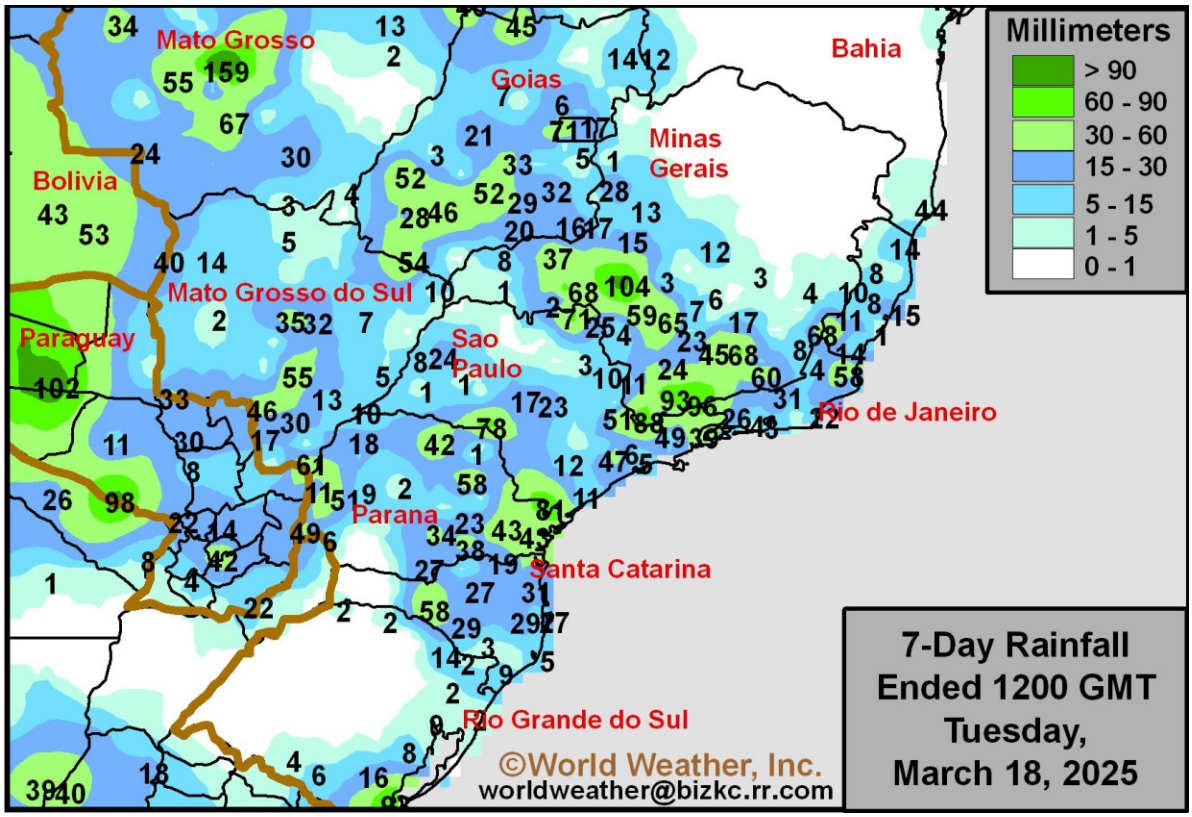
Brazil Safrinha Crops Getting Timely Rain; More Needed

By Andrew Owen and Drew Lerner

Kansas City, March 19 (World Weather Inc.) – ***Safrinha corn and cotton development continues to advance well with an abundance of moisture in center west. Some of the center south crop areas need greater rain to bring soil moisture more in line with normal, but no area has been too dry for too long and a timely precipitation pattern must prevail to ensure the best production potential. An abundance of soil moisture is needed by the end of the monsoon season to support long term crop development. In the meantime, harvesting of soybeans, first-season corn, and other crops will advance well around periods of rain.***

Southern Bahia, northern and east-central Minas Gerais, and a large section of Rio Grande do Sul, western Santa Catarina, and southwestern Parana received little to no rain during the past week. The remaining production areas in Brazil saw a mix of erratic rain and dry weather. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending Tuesday morning ranged from 0.50 to 3.00 inches with local amounts up to 4.00 inches in southern Minas Gerais. Pockets in Sao Paulo and Mato Grosso do Sul also only received 0.25 to 0.50 inch of moisture.



Temperatures were near or above normal for Brazil during the past week. Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina saw highest temperatures reach the upper 70s and 80s Fahrenheit. Highest readings elsewhere were in the upper 80s and 90s. Lowest temperatures were in the 50s and 60s with pockets in center-south, center-west, and northeastern Brazil only cooling to the lower 70s.

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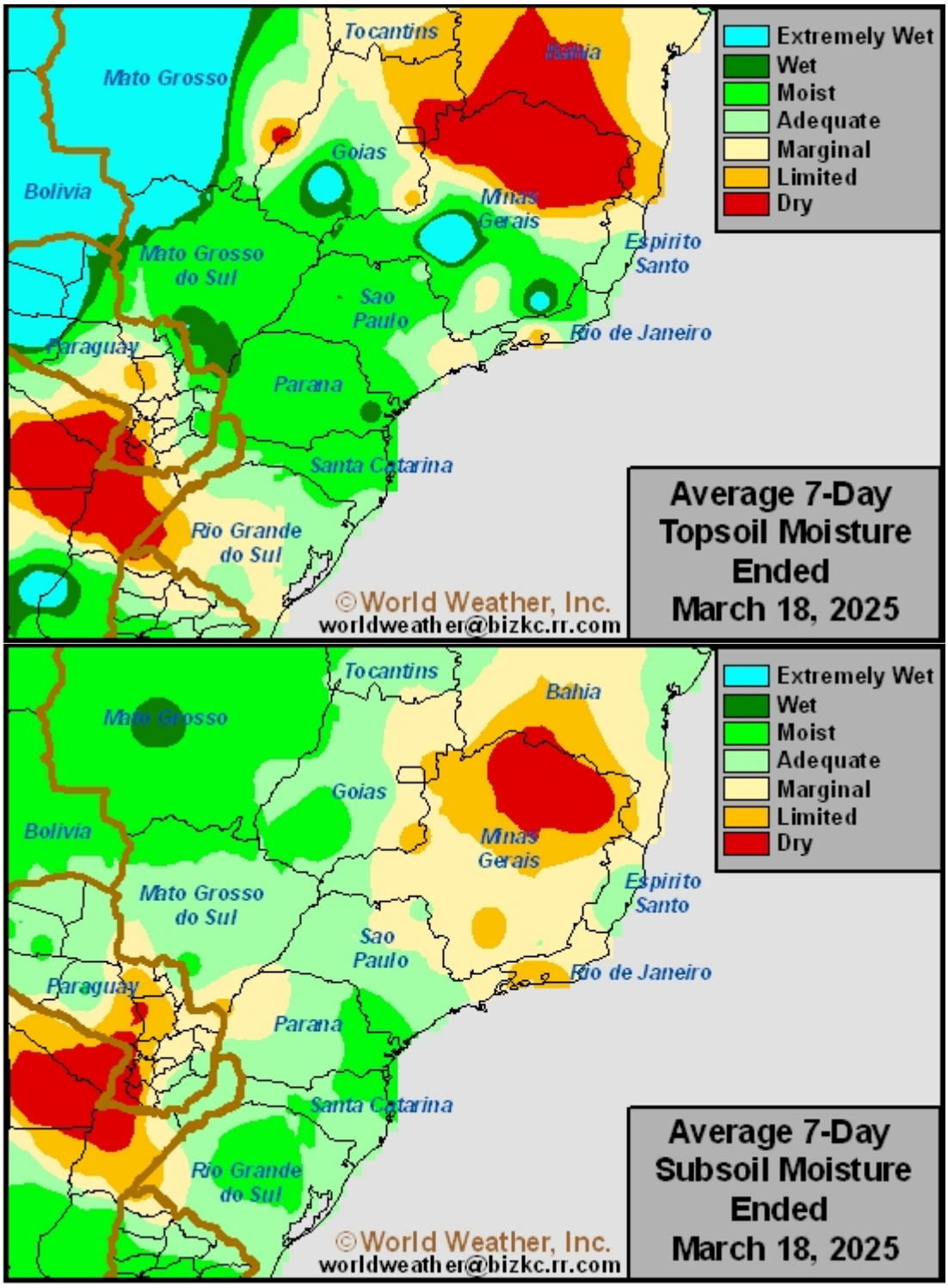
Soil moisture remains short to critically short in much of Bahia, northern Minas Gerais, southwestern Rio Grande do Sul, and immediate neighboring locations due to the lack of rain and warm temperatures in recent weeks. Other locations generally have adequate to excessive soil moisture.



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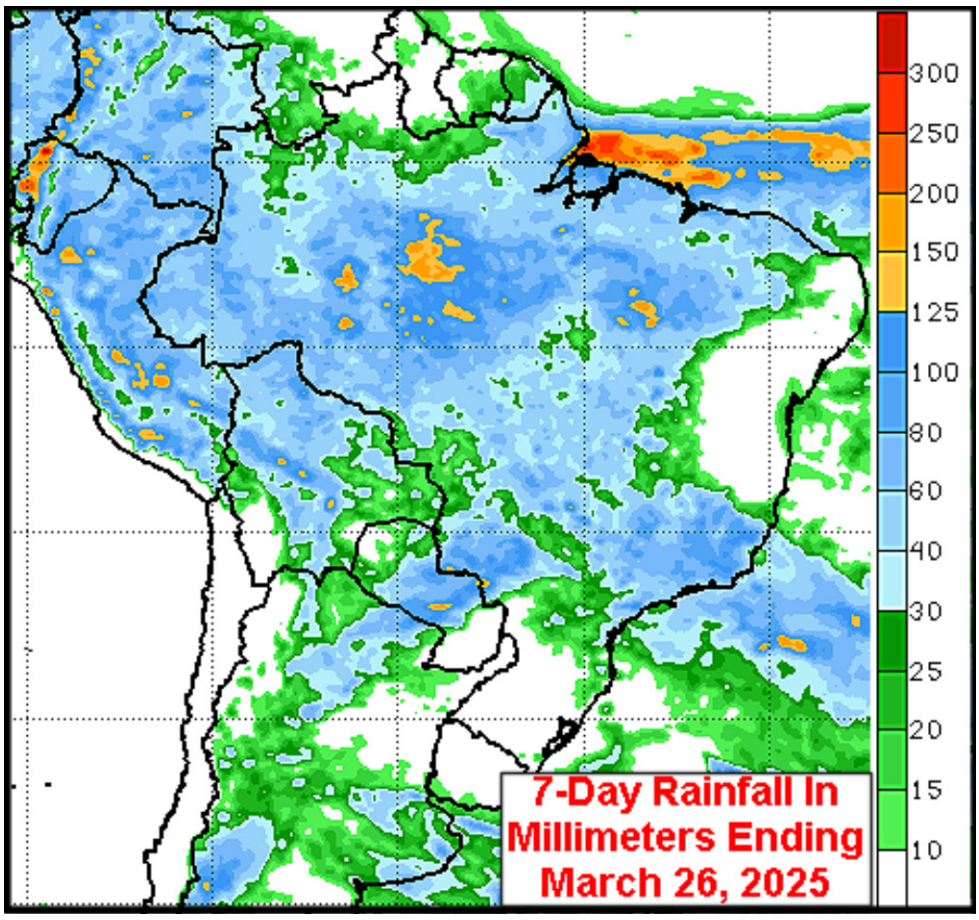
Soybean harvesting continues a little ahead of last year's schedule. As of March 16, 69.8% of the soybeans were out of the ground, compared to 61.6% this time last year and 64.9% for the previous five-year average. First-season corn harvesting was 40.1% complete, compared to 37.0% last year and 38.5% for the previous five-year average. Dry bean harvesting was 61.8% complete while rice harvesting was 33.1% finished. ***The lack of abundant rain in recent weeks helped producers make significant harvest progress.***

In the meantime, Safrinha corn planting was winding down in Brazil. As of March 16, 89.6% of the crop was planted, down from 92.3% this time last year and 90.4% for the previous five-year average. Mato Grosso, which produced approximately 47% of the overall Safrinha corn for the 2021-2023 average according to Brazil's IBGE, was 99% planted and received enough rain so far this season to support generally favorable establishment and early-season growth. Most of the remaining planting of corn was in Sao Paulo, Minas Gerais and a few immediate neighboring areas.

Several production areas in Mato Grosso do Sul, Parana, Sao Paulo, Goias, and Minas Gerais experienced less than usual rain during the past month. ***While the deficient rainfall was beneficial for more aggressive harvesting, there is a growing need for abundant rainfall to improve long-term Safrinha corn prospects. With that said, none of the more important Safrinha production areas have been too dry for a long enough period of time to seriously impact production. Timely rain will be imperative for normal crop development and greater rain is needed to ensure sufficient moisture when the dry season begins.***



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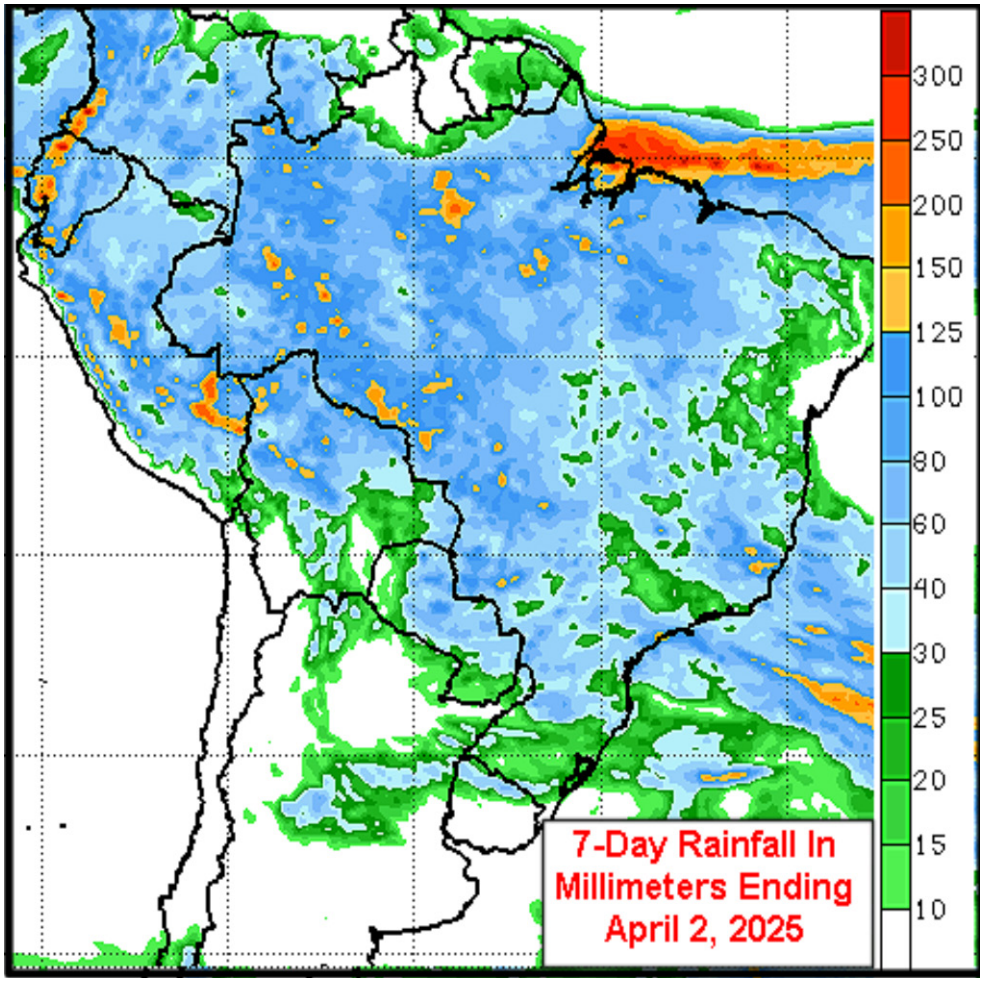
WEATHER OUTLOOK

Southern Brazil will trend drier than normal during the coming week. Disturbances will still generate erratic rainfall for Parana and Santa Catarina today and again over the weekend. Portions of Parana and eastern Santa Catarina will receive 0.50 to 1.50 inches of rain with locally greater amounts by next Tuesday morning. Rio Grande do Sul and western Santa Catarina will either be dry or not receive enough rain to counter evaporation. The region will then see an increase in rain March 26 – April 1. Rainfall during this time may be enough to marginally improve the moisture profile.



The remaining production areas in Brazil will see erratic rainfall evolve on a frequent basis during the coming week. Mato Grosso and Mato Grosso do Sul into Goias, Sao Paulo, central and southern Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, and Espirito Santo will see some of the most frequent rainfall with totals ranging from 0.75 to 3.00 inches and local amounts of 4.00 inches or more. Southern Bahia and northern Minas Gerais will receive 0.25 to 1.00 inch of rain, though portions of southeastern Bahia will receive little to no rain. Center-west, center-south, and northeastern Brazil will generally see a mix of rain and dry weather March 26 – April 1.

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Harvesting and general fieldwork will advance swiftly in much of southern Brazil during the coming week due to the lighter and more sporadic rainfall than usual. The harvest will likely advance around the periods of rain in center-south, center-west, and northeastern Brazil as well, though some delays will be possible during the wetter periods.

In the meantime, Safrinha corn planting and establishment conditions will remain favorable for Mato Grosso. Other production areas in center-south Brazil, Mato Grosso do Sul, and Parana will receive enough rain to improve or continue to support good short-term Safrinha corn conditions. However, these areas will need more rain later this month and early April to promote ideal long-term crop prospects.