

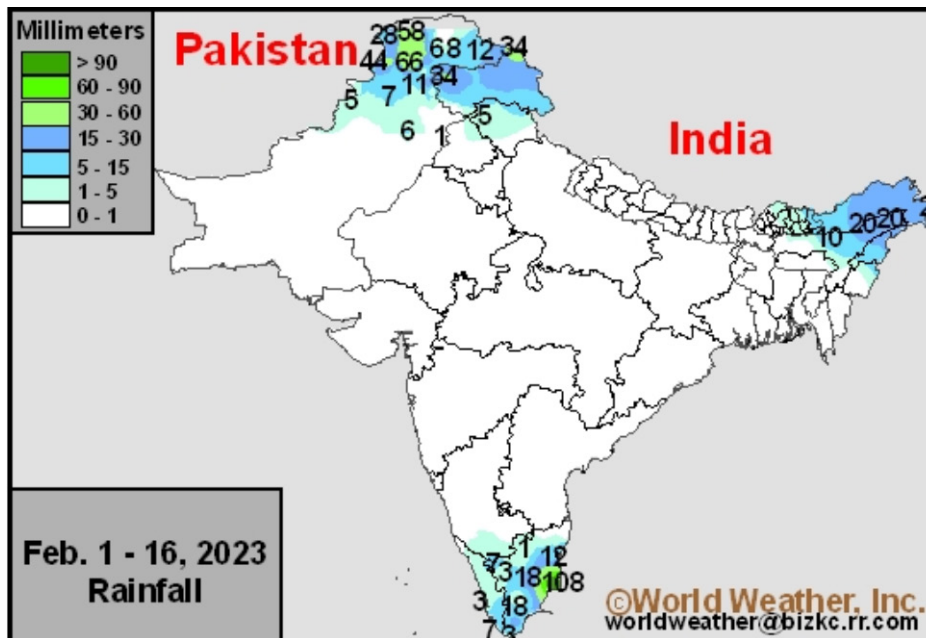
India To Remain Dry As Temperatures Warm Up

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, February 17 (World Weather Inc.) – *Drier-than-normal weather has continued across India so far in February. The main winter grain, oilseed, and mustard areas continued to dry down as daytime temperatures started to climb into the 90s Fahrenheit. Drier-than-normal weather will persist into the end of the month for much of the country outside the extreme northern production areas. Temperatures will continue to climb as well and may start to stress crops as they continue to develop and reproduce.*

Irrigated crop prospects remain generally favorable, though the ongoing dryness may keep crops from performing as best as they can this season. Rain-fed crops are otherwise developing and reproducing unevenly or even poorly. Production potentials in a few areas may be a little lower than normal due to the lack of rain over the growing season and coming warmth.

Limited rainfall was noted in much of India's main Rabi crop production areas so far this winter. Since the beginning of February, only portions of southern India, extreme northern India, and the Eastern States have received rain. One location along the Tamil Nadu coastline reported 4.25 inches of rain from February 1 – 16. Other areas in Tamil Nadu and Kerala received up to 0.71 inch of rain. Portions of the Eastern States reported 0.39 to 0.79 inch of rain during this time. Jammu and Kashmir received up to 1.34 inches of rain while pockets in Himachal Pradesh reported 0.20 inch of rain. Most other locations were dry.



A significant amount of India's rabi wheat, barley, rapeseed, mustard, and other crops are irrigated over the winter season due to the lack of significant rain. Western disturbances normally generate some precipitation that supplement irrigation and support ideal development conditions. However, the country has seen a lack of western disturbances this winter, leading to below or well below normal precipitation for the season so far.

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Irrigated crop prospects are generally favorable despite the lack of precipitation in recent months. Late-season monsoonal rainfall last autumn helped fill reservoirs and supported good planting conditions. Winter crops normally reproduce in February and timely rain is needed to support ideal crop conditions. Production potentials may be slightly lower than normal so far this season due to the lack of precipitation, most notably in Bihar and southeastern Uttar Pradesh, where monsoonal rainfall in 2022 was lower than normal.

In the meantime, rain-fed winter crops are likely developing and reproducing unevenly or poorly due to the ongoing dryness. These crops may see more significant production declines this season if the drier than normal weather persists in the coming weeks. An early heatwave could significantly impact production potentials as well.

Drier-than-normal weather will persist for much of India during the next two weeks. Jammu and Kashmir into Himachal Pradesh will still have opportunities for rain as disturbances pass near the region. These areas will receive 0.50 to 3.00 inches of rain by next Friday morning. Similar rain totals will be possible February 25 – March 3 as well. The Eastern States and southern tip of India will have a few opportunities for light rain during the next two weeks as well, though resulting rainfall will be lost to evaporation. The remaining locations in India will be mostly dry barring a significant change to the forecast.

*The temperature profile during the next two weeks will trend near to above normal across India. Daytime highs will peak to the 80s and 90s Fahrenheit with pockets in northern and eastern India only warming to the 70s at times. Pockets in western India will also warm above 100 degrees through next Friday. ***There is potential for a large portion of western India and portions of central and southern India to potentially warm above 100 degrees toward the end of February and beginning of March as well.****

With daytime temperatures increasing and the drier than normal weather persisting, aggressive drying is slated for much of India outside the extreme northern production areas through early March. The need for irrigation may increase and should limit significant production losses. However, late-season development and reproductive conditions will remain less than favorable as daytime highs surge well into the 90s and potentially above 100 degrees. Crops may be stressed or may even start to mature early before fully developing. Production potentials may be reduced marginally.

The rain-fed rabi crops may experience more significant production impacts in the coming weeks due to the lack of rain and gradual warming trend. Significant crop stress will be possible, which could lead to more significant production impacts.

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