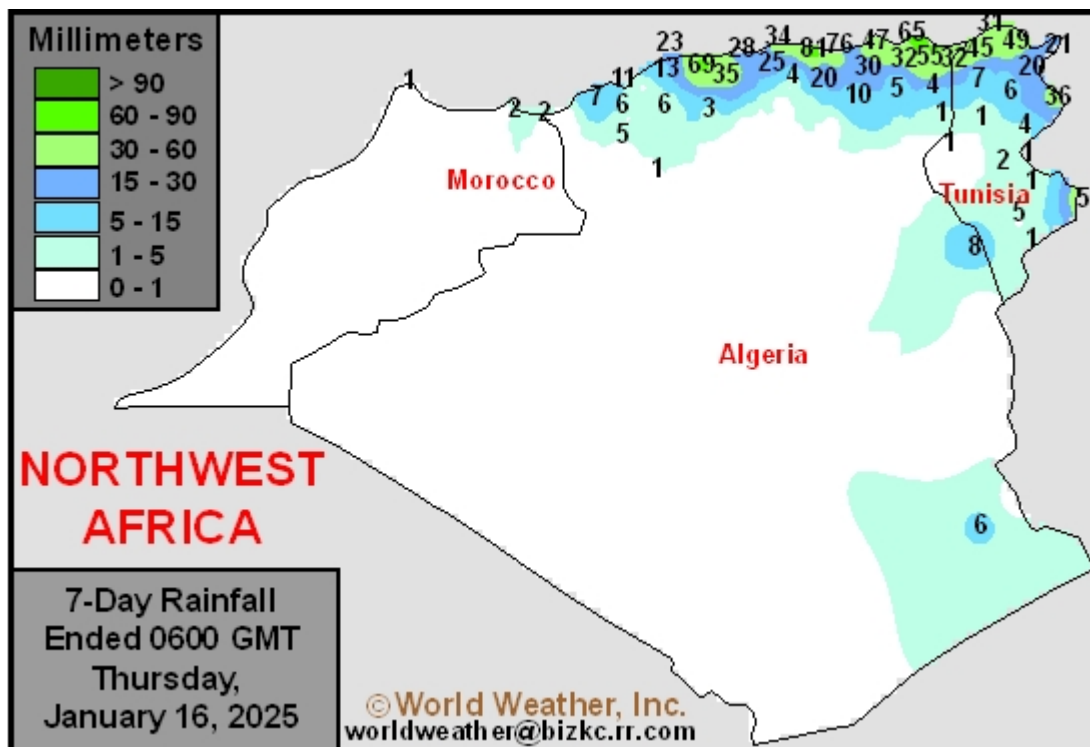


Morocco Still In Drought; Algeria, Tunisia Moisture Improving

By Andrew Owen

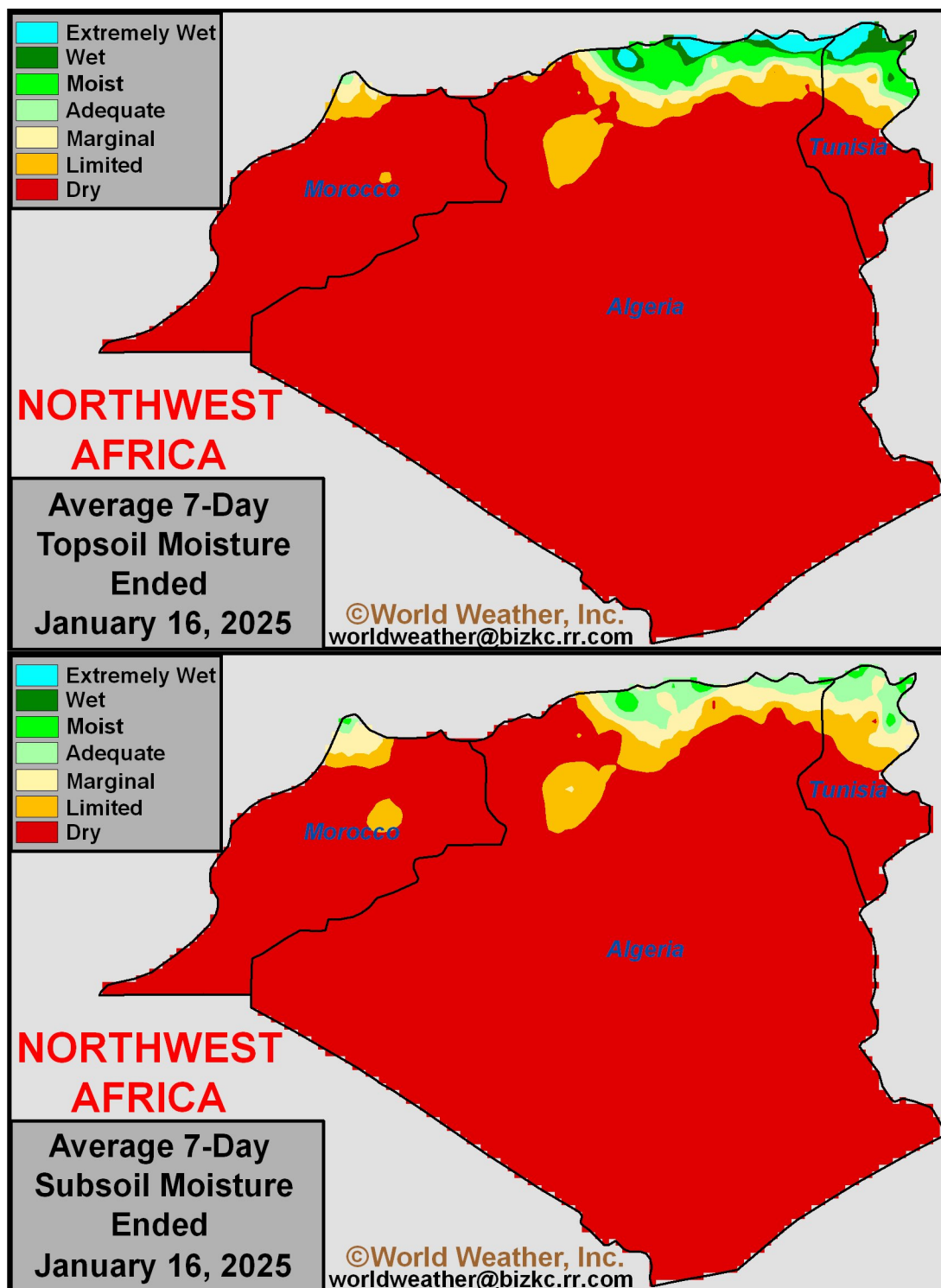
Kansas City, January 16 (World Weather Inc.) – Morocco remains in a severe drought due to continued dryness. Winter wheat and barley production potentials have been hurt by ongoing dryness and the need for abundant rain is high. The main production areas will have a few opportunities for erratic rainfall during the coming week, though not enough rain will fall to significantly improve the moisture profile or production potentials. Algeria and Tunisia were also starting to dry down a little too much before the past week of rain began and the timely precipitation should greatly improve crop conditions and production prospects. Additional rain is expected in the coming week in Algeria and Tunisia, but timely precipitation must continue into spring to ensure good yields.

Northwestern Africa's main winter grain and oilseed locations were drier or much drier than normal in recent weeks. Most locations received 25-70% of normal rainfall for the 30-day period ending January 10, though pockets in Algeria received near normal precipitation. However, northern Tunisia into northeastern and north-central Algeria received rain on a frequent basis in recent days. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning ranged from 0.50 to 2.75 inches with drier pockets. Northwestern Algeria received upwards of 0.28 inch of rain during this time while Morocco was mostly dry.



Recent rainfall helped bolster soil moisture to more adequate levels from northern Tunisia into northeastern and north-central Algeria. Severe moisture shortages are ongoing for Morocco and northwestern Algeria.

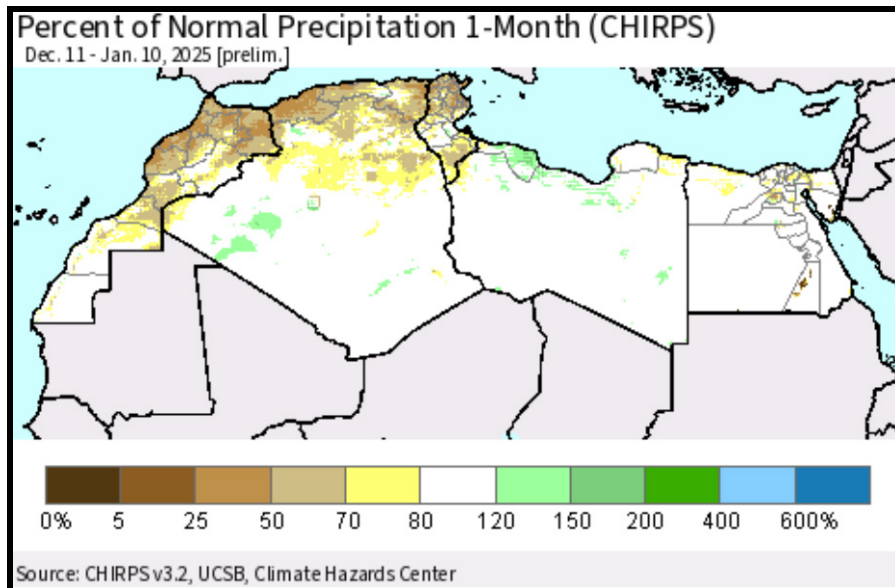
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Ongoing drought for Morocco and northwestern Algeria continues to promote poor conditions for the winter wheat, barley, and other crops produced this time of year. Production is expected to again trend well below normal due to the dryness, even if timely rain evolves in the coming weeks. Tunisia and the remaining locations in Algeria received enough rain to support periods of aggressive growth, though conditions have been far

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from ideal due to the periods of drier than normal weather. Frequent rainfall is still needed in the coming weeks to support better long-term development conditions.



WEATHER OUTLOOK

An upper-level disturbance will meander around the western Mediterranean Sea through the end of the weekend. The disturbance will generate waves of rain for Algeria and Tunisia with a few light showers occasionally reaching northeastern Morocco. Although the disturbance will shift away from the region next week, another system will promote light rain in portions of Morocco. Much of Tunisia and Algeria will receive 0.75 to 3.00 inches of rain by next Thursday morning. Local totals over 4.00 inches are also expected near the coastlines. Portions of north-central and west-central Morocco will receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch of rain during this time with locally greater amounts. Drier than normal weather will likely return for much of northwestern Africa January 24 – 30, though brief periods of light rain cannot be completely ruled out.

Additional rain in Tunisia and Algeria in the coming days will continue to bolster soil moisture. The environment will either improve or remain favorable for aggressive crop development. Winter wheat and barley production potentials will remain relatively good. The rain that occurs in Morocco will be welcome, but unable to significantly improve long-term production potentials. Yields are still expected to trend well below usual.

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