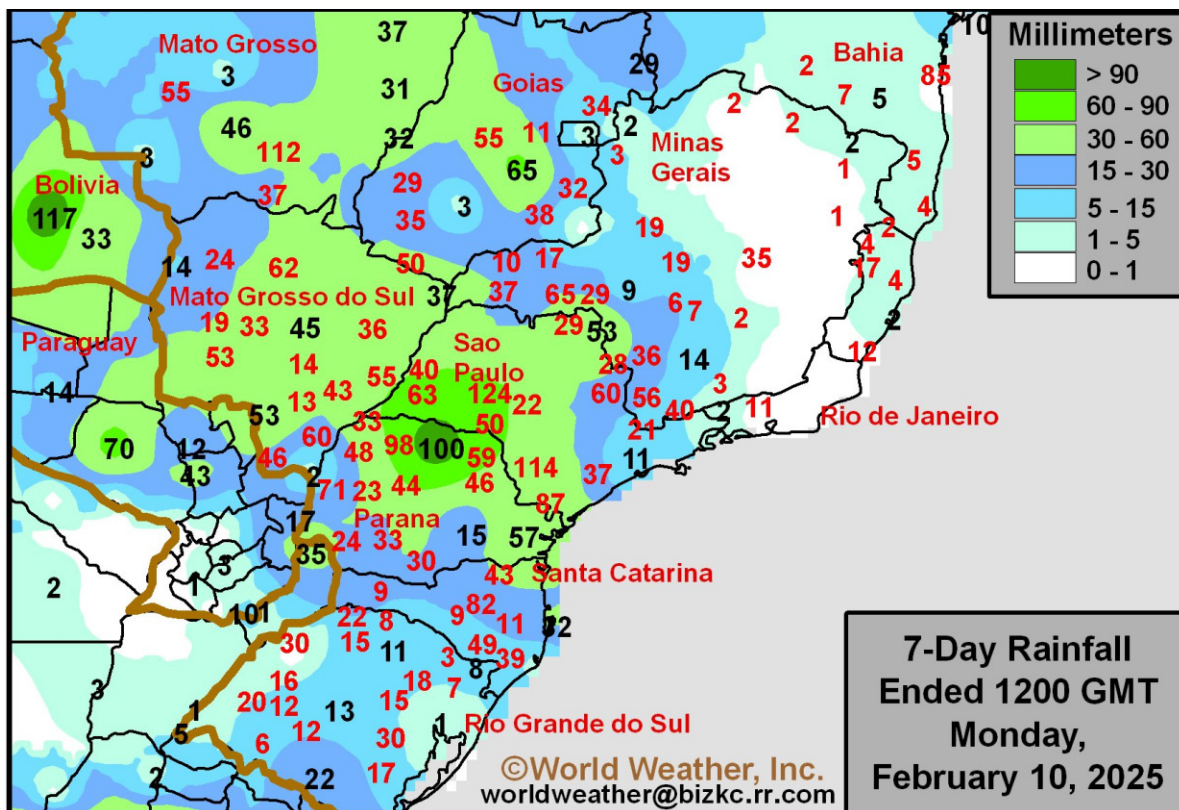


Mato Grosso Soybean Harvest May Remain Sluggish

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, February 10 (World Weather Inc.) – Brazil's soybean harvest is behind last year's pace in part due to wet weather in some of the main production areas in recent weeks. As a result, safrinha corn planting is behind last year's pace as well. With drier weather slated for several areas from center-south and northeastern Brazil into Mato Grosso do Sul this week, the harvest pace, along with safrinha corn planting progress, may advance more swiftly. Mato Grosso and portions of southern Brazil will see more frequent rainfall this week that may continue to promote sluggish harvesting and safrinha corn planting. In the meantime, some of the main sugarcane, citrus, and coffee areas will dry down this week due to the lack of abundant rain. As long as timely rain returns later this month, no major production impacts are expected.

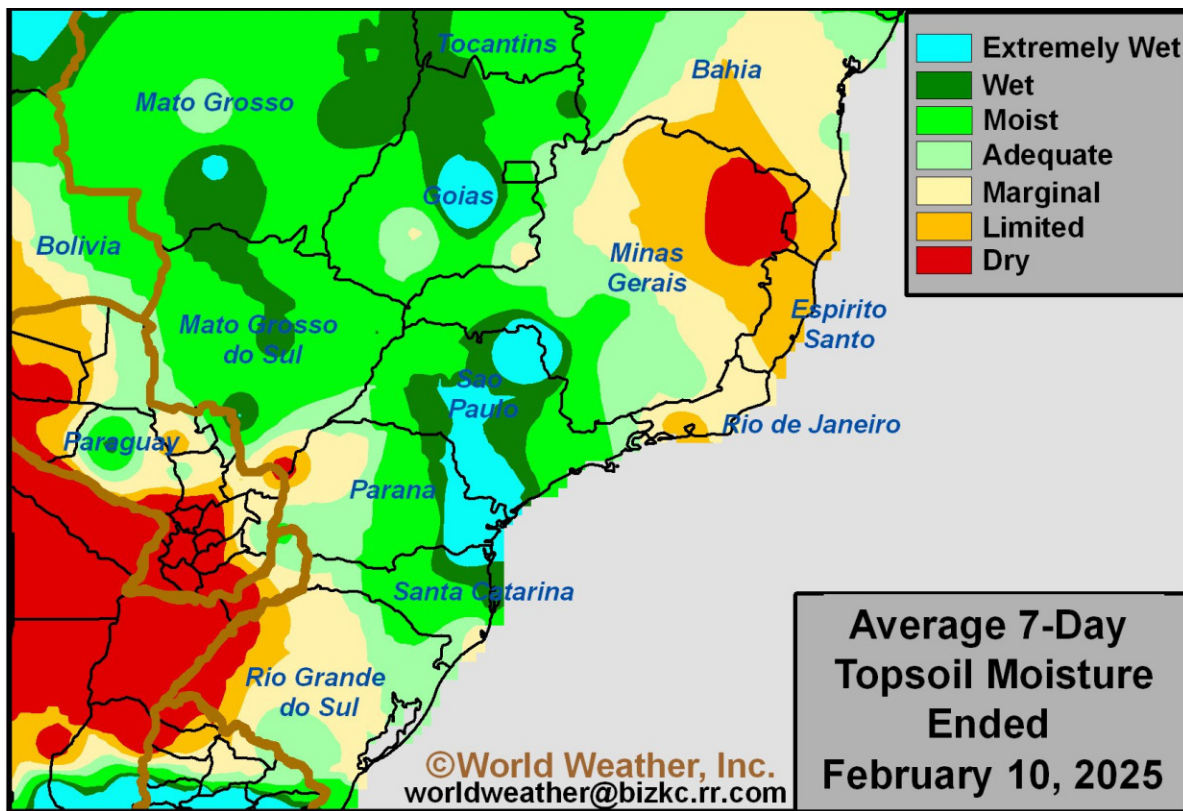
Precipitation varied across the main production areas in Brazil during the past week. Mato Grosso and Mato Grosso do Sul into Goias, Sao Paulo, Parana, and southwestern Minas Gerais received 0.50 to 2.50 inches of rain with local amounts up to 4.90 inches for the seven-day period ending this morning. Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul received 0.24 to 1.18 inches of rain with local amounts up to 3.23 inches in eastern Santa Catarina. Pockets in central Minas Gerais received 0.24 to 1.38 inches of rain. Other locations in Minas Gerais into southern Bahia, Rio de Janeiro, and Espirito Santo were either dry or did not receive enough rain to significantly impact long-term soil conditions. Temperatures were near normal with highest readings generally in the 80s and lower 90s Fahrenheit. Lowest temperatures were in the 60s and 70s.



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Soil moisture is at adequate or marginally adequate levels in a large section of Brazil. However, several locations in northern and east-central Minas Gerais, southern Bahia, Rio de Janeiro, Espirito Santo, and areas near the Argentina border in Rio Grande do Sul have a shortage of moisture in the topsoil due to the lack of rain in recent days.

As of February 6, soybean harvesting was 15% complete in Brazil according to AgRural. Harvesting was 23% complete this time last year. Frequent rainfall often limited aggressive harvesting and fieldwork at times in recent weeks and the need for drier weather is increasing. The main production areas have ample moisture to support aggressive late-season growth for the remaining soybeans, along with first-season corn and other crops produced this time of year. Continued rainfall may further delay the harvest.

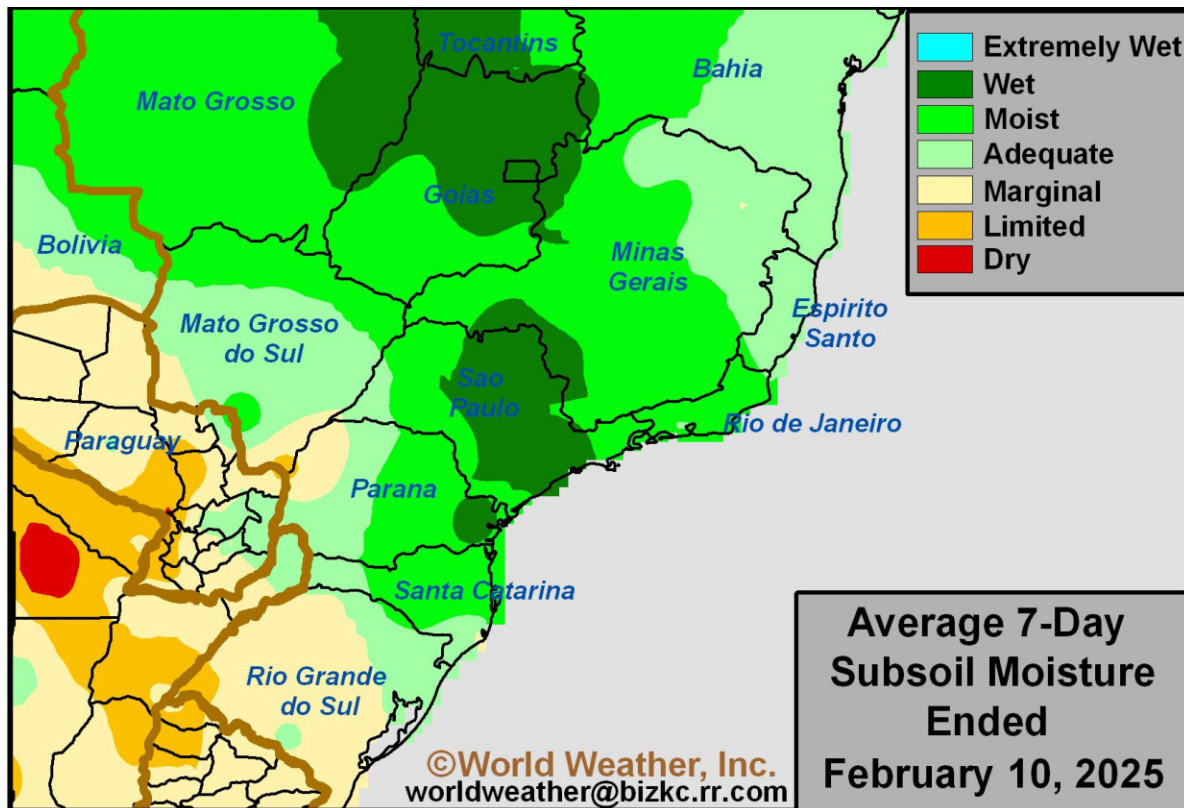


In addition to the sluggish soybean harvest, safrinha corn planting is also behind last year's pace in Brazil. As of February 6, safrinha corn planting was estimated to be 20% complete, down from 38% this time last year according to AgRural. Planting is furthest behind in Mato Grosso and Goias and the need for drier weather is high.

Southern Brazil and Mato Grosso will receive some of the most significant rain in Brazil this week. Precipitation will be scattered across these areas on a near daily basis, though many areas in southern Brazil will initially be dry today. Moisture totals by next Monday morning will range from 0.75 to 3.00 inches and locally greater amounts. Mato Grosso do Sul, Goias, and center-south Brazil will have several opportunities for erratic rainfall this week as well with totals ranging from 0.50 to 2.00 inches and drier pockets. Bahia, northern and eastern Minas Gerais, and much of Rio de Janeiro and Espirito Santo will remain drier than normal this week. Periods of light rain will still occur, though

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resulting rainfall will be too light to impact long-term soil conditions. Southern Brazil will again have several opportunities for rain February 18 – 24. The remaining production areas in Brazil will trend drier than normal.



Temperatures will remain near normal for Brazil this week. Daytime highs will peak to the 80s and lower 90s with pockets in southern Brazil only warming to the 70s during periods of more significant rain. Low temperatures will be in the 60s and 70s. Seasonable temperatures will persist February 18 – 24.

Southern Brazil and Mato Grosso will receive enough rain to limit aggressive harvesting this week. Some progress will be made, though the harvest may remain behind last year's pace. Other production areas will see more favorable conditions for aggressive harvesting and fieldwork. Safrinha corn planting may remain sluggish in Mato Grosso due to the additional rain as well while planting conditions should marginally improve elsewhere. In the meantime, some of the main sugarcane, coffee, and citrus areas in Brazil may start drying down a little too much later in the month. As long as timely rain returns late February or early March, no major production impacts are expected.

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