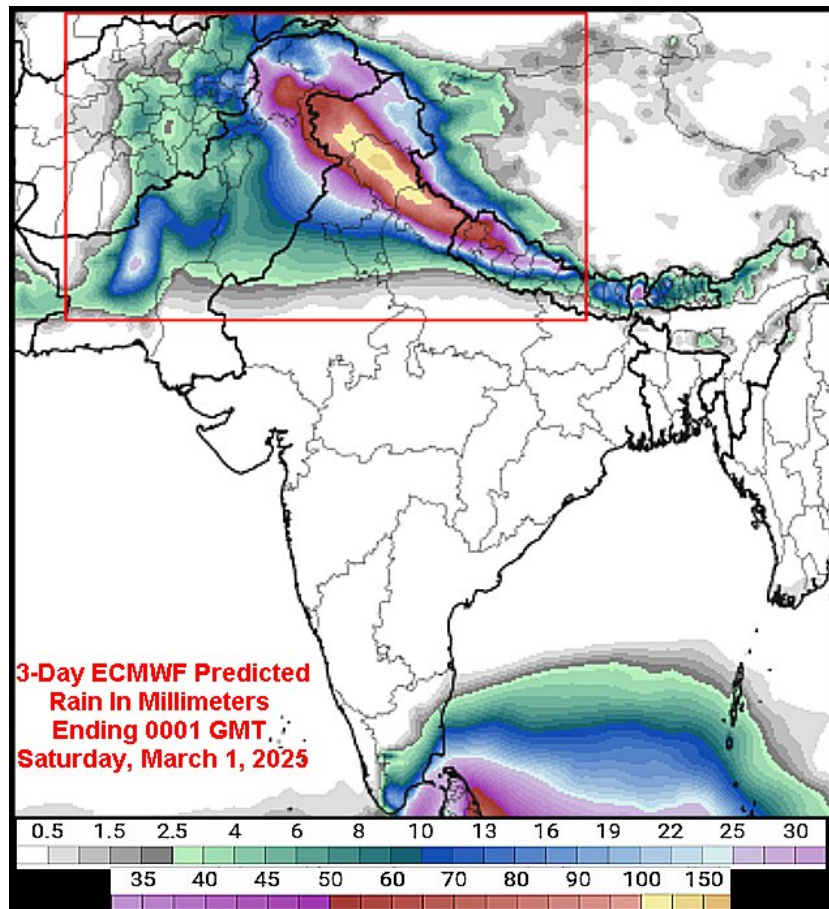


Far Northern India Rainfall To Impact A Few Winter Crops

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, February 26 (World Weather Inc.) – India's winter crops have not received much rain this season and that may be pressuring yield potentials lower for unirrigated wheat, barley, millet, rapeseed, mustard and a number of pulse crops. Worry had been rising over hot weather during reproduction, although that has not evolved in a very detrimental manner, so far, this season. A strong cold front moving into India from the Middle East will bring significant rain to the far north of the nation over the balance of this week and temperatures will briefly fall lower than usual behind the event. The moisture will prove beneficial to some winter crops; although, some of the more important production areas will miss out on this precipitation event.

A broad region of unusually cold air that has been over Russia's southern grain and oilseed production region in the past week has been expanding into the Middle East the past few days. A deep trough of low pressure over the Middle has allowed parts of India to heat up and that may continue today, but two disturbances will come from that trough bringing



some cooler temperatures and much needed rain to a part of far northern India.

The greatest rainfall in Pakistan and northern India is predicted for tonight through Friday night at which time 1.50 to nearly 4.00 inches will fall across the region from Uttarakhand to Jammu and Kashmir, India. There is potential for a few locations to get 4.00 to 5.00 inches in Himachal Pradesh and a few neighboring areas. Surrounding this region will be rainfall of 0.20 to 1.50 inches. Most of that rain is expected in Punjab, northern Haryana and possibly a few far

northernmost locations in both Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. There is some risk of severe thunderstorms producing damaging wind, hail and possibly an isolated tornado.

Wheat, barley, millet, rapeseed and a few other crops are produced in this region and they all will benefit from the rain. However, the most important mustard, rapeseed and millet production areas will not be included in this precipitation event and very few

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winter pulses will be impacted as well. Most of the nation's winter crops will continue in need of greater rain, but this event does promise some significant moisture improvements to minor production areas.

Most winter crops in far northern India are either reproducing or beginning the process with some of the more advanced crops possibly filling. The rain event is very well timed for bolstering production in these areas. Crop development elsewhere in India may be a little more advanced (due to the warmer climatic conditions) and those areas remain dry leaving production potentials a little mediocre.

A minor second wave of rain is possible early next week, but it will mostly be in Jammu and Kashmir and it should not seriously impact soil moisture or crop development.

Temperatures in central and interior northern India will be quite warm today and will cool from northwest to southeast across the nation Thursday through Sunday. A quick return of warmer and drier weather is expected next week and there should not be another chance for significant rain for a while.

The precipitation that falls in Pakistan is expected to mostly too light to seriously change soil moisture and water supply outside of the mountains areas of the far north. Pakistan has not been nearly as wet this winter as last year, although water supply should still be favorable for winter crop needs.

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