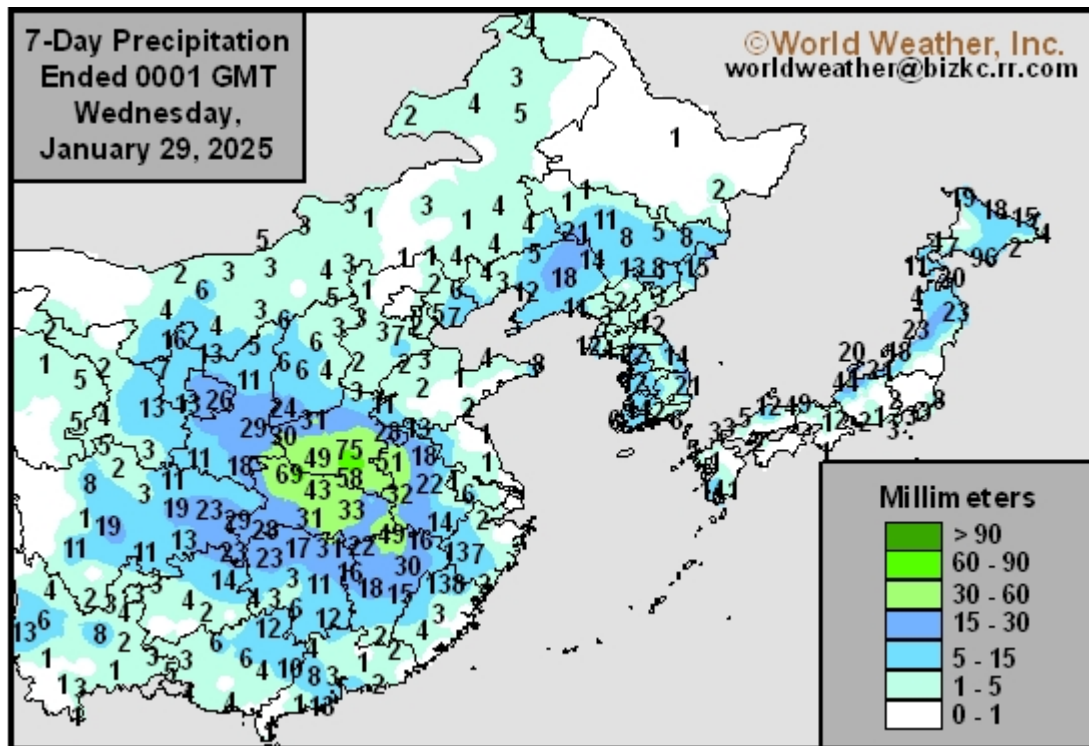


China Received Much-Needed Rain; More Rain On The Way

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, January 28 (World Weather Inc.) – *A disturbance brought much-needed precipitation to portions of China during the past week. Precipitation was greatest in Henan, Hubei, and neighboring locations and helped improve the moisture profile for future rapeseed development.* However, *the driest areas in southern China (where early rice and corn planting normally occurs in March) only received light rain and moisture deficits persist.* The Yangtze River Basin will again see a good mix of precipitation and sunshine during the coming week that will maintain a good outlook for rapeseed. Southern China will have a few opportunities for erratic rainfall as well; though, the rain will be too light to fix the dryness and more rain will be needed later in February as early-planting dates approach.

Precipitation varied across China's main production areas during the past week. Henan, Hubei, western Anhui, and northern Jiangxi received 0.63 to 2.95 inches of moisture for the seven-day period ending this morning. Northern Hunan, Sichuan, Shaanxi, southern Shanxi, other areas in Anhui, and Liaoning received 0.43 to 1.14 inches of moisture. Southern sections of Hunan and Jiangxi, eastern Guangxi, western Guangdong, Guizhou, and portions of Fujian, Zhejiang, and Jilin received 0.12 to 0.67 inch of moisture. Other production areas in China received trace amounts to 0.28 inch of moisture, though Heilongjiang was mostly dry.

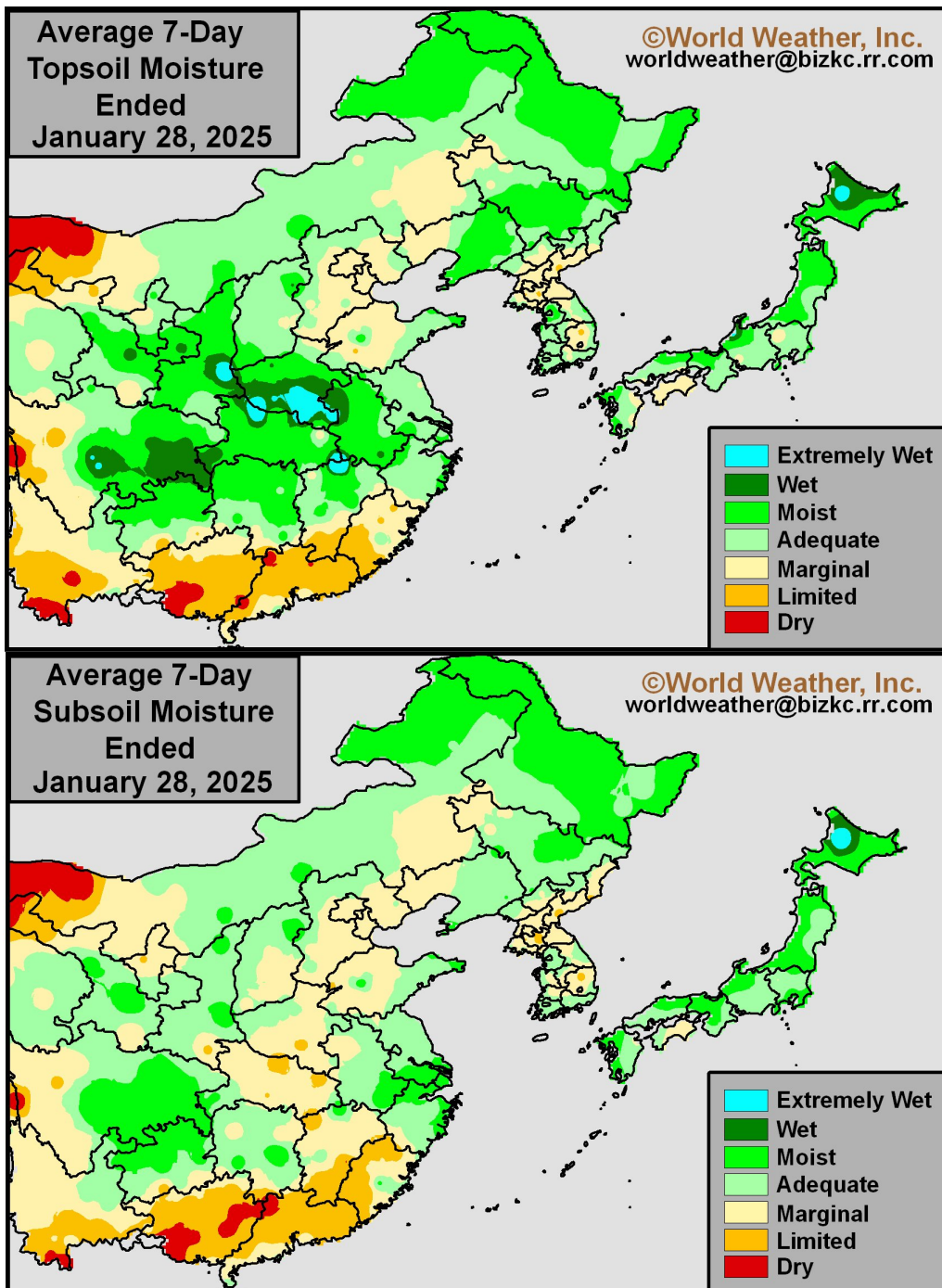


Temperatures were again near to above normal in much of China during the past week. Highest readings reached the 70s and lower 80s Fahrenheit in southern China. The

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Yangtze River Basin saw highest readings in the 50s and 60s with pockets in the lower 70s. Highest readings were in the 40s and 50s in the North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin while highest temperatures were mostly in the 20s and 30s in northern China.

Soil moisture improved greatly in east-central China because of the past week of rain. Topsoil moisture was rated marginally adequate to slightly surplus including the Yangtze River Basin, although subsoil moisture was still rated a little poorly. The southern China provinces of Yunnan, Guangxi, Guangdong and Fujian were still quite dry and drought remains with little sign of change for a while.

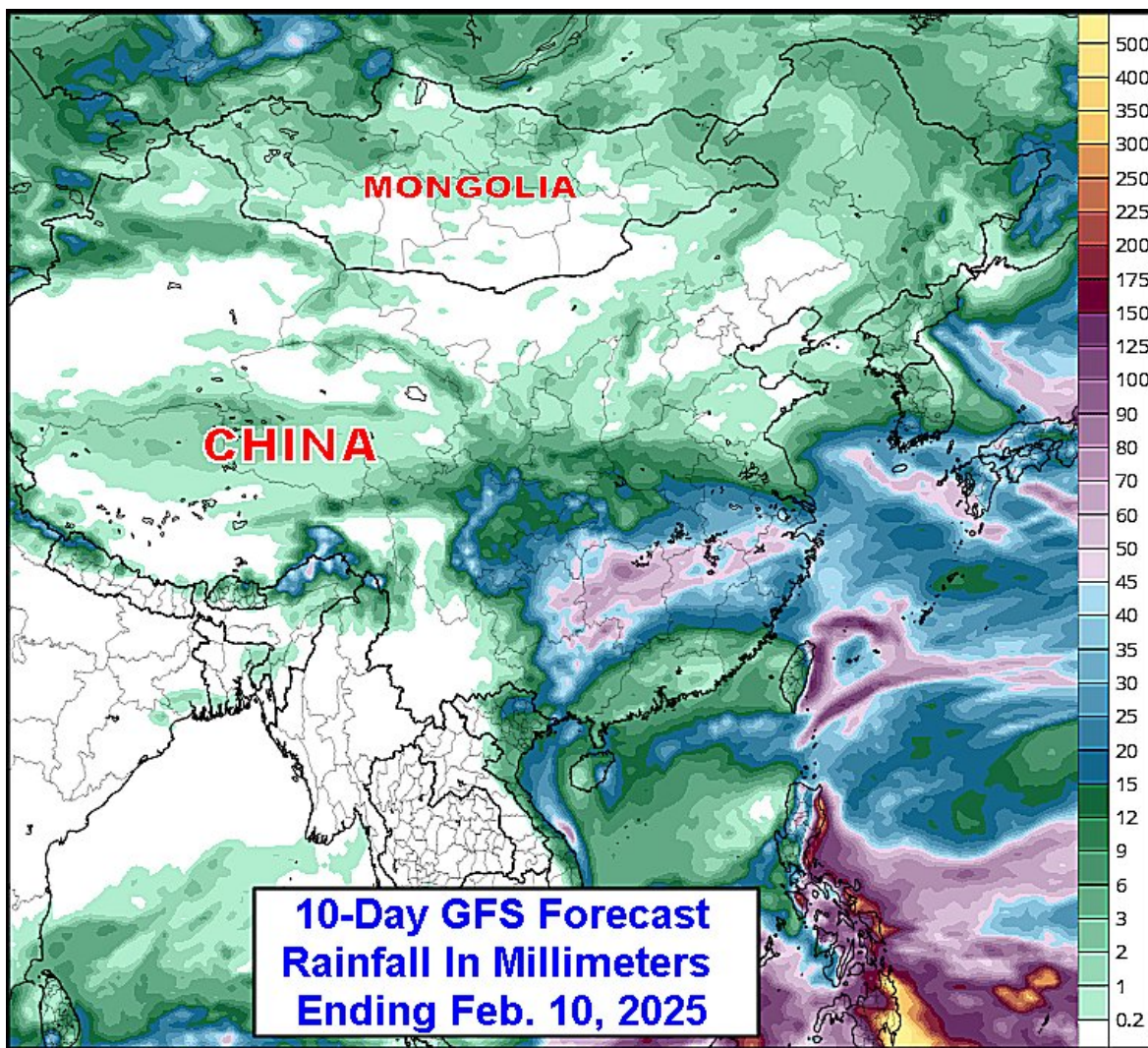


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Recent rain and snow were welcome across the Yangtze River Basin. Several locations had been trending too dry to support ideal winter rapeseed prospects earlier this month and were in growing need of precipitation. Crop prospects remain favorable across the region. Winter wheat prospects in the North China Plain are relatively good as well, though a good shot of precipitation would be welcome.

In the meantime, southern China remains too dry to support ideal early-season rice, sugarcane, and corn planting despite the spotty rain in recent days. Planting is still a few weeks out and there is still time for better rainfall. However, abundant rain is needed to completely fix the moisture deficits and support ideal establishment.

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Areas near and south of the Yangtze River will continue to see a good mix of precipitation and sunshine during the coming week. Other than a few isolated showers, the region will initially be dry today through mid-day Wednesday. Disturbances will promote

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more widespread precipitation late Wednesday through the end of the weekend before drier weather returns early next week. Much of the Yangtze River Basin will receive 0.75 to 3.00 inches of moisture with locally greater amounts. A few isolated snow flurries will be possible, though any snow that occurs is not expected to accumulate. Southern China will generally receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch of rain with local amounts over 1.00 inch in northern Yunnan and northern Guangxi. Areas near and south of the Yangtze River will again have opportunities for precipitation February 5 – 11.

The North China Plain, central Yellow River Basin, and northern China will generally trend drier than normal during the coming week. Henan and southern Shaanxi into northern sections of Anhui and Jiangsu will still see periods of light precipitation Wednesday into this weekend as disturbances track nearby. Moisture totals by next Tuesday morning will range from 0.10 to 0.50 inch with minor snow accumulations possible. Northeast China will also have a few opportunities for light snow with moisture totals ranging from trace amounts to 0.40 inch. Snowfall will range from a dusting to 4 inches. Other locations in the North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin will be mostly dry. Drier-than-normal weather will persist for most locations February 5 – 11.

Additional precipitation for the Yangtze River Basin will help maintain a good outlook for the winter rapeseed. Winter wheat prospects will also remain relatively favorable in the North China Plain despite several locations receiving little to no precipitation during the next two weeks.

The spotty rain in far southern China during the coming week will be too light to significantly improve the moisture profile. Minor improvements will occur in areas that receive the greatest amount of rain, though moisture deficits will persist. Early-season planting prospects will remain less than favorable and more significant rain will be needed later in February.

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