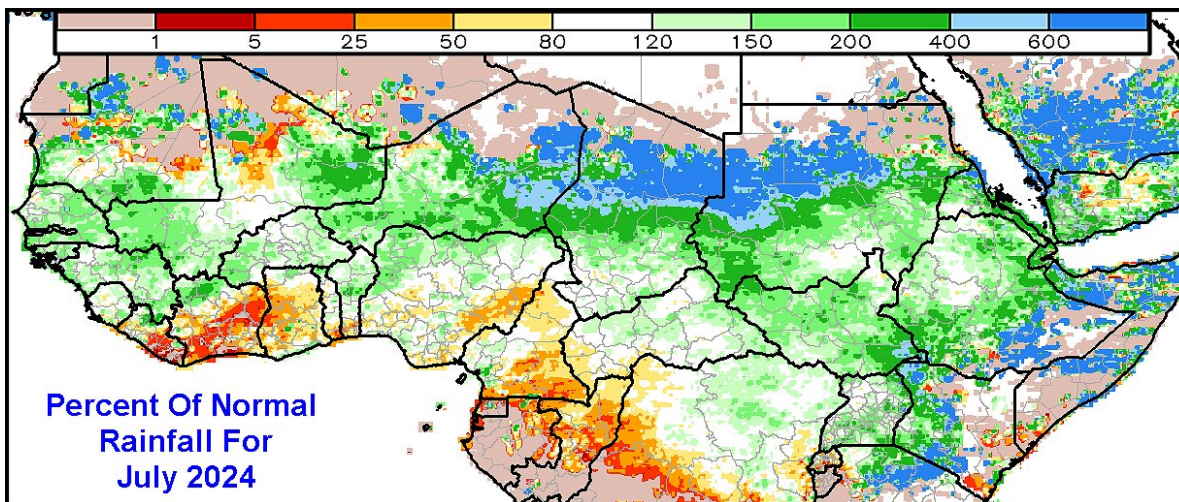


# Ivory Coast, Ghana Need More Rain For Good Coffee, Cocoa

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, August 1 (World Weather Inc.) – [Rainfall in July trended near to below normal in the main coffee, cocoa, rice and sugarcane production areas of western Africa. The region has adequate moisture to support most crops, although net drying has been accelerated in the past two weeks from Ivory Coast to Nigeria and Cameroon as seasonal rains shifted to the north.](#) Cotton areas in Mali and Burkina Faso received near to above normal rainfall while areas to the south trended drier. . As long as periodic rain occurs in the next few weeks before seasonal rain returns, there should be no significant production changes. However, drier-than-normal weather is expected in coffee, cocoa, rice and sugarcane areas for at least the next seven days while rain falls frequently in cotton areas to the north. The need for rain in coffee and cocoa areas will increase later this month which is usually when seasonal rains normally return.

Rainfall in July was near to below normal in much of western Africa's main cocoa, coffee, rice and sugarcane areas while cotton areas to the north reported near to above normal precipitation. Many areas in southern Ivory Coast, central and southeastern Ghana, Nigeria, and Cameroon only received 25-80% of normal rainfall and the greatest decrease in rainfall occurred in the two most recent weeks. Timely precipitation was noted in May and June before drier biased conditions evolved more recently.

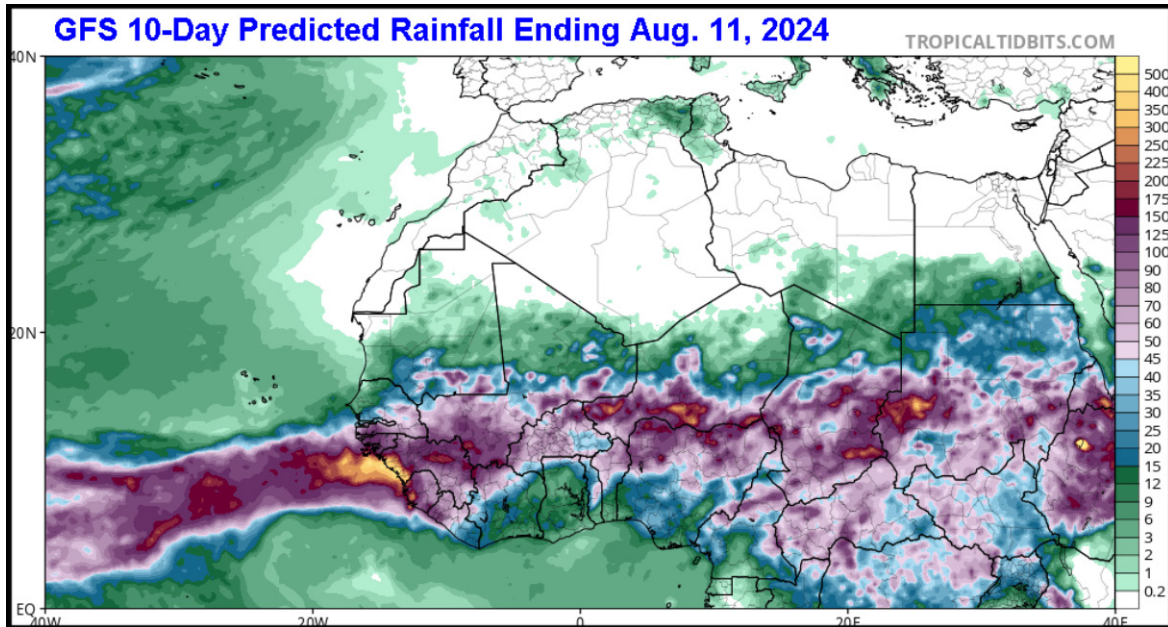


Many areas in Ghana and Ivory Coast have a slight shortage of moisture compared to usual for this time of year. The season started off drier and warmer than normal, which raised concern over flowering and early fruit setting. However, the main production areas received enough timely rain a little later in the season to induce good flowering and fruit setting despite the slow start to the rainy season. Trees were stressed early in the rainy season and that likely cut into some of the production potential, but once flowering began rain fell in a timelier manner.

As long as some periodic rain falls over the next few weeks before the rainy season resumes, production should be favorable, at least compared to last year. The second-season

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crops (or mid-crop), are at greater risk for production losses due to drier than normal weather in recent weeks.



The main production areas in western Africa will trend drier than normal during the coming week. Periodic rain is still expected, most notably for Nigeria and portions of Cameroon. These areas will receive 0.50 to 2.00 inches of rain by next Thursday morning, though pockets in Cameroon will only receive 0.10 to 0.50 inch of rain. The southern halves of Ivory Coast and Ghana will receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch of rain with local amounts over 1.00 inch in Ivory Coast.

A large section of crop country in western Africa will trend much drier than normal August 9 – 15. Rainfall during this time will generally be lost to evaporation, though a few locations in Cameroon could receive enough rain to limit drying or slightly bolster soil moisture.

***Spotty rainfall during the coming week should be enough to maintain relatively good conditions for cocoa, coffee, rice and sugarcane. Cotton areas to the north will see much more significant rain and will put that moisture to use later in the season when seasonal rains shift southward. Portions of Ghana and Ivory Coast may trend a little dry and would benefit from increased rainfall. The lack of rain during the second week of the outlook may increase the need for timely rain to limit production impacts.***

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