The monsoon stalled across India for much of October before fully vacating the country by month’s end. The lingering rainfall provided beneficial moisture to later-planted cotton and oilseeds, most of which were harvested by month’s end. Much of the eastern U.S. also received widespread October precipitation, with late-month storms eradicating Northeastern drought. In contrast, minimal precipitation fell in several regions, including the mid-South and large sections of the northern and southern Plains. Although the dry weather favored fieldwork, winter wheat and cover crops had little moisture to support emergence and establishment. Across the northern Plains, sudden cold aggravated the adverse effects of lingering drought on winter wheat. Meanwhile, dry weather dominated California and the Southwest. When high winds arose across northern California on October 8-9, a rash of devastating wildfires swept through several communities. Elsewhere, an increase in Northwestern precipitation accompanied chilly conditions, providing drought relief and boosting soil moisture in the wake of a hot, dry summer.

Seasonal rainfall developed over key soybean areas of central and northeastern Brazil during the latter half of October, providing timely moisture for germination and establishment. Conditions remained overall favorable for soybeans and first-crop corn in southern Brazil. In Argentina, periodic dryness — interspersed with locally heavy showers — maintained overall favorable conditions for immature winter grains and emerging summer crops, although some locales were reportedly struggling with excessive wetness. Favorable October rainfall in key southern winter wheat areas improved soil moisture for crop establishment, following protracted short-term drought. Temperatures remained near to above normal for much of the month, keeping wheat vegetative and improving crop establishment prospects. Despite the rain, summer crop harvesting was nearly complete by month’s end.

During October, near- to above-normal rainfall over central and eastern Europe maintained adequate to abundant soil moisture for winter grain and oilseed establishment but hampered late sowing efforts. In contrast, mostly sunny skies promoted wheat and rapeseed establishment in France and southern England. Meanwhile, dry, hot weather in Spain maintained long-term drought and signaled an unfavorable start to the 2017-18 winter wet season, although much-needed rain arrived on the Iberian Peninsula in early November. Drought also remained a concern across central and northern Italy.

A widespread freeze in northeastern China ended the growing season early in October, with dry, colder weather promoting drydown of corn and soybeans. Harvesting of corn, cotton, and other summer crops continued elsewhere in China, with some delays from heavy showers during the first half of the month. Elsewhere, Typhoon Saola produced flooding rainfall in Japan, delaying rice harvesting but not causing any significant damage.

A second consecutive year of autumn drought in Turkey limited winter grain establishment. However, much-needed rain during October eased drought concerns in western wheat and barley areas, while dryness lingered across central and eastern portions of the country. Temperatures averaged near to above normal, with no early hard freezes reported. In early November, wet weather expanded across the north, easing drought and promoting winter grain planting and establishment.

October rainfall favored germination and early vegetative growth of summer crops in eastern sections of the corn belt, while helping to condition fields for planting elsewhere. Meanwhile, a drying trend reduced moisture for rain-fed sugarcane in southern production areas of KwaZulu-Natal.

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