International Weather and Crop Summary

NOAA/USDA Joint Agricultural Weather Facility

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International (202) 720-9807

HIGHLIGHTS

EUROPE: Widespread rain benefited winter crop establishment over most of the continent, though short-term drought continued over central and western France.

FSU-WESTERN: Cold, dry weather eased winter crops toward dormancy but promoted late summer crop harvesting.

MIDDLE EAST: Dry weather maintained a rapid pace of winter grain planting.

NORTHWEST AFRICA: Drier weather favored fieldwork after recent early-season rain.

SOUTH ASIA: Monsoon showers vacated nearly all of India, with seasonably hotter, drier weather aiding summer (kharif) crop maturation and harvesting.

EAST ASIA: Typhoon Haima brought widespread showers to eastern China, slowing fieldwork but benefiting winter crop

establishment.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: Typhoon Haima, the second typhoon in four days to make landfall in the northern Philippines, likely caused damage to corn and rice ready for harvest.

AUSTRALIA: Following a brief respite, wet weather returned to southern and eastern Australia, hampering summer crop planting and increasing concerns about winter crop quality.

SOUTH AFRICA: Showers provided timely moisture for corn planting.

ARGENTINA: Rain improved planting prospects for summer grains, oilseeds, and cotton.

BRAZIL: Beneficial rain continued in the south, but warmer- and drier-than-normal conditions prevailed in key central production.

MEXICO: Seasonably drier weather prevailed across the region.

Widespread rain maintained or improved soil moisture for EUROPE : winter crop establishment, though short-term drought lingered in parts of France. In Spain and Portugal, another round of showers (2-20 mm, locally more) conditioned soils for upcoming winter grain planting. Meanwhile, a nearly-stationary storm system over east-central Europe produced widespread soaking rainfall (10-50 mm) from Germany and the Low Countries into most of eastern and southern Europe, boosting soil moisture supplies for wheat and rapeseed establishment. Likewise, 10 to 40 mm of rain improved conditions for winter crop establishment in England and northern France. However, the rest of France was mostly dry (less than 5 mm) outside of locally heavy downpours along the Mediterranean Coast. In particular, crop areas of central and western France have reported less than 50 percent of normal precipitation over the past 90 days, leaving soils unfavorably dry for proper winter wheat and rapeseed establishment. Temperatures for the week averaged near normal over much of Europe, though warm conditions (up to 3°C above normal) in Spain contrasted with chilly conditions (up to 4°C below normal) in Poland and the Baltic States.

FSU-WESTERN: Cold, dry weather favored fieldwork and eased winter crops toward dormancy. Precipitation was confined to western-most portions of the region (Moldova northward into western Belarus), maintaining soil moisture in these locales for winter crop establishment. Elsewhere, dry weather facilitated seasonal fieldwork, including corn and sunflower harvesting in Ukraine. Temperatures for the week averaged 3 to 6°C below normal, with hard freezes (-2°C or lower) reported in all but the southern-most winter wheat areas. Winter wheat likely approached or entered dormancy from northern Ukraine into central Russia, where weekly average temperatures were below 5°C; weekly average temperatures above 5°C across the Black Sea coastal areas indicated wheat was still adding vegetative growth, or at the very least not yet dormant. MIDDLE EAST: Dry weather continued, promoting seasonal fieldwork across the region. In particular, sunny skies and near- to below-normal temperatures (0 to 2°C below normal) in Turkey and Iran favored cotton harvesting as well as winter grain planting. Topsoil moisture supplies have diminished, with locally heavy rainfall at the end of September followed by 30 days with little or no precipitation.

NORTHWEST AFRICA: Despite some showers in the east, mostly dry weather returned to the region's primary winter grain areas. After last week's rainfall in northern Morocco and Algeria, sunny skies promoted field preparations and early winter grain planting. The median planting date for wheat is in the latter half of November in these areas, though producers may have been encouraged to take advantage of the early-season rainfall following last year's drought. Widespread showers (10-30 mm) continued in northeastern Algeria and northern Tunisia, where producers typically sow wheat and barley during the first half of November.

SOUTH ASIA: Seasonably hot, dry weather settled in across most of India as the monsoon all but completely withdrew from the country. Little, if any, rainfall was reported, even in the traditionally wetter eastern states, with showers (25-100 mm) confined to far southern Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The conditions aided summer (kharif) crop maturation and harvesting while also improving yield prospects for cotton in the west, where lateseason rainfall earlier in the month improved moisture conditions. Elsewhere in the region, similar conditions aided rice and cotton harvesting in Pakistan but increased water demands for summer (aman) rice in Bangladesh. Meanwhile, increased rainfall (25-50 mm or more) in Sri Lanka improved soil moisture and water supplies for winter (maha) rice.

EAST ASIA: Typhoon Haima weakened rapidly as it approached southeastern China late in the period, making landfall with winds in excess of 65 knots, down significantly from the peak winds of 145 knots. The remnants of the storm produced widespread showers (25-100 mm or more) throughout southern China and into the Yangtze Valley. Rainfall was also reported on southern (over 10 mm) and western (over 25 mm) sections of the North China Plain. The wet weather slowed late-season rice harvesting in southern provinces as well as winter wheat and rapeseed planting to the In addition to the rainfall, Haima induced a strong north. southerly circulation that pushed temperatures across much of eastern China well above normal (as much as 6°C above normal). Despite the fieldwork delays, the rainfall was highly beneficial for winter crop establishment, with the warm weather promoting development.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: Typhoon Haima plowed through the northern Philippines with winds in excess of 120 knots, down significantly from over 145 knots at its peak just a day before. Haima was the second major typhoon in four days to make landfall in Luzon; Haima followed a track slightly to the north of the path that Typhoon Sarika took. In addition to severe winds, Haima produced heavy rainfall (over 400 mm in some areas) across Luzon, a major summer rice and corn producer. Harvesting was underway at the time of landfall and storm-related crop damage was likely in this key agricultural area. The expansive influence of Haima brought heavy showers across the South China Sea and well into coffee and rice areas of southern Vietnam. Meanwhile in other parts of the region, seasonably drier weather overspread much of Thailand, aiding rice maturation, while showers (25-100 mm or more) slowed oil palm harvesting in Malaysia and Indonesia.

AUSTRALIA: In southern Queensland and northern New South Wales, widespread showers (10-30 mm or more) maintained abundant moisture supplies for germinating to emerging summer crops, but the rain likely slowed additional summer crop planting and hampered winter wheat maturation and early harvesting. Similarly, soaking rains (10-30 mm or more) in southern New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia kept filling wheat and other immature winter crops well watered. Drier weather would be welcome, however, to promote drydown of winter grains and oilseeds and to help maintain crop quality as crops approach maturation. Elsewhere in the wheat belt, scattered, generally light showers (1-10 mm) sustained good to excellent yield prospects for wheat, barley, and canola in Western Australia. Temperatures averaged 1 to 3°C below normal in western and southern sections of the wheat belt, slowing the pace of crop development, while patchy frost in Western Australia may have caused isolated reductions in yield prospects. Temperatures in eastern Australia averaged near normal.

SOUTH AFRICA: Showers provided timely moisture for planting across the corn belt. Rainfall totaled 10 to 50 mm from North West and Free State eastward through Mpumalanga. Planting of corn and other rain-fed summer crops typically begins during October in eastern sections of the corn belt and progresses westward with time, reaching western production areas in December. Similar amounts were recorded in KwaZulu-Natal, providing moisture for sugarcane. Weekly temperatures averaged 1°C above normal across the aforementioned areas, with daytime highs in the middle and upper 30s (degrees C) maintaining high evaporative losses. ARGENTINA: Widespread, locally heavy showers overspread the region, improving planting prospects of summer grains, oilseeds, and cotton. Rainfall totaled 25 to 100 mm over a broad area stretching from La Pampa and Cordoba northeastward through Corrientes. Lighter rain (less than 25 mm) fell in southern Buenos Aires and the northwest (notably Santiago del Estero and Salta). The moisture was especially welcomed in Cordoba, which recorded the first significant rain of the planting season. Cooler-than-normal weather (weekly temperatures averaging up to 3°C below normal) accompanied the rain, though no freezes were recorded. Daytime highs reached the lower 20s (degrees C) in southern farming areas (Buenos Aires, northeastern La Pampa, and southern Cordoba) and as high as the upper 30s in the far north (in and around Formosa). According to the government of Argentina, sunflowers were 40 percent planted as of October 20, 15 points ahead of last year's pace.

BRAZIL: Locally heavy rain fell in southern Brazil, providing abundant moisture for summer crops but slowing late wheat harvesting. Rainfall totaling 100 to more than 200 mm covered Rio Grande do Sul, with amounts in excess of 25 mm spreading northeastward through southern Minas Gerais. According to the government of Rio Grande do Sul, wheat was 5 percent harvested as of October 20, with the rest of the crop ranging from filling to maturing, making the excessive nature of the rainfall untimely. Farther north, showers diminished over the Center-West Region, with large sections of Mato Grosso receiving less than 10 mm; daytime highs reaching 40°C exacerbated the impact of the dryness on newly-sown corn and soybeans, necessitating a return to more seasonable temperatures and rainfall. Warmer, drier conditions also prevailed over the northeastern interior, where - aside from Tocantins and environs - most locations recorded less than 10 mm of rainfall. Soybean planting is typically underway in the northeastern interior upon the onset of seasonal rainfall.

Seasonably drier weather dominated large sections of MEXICO: central and northern Mexico. Little to no rain fell across the southern plateau (Jalisco to Puebla) as summer warmth (daytime highs reaching the upper 20s and lower 30s degrees C) promoted rapid development of filling to maturing summer crops. Similarly, showers were widely scattered across the north, with most areas recording no rainfall and just a few spots reporting more than 25 mm. Warmer-than-normal weather (weekly temperatures averaging 2-3°C above normal and daytime highs approaching 40°C locally) accompanied the northern dryness, fostering rapid development of cotton and other summer row crops and maintaining high water requirements of livestock. In contrast to the diminishing rainfall over much of the country, seasonal showers (10-100 mm) continued along the southern Gulf Coast, increasing long-term moisture reserves for winter agriculture in Veracruz, Tabasco, and Campeche.

This is the final weekly summary of the season; coverage will resume in April 2017.