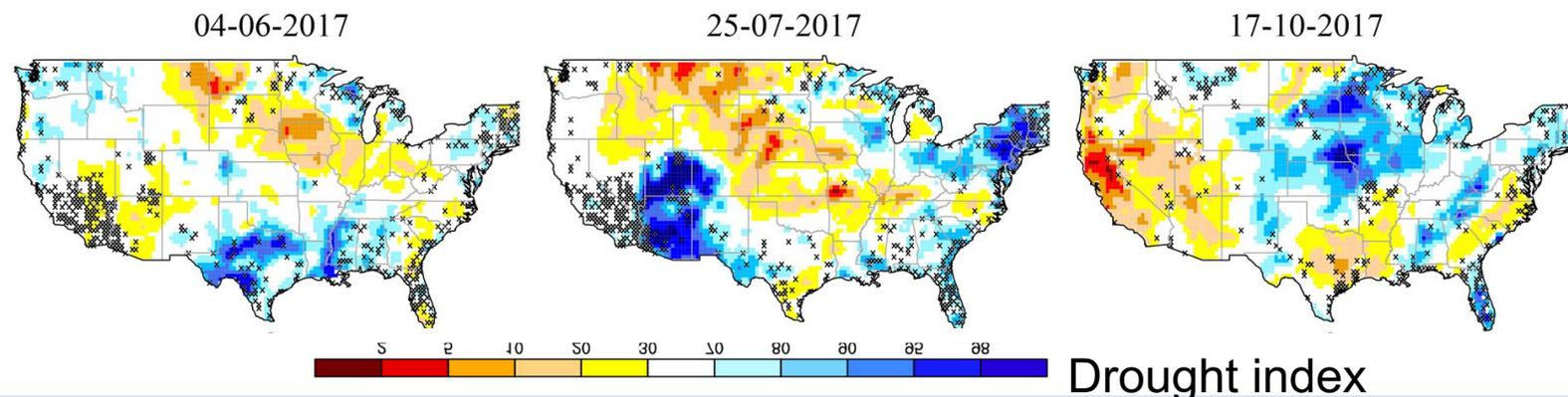


# Developing a Drought-Monitoring Index for the Contiguous US Using SMAP



**Problem:** There has been no high-quality systematic soil moisture observations to enable monitoring of drought conditions globally.



**Finding:** This figure shows drought during the period from 4 June through 17 October 2017, for the near surface. In this period, there was one agricultural drought event in Montana and North and South Dakota, with losses exceeding USD 1 billion across the United States. The plains of eastern Montana experienced exceptional drought from July to October 2017, and in late October, drought started to end.

**Impact:** The results here provide significant support for a global SMAP drought and pluvial conditions monitoring system. It is important that the future developments focus on drought assessment using SMAP in underrepresented parts of the world.