WORLD AGRICULTURAL WEATHER HIGHLIGHTS
July 12, 2017

1 - UNITED STATES
During June, an extreme, mid- to late-month heat wave gripped the West, with severe effects—including cattle mortality and a rash of wildfires—being noted across California, the Great Basin, and the Southwest. Periods of heat extended across the Plains, where a marked drying trend developed. The most significant agricultural effects of heat and dryness, such as severely stressed summer crops and dormant rangeland and pastures, were noted across eastern Montana and the Dakotas, where drought had already developed before summer arrived. Rainfall was much more abundant along the Gulf Coast and from the Mississippi Valley eastward.

However, even within this wetter area, showers were lacking across portions of the mid-Atlantic States and the Midwest. Tropical Storm Cindy, which moved inland near the Texas-Louisiana border on June 22, contributed to the heavy rain in the Gulf Coast region. Outside of the Western heat zone, periods of hot weather were fleeting and interspersed with cool spells. As a result, monthly temperatures did not stray far from normal across large sections of the country, including nearly all areas from the Mississippi Valley eastward.

2 - CANADA
Intensifying dryness raised concern for spring grains and oilseeds in some southern growing areas. Conditions were overall favorable for crops in Ontario, though wetness reportedly slowed soybean planting.

3 - SOUTH AMERICA
June and early-July rainfall reportedly slowed fieldwork in Argentina, while maintaining adequate to excessive levels of moisture for newly sown winter grains. In Brazil, warm, mostly dry weather favored rapid development of second-crop corn and cotton and aided the final stages of wheat planting. However, some southern wheat areas are now in need of moisture due to extended periods of dryness lasting into July.

4 - EUROPE
Excessive heat in western and southern Europe stressed reproductive summer crops in Spain and accelerated corn and sunflowers toward reproduction in France, Italy, and the Balkans. Additionally, increasingly dry conditions lowered summer crop prospects in Hungary, Serbia, and western Romania. In contrast, late-month showers benefited vegetative to reproductive small grains and vegetative summer crops in Germany and northern Poland. Meanwhile, dry, warm weather promoted winter crop drydown and harvesting from northern France southeastward into the Balkans while wet weather slowed winter wheat and rapeseed maturation in northeastern Europe.

5 - FSU-WESTERN
During June, favorable conditions in Russia contrasted with developing drought in Ukraine. Wet weather maintained or boosted prospects for reproductive to filling winter wheat in Russia. Likewise, soil moisture was adequate to abundant for corn and sunflowers approaching reproduction at month’s end. In Ukraine, developing drought in central portions of the country trimmed winter wheat yields and left soil moisture in short supply for vegetative summer crops.

6 - FSU-EASTERN
Near- to above-normal June rainfall maintained good to excellent early-season prospects for reproductive spring wheat and barley in Kazakhstan and central Russia. Warm, occasionally showery weather in Uzbekistan favored the development of irrigated cotton.

7 - MIDDLE EAST AND TURKEY
In Turkey, early-month rain boosted rapidly-improving yield prospects for filling winter grains. In contrast, excessive heat during mid- to late June in Turkey triggered very high irrigation demands for reproductive to reproductive corn, cotton, and sunflowers, and may have caused localized burnback and heat damage.

8 - SOUTH ASIA
After an earlier-than-normal start to the summer monsoon, rainfall progressed slowly across India, with the onset of seasonal showers delayed by as much as ten days in some areas. Nevertheless, showers reached nearly all of India by the end of the month and erased earlier rainfall deficits in western cotton and oilseed areas (small deficits lingered in eastern rice areas). Summer (kharif) crop planting accelerated with the improved moisture conditions and will continue through July. In other parts of the region, seasonal rainfall kept rice well watered in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, while early-month pre-monsoon showers in Pakistan provided good supplemental moisture for irrigated rice and cotton.

9 - EASTERN ASIA
Most eastern crop areas of China received near- to above-normal rainfall in June. Increased showers were particularly welcome in the northeast, where short-term dryness limited soil moisture for vegetative corn and soybeans. However, some western portions of Jilin and south into Liaoning remained unfavorably dry. Meanwhile on the North China Plain, occasionally wet weather lowered wheat quality as crop harvesting progressed through the month. Farther south, heavy showers kept rice and other summer crops well watered but caused localized flooding. Elsewhere, severe dryness continued on the Korean Peninsula and into much of Japan, increasing irrigation demands for rice.

10 - SOUTHEAST ASIA
Much of the region received near- to above-normal monsoon rainfall in June, aiding rice establishment and development. Showers were particularly heavy in Thailand and followed good May rainfall that improved soil moisture and irrigation supplies. In addition, seasonal showers in the Philippines benefited summer rice and corn. Farther south, periods of heavy rain in Malaysia and Indonesia maintained favorable oil palm prospects and furthered the recovery from last year’s drought.

11 - AUSTRALIA
Developing dryness during May continued into June, resulting in well-below-normal June rainfall throughout most of the wheat belt. The persistent dryness hampered wheat, barley, and canola development, lowering early-season yield prospects. The exception was northeastern New South Wales, where near-normal rainfall benefited wheat and other winter crops.


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