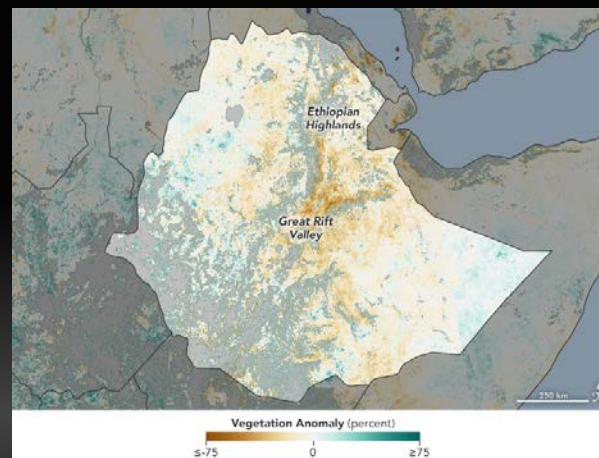
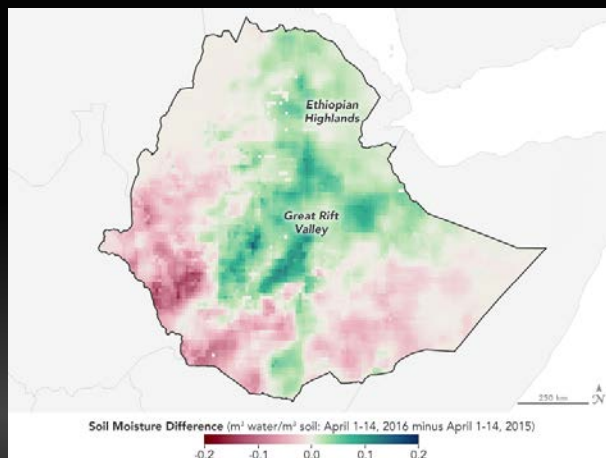


SMAP Soil Moisture and Drought in Ethiopia



In 2015, Ethiopia endured its worst drought in decades. Satellite data can help show the conditions on the ground that are relevant for agriculture.

The map on the left shows how April 1-14, 2016, root zone soil moisture data from the NASA Soil Moisture Active Passive (SMAP) mission differed from conditions one year earlier. Green indicates areas where the soil became wetter during the two-week period in April 2016; red areas became drier.

While the SMAP data suggest some recovery from the extreme drought conditions of 2015, vegetation in many areas of Ethiopia was still under more stress than usual as indicated by the March 29-April 5, 2016, vegetation anomaly from MODIS data (right map).