severe limitations
Class 7	unsuitable

Note: Class 1 to Class 3 are considered suitable for continual crop growth.

For more information on suitability ratings for spring seeded small grains:
<http://sis.agr.gc.ca/cansis/publications/manuals/lrs.pdf>

Table 2: Summary of land suitability ratings for spring seeded
small grains comparing 1971-2000 to 2010-2039

Suitability Class	1971 - 2000 Baseline	2010 - 2039 CGCM 3.1
	Percent of total area	
Class 1	1.0	1.3
Class 2	4.6	5.9
Class 3	21.2	26.3
Class 4	24.1	21.4
Class 5	21.7	17.6
Class 6	15.2	15.5
Class 7	12.1	12.0

LSRS and Climate Data:

- Produced using the Land Suitability Rating System version 3.0, using data from a baseline period of 1971-2000 and climate change data from the Canadian Coupled Global Climate Model (CGCM) version 3.1, and IPCC's emission scenario A2.
- EGDD and P-PE values for each temporal period are spatially averaged to the Soil and Landscapes of Canada (SLC) polygons.
- The average EGDD and P-PE are then used by the LSRS along with the SLC soils attribute tables (e.g. surface texture, etc.) to generate the agricultural land suitability rating for spring seeded small grains.

Limitations:

- Represents only a single climate change model result, using the A2 climate change scenario from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).
- Seasonal and inter-seasonal variability in the 30 year average monthly climate data was not considered (e.g. extreme events such as drought and excess spring moisture).
- Findings do not identify trends in crop production (quantity or quality).
- Assumptions and limitations of the LSRS (e.g. based on current agricultural technology and crop varieties).