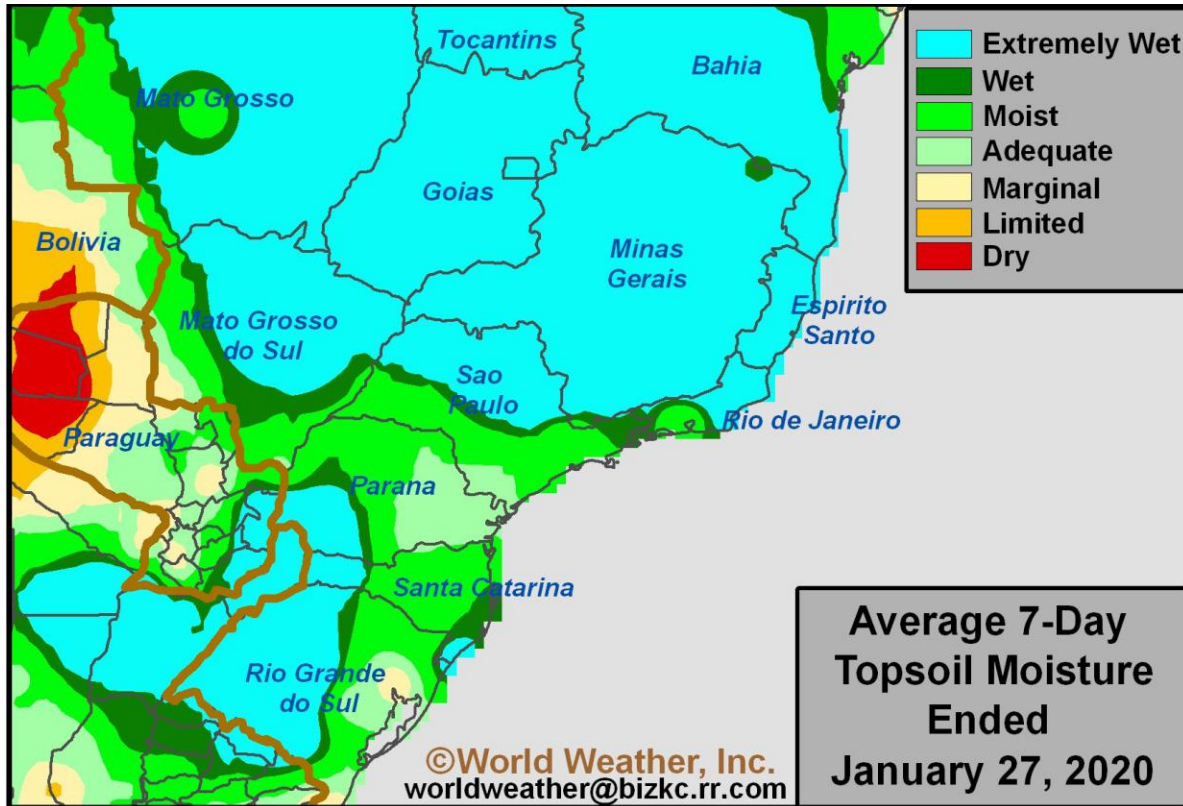


Brazil Crops Outside of Flood-Ravaged Minas Gerais Still Good

Franca, Sao Paulo reporting 4.61 inches. Another area of rain from Rio Grande do Sul to western Parana and southeastern Paraguay received 0.62 to 3.00 inches of moisture with local totals to 4.08 inches. Central through northern Rio Grande do Sul across Misiones, Argentina to southeastern Paraguay was wettest in this region.

In contrast, rainfall in far western Mato Grosso, far western Mato Grosso do Sul, central and eastern Parana, southeastern Sao Paulo and northeastern Santa Catarina varied from nothing to 0.62 inch. These latter areas experienced net drying for the week.



Needless to say, Minas Gerais and neighboring areas of Goiás, northern Rio de Janeiro and Espírito Santo are excessively wet due to the recent rainfall. Flooding was reported in many areas and some landslides resulted. Many other areas in Brazil are also wet, but flooding has not occurred outside of the areas noted above. The extent of farmland that has been inundated with flood water is not yet known, but central through east-central Minas Gerais has likely suffered some extreme conditions that will have damaged at least a part of the state's agriculture. Most of the production of corn and soybeans is farther to the west of the excessively wet and flooded region which should help to minimize the impact on production.

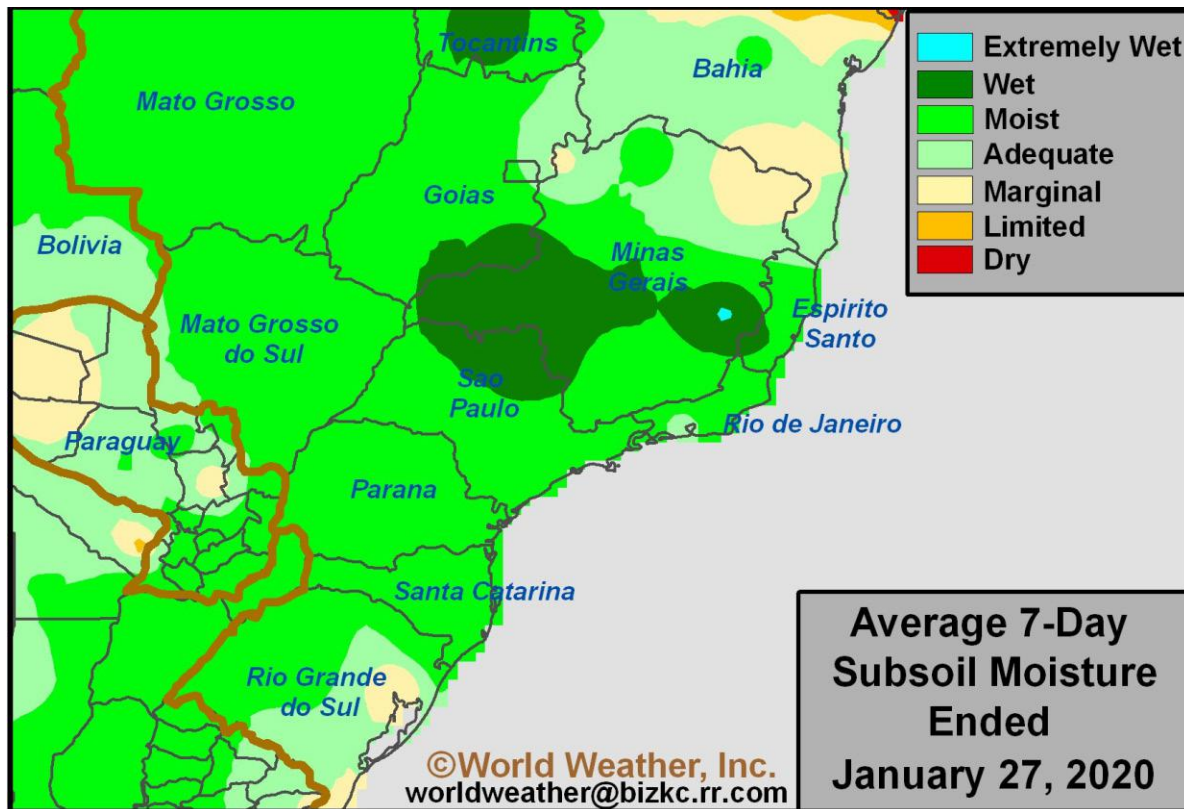
In the meantime, rainy weather in the nation's key soybean, corn, sugarcane, cotton, rice, coffee and citrus production areas has the ground saturated or nearly saturated with moisture. Drier weather is needed to improve soybean and other early season crop maturation and eventual harvest progress.

Additional rain will fall across Brazil in this coming week, but the greatest amounts are expected to shift to the south impacting southern Sao Paulo, Parana, southern Mato Grosso do Sul, Paraguay and Santa Catarina. The precipitation will occur a little more

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frequently than desired to promote the fastest soybean and early corn maturation possible which may slow the harvest progress. Less rain is expected for the next few days in Minas Gerais and Espirito Santo which should help flood water to recede. Another 1.00 to 3.00 inches of rain with local totals over 5.00 inches possible in these wetter areas just listed while 0.60 to 2.00 inches occur elsewhere in Brazil. The wet weather pattern will likely persist for much of Brazil February 4 – 10 with increasing rainfall returning to parts of Minas Gerais, Goias and Espirito Santo, but no heavy rain is expected. The bottom line will not bode ideally for the maturation and harvest of some early season crops raising the need for a period of dry and warm weather to get crops harvested and second season crops planted.

Seasonable temperatures are slated for much of Brazil this week. Daytime highs will often be in the 80s and 90s Fahrenheit, though many areas will only warm to the 70s during periods of significant rainfall. Low temperatures will be in the 60s and 70s with pockets in the 50s.



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