

I thank the author for their efforts in addressing my comments, and I can see that the revised manuscript improves a lot. The aim, innovation, and implication are now clearer. However, I still have some comments as follows, before consideration of its publication.

1. The product deviations in drought magnitude showed a significant relation with deviations in the soil moisture trends in areas without trend direction agreement. How about other drought characteristics used in this study (e.g., spatial extent, drought severity, and frequency)? Some discussions are needed at least.
2. The units of label bar in Figure 1, 2, 9 should be revised. For example, “m³ m⁻³ year⁻¹” should be changed to “m³ m⁻³ year⁻¹”
3. Is it accurate to use “days*1” as the unit of drought severity? The severity is the accumulated time accumulated standardised anomalies over the whole drought period. It looks like that using “[1]” is more appropriate. For example, the units for accumulated precipitation deficit is “mm” instead of “mm*days”.
4. Compared to precipitation (P), evapotranspiration (ET), and runoff (RNOF), the P-ET-RNOF is more related to the soil moisture anomaly. So I suggest to add the trend of P-ET-RNOF in the Figure 2.
5. The abstract is very long. Please make sure the length of abstract meets the requirement of HESS.