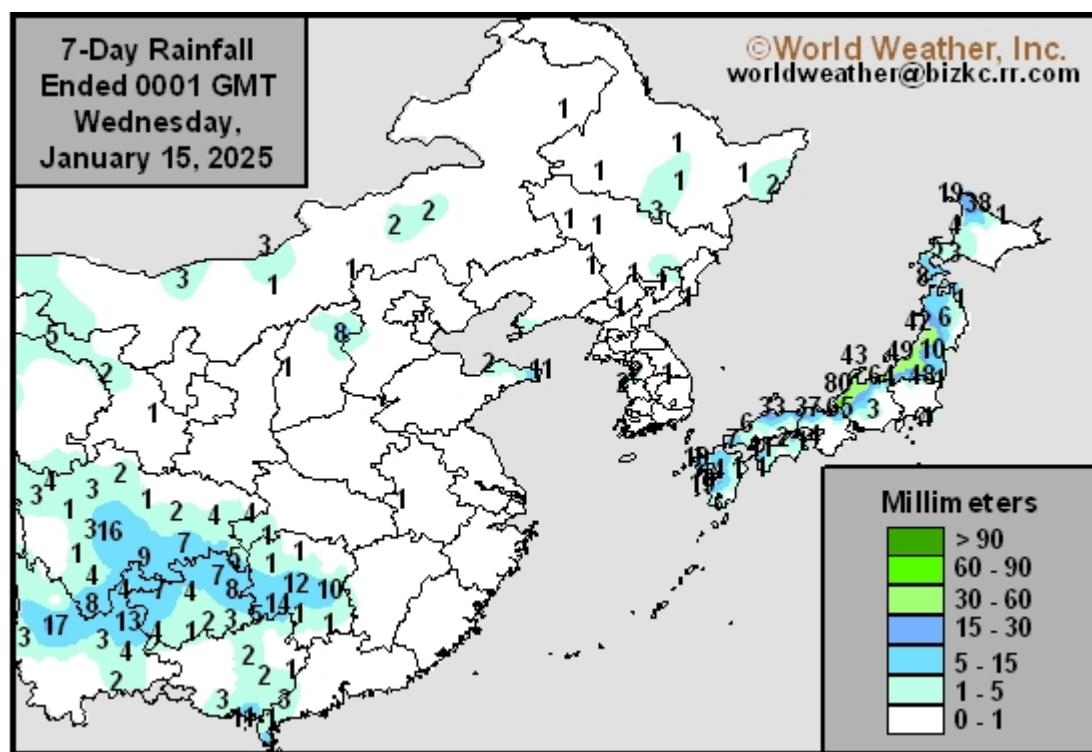


China Dryness To Prevail While La Nina Bias Remains

By Andrew Owen and Drew Lerner

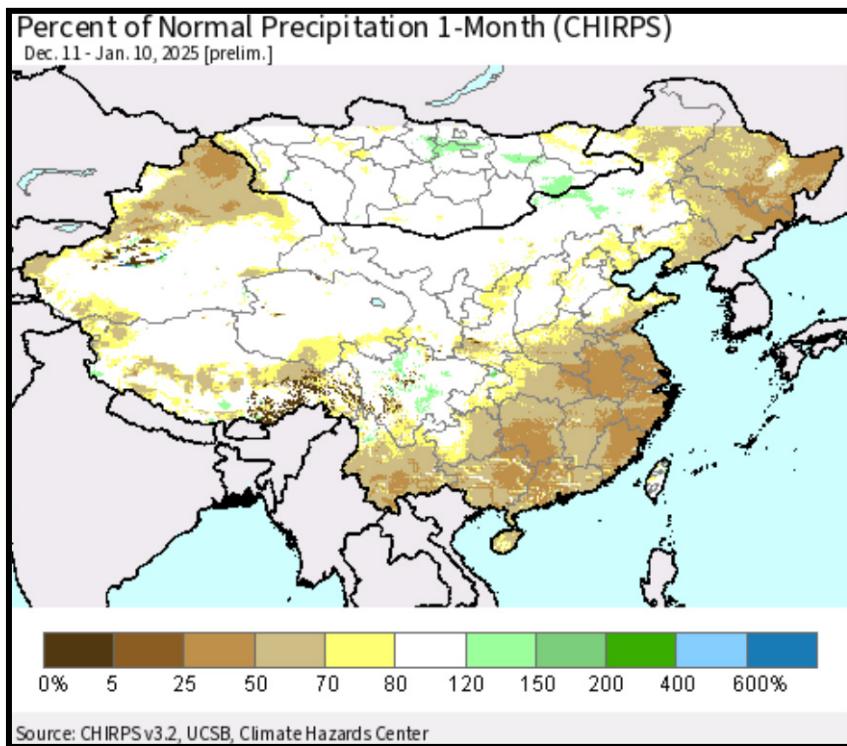
Kansas City, January 15 (World Weather Inc.) – Dryness continues to spread and intensify in portions of eastern China; including the area near and south of the Yangtze River. Nearly all of eastern China has been drier than usual in the past few weeks and temperatures were often above normal. Drought or abnormally dry conditions persist from portions of Guangxi, Guangdong, and Fujian into eastern Hubei, Anhui, Jiangsu, Zhejiang and Fujian. The need for rain will increase greatly during February as rapeseed development begins and early rice planting will begin shortly after that in the southern coastal provinces. If dryness prevails there will be some potential for delayed planting and delayed early season crop development. There is potential for some rain to develop after January 25, but as long as La Nina conditions are present moisture totals will be below normal.

Several areas in Sichuan, Guizhou, Hunan, and northern Yunnan saw periods of spotty precipitation during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning ranged from 0.12 to 0.67 inch. A few locations in Guangxi, Shanxi, Inner Mongolia, and Heilongjiang also received 0.08 to 0.32 inch of moisture. Little to no precipitation was noted elsewhere.



Temperatures this past week were near to above normal. Southern China often warmed to the 60s and 70s Fahrenheit while the Yangtze River Basin frequently saw highs reach the 40s and 50s. Daytime highs generally remained near or below freezing north of the Yangtze River.

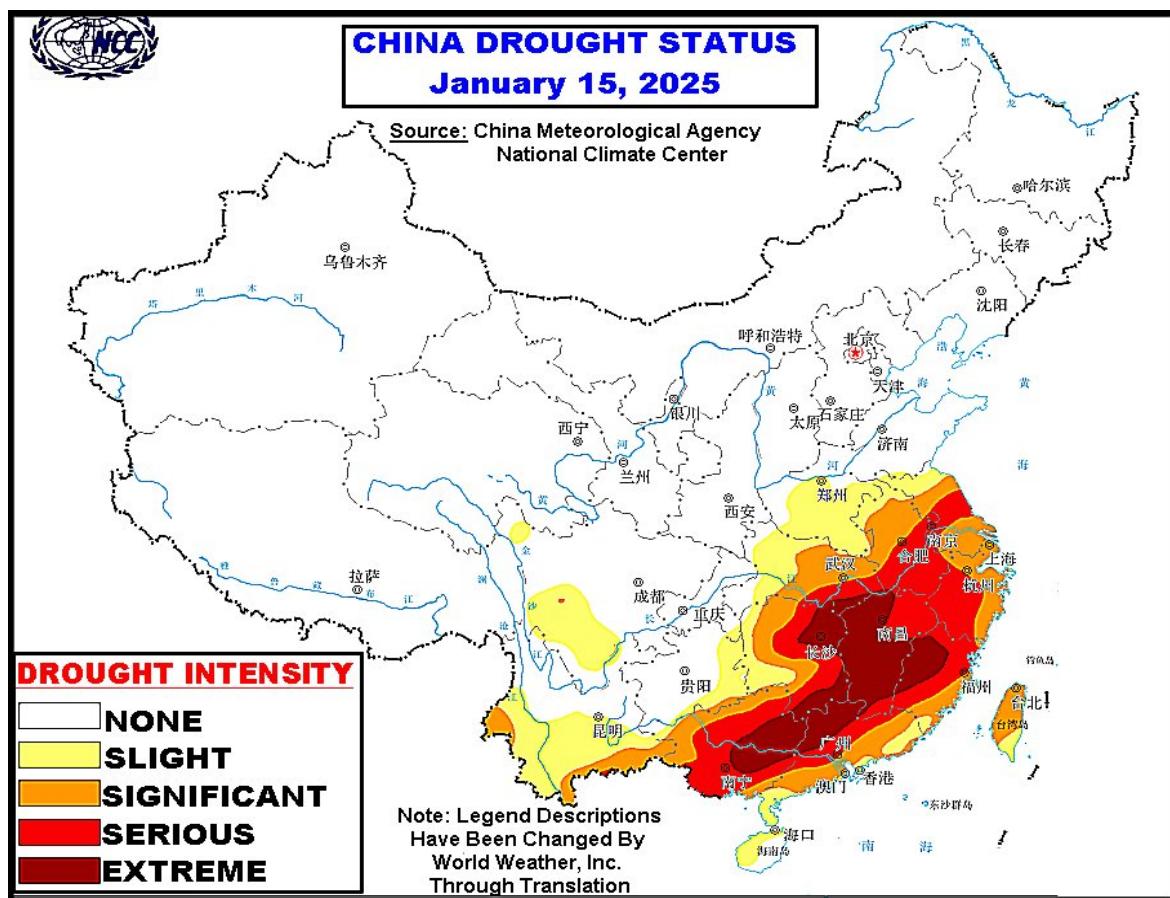
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Source: CHIRPS v3.2, UCSB Climate Hazards Center

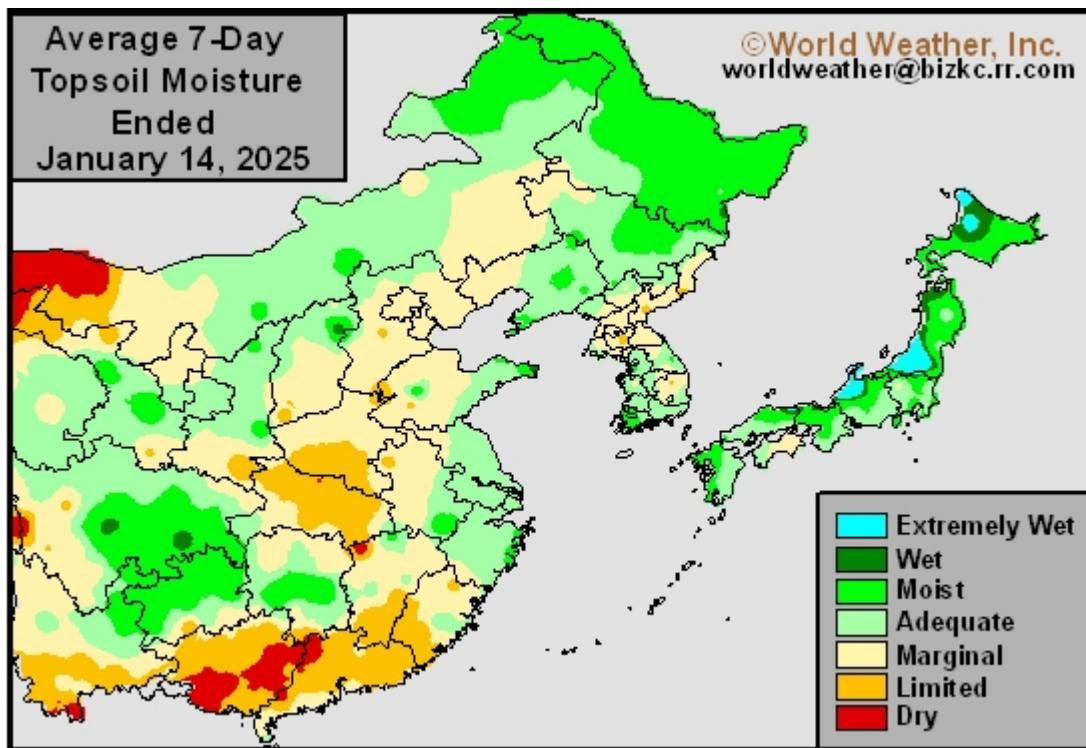
normal precipitation for the 30-day period ending January 10.

Sichuan, central Inner Mongolia and several areas in Shanxi, Shaanxi, Hebei, and northern Shandong received near normal precipitation during the past month, though precipitation totals are normally quite light at this time of year in those areas. The remaining production areas in China were drier or much drier than normal. Several areas in southern and east-central China, along with pockets in Heilongjiang and Jilin, received 25% to 50% of



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Drought or abnormally dry conditions persist for several locations from Guangxi, Guangdong, and Fujian into Anhui, Jiangsu and Zhejiang. These areas have received minimal precipitation since last autumn and temperatures have often trended above normal. The ongoing dryness continues to increase concerns for delayed rice and other early season crop planting in southern China in March. Winter rapeseed development in the Yangtze River Basin may also get off to a sluggish start once seasonal warming occurs this spring. Obviously, there are still a few weeks between now and then in which improved rainfall can occur to ease the situation.



The remaining production areas in China are not yet suffering from drought due to low drying rates. Winter wheat prospects in the North China Plain and neighboring locations remain generally favorable despite several areas trending drier than normal in recent weeks. A good shot of precipitation would still be welcome.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

China's main production areas will remain drier biased through the middle of next week. Spotty rain will still occur at times in Sichuan, northern Yunnan, and neighboring locations. Moisture totals by next Wednesday morning will range from 0.10 to 0.50 inch and locally more. Other areas will either be dry or not receive enough precipitation to impact long-term soil conditions. There is growing confidence for some precipitation near and south of the Yangtze River January 23 – 29. Although precipitation totals will likely be too light to completely fix the dryness, some improvements to the moisture profile will be possible.

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Seasonable to seasonably warm weather is slated for much of China through the middle of next week. Southern China will often warm to the 60s and 70s. Daytime highs will often reach the 50s and lower 60s in the Yangtze River Basin as well. Areas farther north will struggle to warm above freezing.

Dryness will continue to spread and intensify for southern China and much of the Yangtze River Basin during the next seven days. No immediate production impacts are expected, though the need for precipitation will increase. Precipitation during the second week of the outlook may otherwise start to improve or maintain a good outlook for the winter rapeseed in the Yangtze River Basin. Early-season planting potentials may also improve marginally, though more rain will be needed to support ideal planting and establishment. Winter wheat prospects will remain mostly unchanged.

Despite the likelihood of increased precipitation in late January, La Nina conditions are expected to prevail and as long as they do remain there will be a tendency for below normal precipitation to continue in the southeast of China.

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