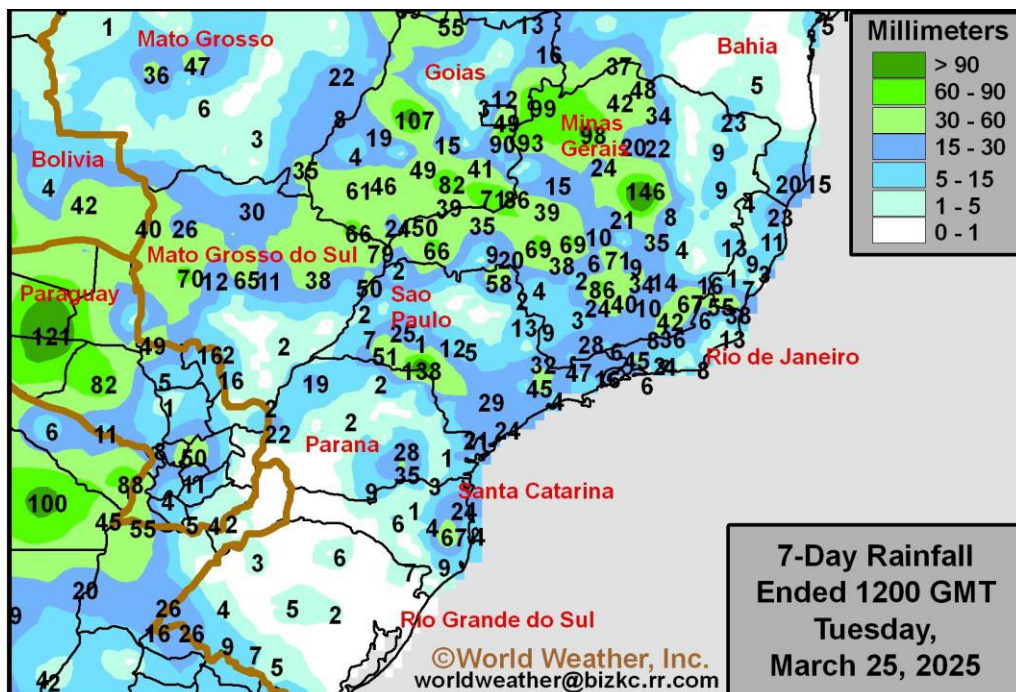


Brazil Safrinha Corn Planting Almost Finished

By Andrew Owen

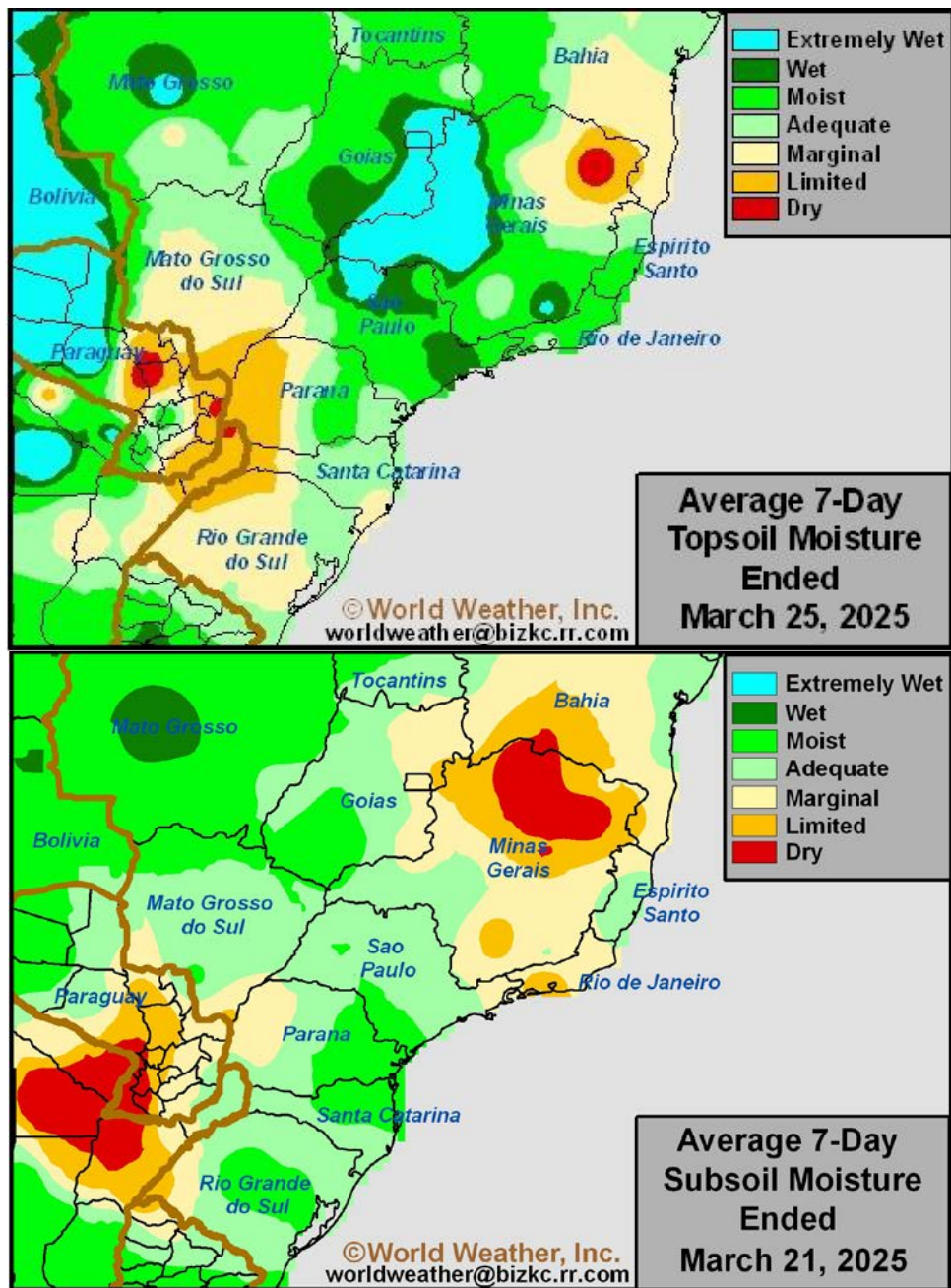
Kansas City, March 25 (World Weather Inc.) –Safrinha corn in Mato Grosso received enough rain in recent weeks to support a good environment for emergence and early-season development. Recent rainfall in Safrinha corn and cotton areas also improve development prospects, though much more rain is needed in some center south crop areas to ensure normal crop development after the monsoon season ends. Many areas in center-west and center-south Brazil were drier than usual in recent weeks and have deficient moisture. Rain will be scattered across the main production areas in Brazil during the coming week, which should start to improve the moisture profile. Short-term conditions will remain relatively good for Safrinha corn and cotton; although timely rain will still be needed in April, May and early June to ensure the best yields especially in Parana and southern Mato Grosso do Sul where it has been driest. Harvesting of soybeans, first-season corn, and other crops should advance well around periods of rain.

Rainfall varied across the main production areas in Brazil during the past week. Much of Minas Gerais outside the extreme east-central and northeastern production areas into Goias, the northern half of Mato Grosso do Sul, and much of Sao Paulo and Mato Grosso received 0.50 to 3.00 inches of rain with local amounts upwards of 5.75 inches in Minas Gerais and southern Sao Paulo for the seven-day period ending this morning. A few pockets in Mato Grosso and Sao Paulo also only received 0.12 to 0.50 inch of moisture. Rio de Janeiro, Espirito Santo, southwestern Bahia, and portions of Parana and eastern Santa Catarina received 0.35 to 2.64 inches of rain. The remaining locations received 0.12 to 1.02 inches of rain with pockets in southern Brazil that were mostly dry.



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Temperatures were near or slightly above normal with highest readings in the upper 80s and 90s Fahrenheit. Pockets in northeastern Brazil also warmed above 100 degrees. Lowest temperatures were in the 50s and 60s with pockets in center-west Brazil only cooling to the 70s.



Soil moisture is rated at adequate levels in much of Brazil. However, many areas in northeastern Minas Gerais, southern Bahia, and portions of far southern Brazil and southern Mato Grosso do Sul near the Paraguay and Argentina borders have a shortage of moisture due to a lack of significant rain in recent weeks.

Soybean harvesting remains ahead of last year's pace in Brazil. As of March 23, harvesting was 76.4% complete, up from 66.3% last year and 66.2% for the previous ten-year average. First-season corn harvesting was also ahead with 48% of the crop out of the ground, compared to 42.8% last year and 40.1% for the ten-year average. Dry bean

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harvesting was 65.9% complete while 44.3% of the rice was out of the ground, both ahead of last year's pace and the previous ten-year average. As long as intermittent periods of dry weather occur in the coming weeks, harvesting will continue to progress relatively well.

In the meantime, Safrinha corn planting is nearly complete in Brazil. As of March 23, 95.6% of the crop was in the ground, down slightly from 96.8% this time last year, but ahead of the previous ten-year average of 91.9%. Mato Grosso continues to have enough moisture to support new growth despite pockets only receiving light rain during the past week. *The environment improved for establishment and early-season growth in the northern half of Mato Grosso do Sul and much of Goiás, Minas Gerais, and portions of São Paulo and Paraná due to the rain. However, much of the main Safrinha corn areas are still in need of significant rainfall to support ideal long-term crop conditions. Several locations in center-west and center-south Brazil into Paraná are still struggling with deficient moisture due to drier than normal conditions in recent weeks.*

WEATHER OUTLOOK

A relatively normal weather pattern is slated for Brazil during the coming week. Center-west, center-south, and northeastern Brazil will all see scattered showers and thunderstorms evolve on a frequent basis. Southern Brazil will also see a good mix of rain and sunshine. Moisture totals by next Tuesday morning will range from 0.50 to 3.00 inches in much of crop country with pockets in Bahia and southern Rio Grande do Sul that only received 0.10 to 0.50 inch of moisture. A few locations from northwestern Rio Grande do Sul and western Santa Catarina into Mato Grosso do Sul and Mato Grosso could receive 4.00 inches or slightly more of rain as well. Alternating periods of rain and dry weather are slated for much of Brazil April 2 – 8. Rain totals during this time will generally trend a little lower for much of crop country compared to the first week of the outlook.

Temperatures will trend near normal for much of Brazil through next Tuesday. Daytime highs will peak to the 80s and lower 90s most often with pockets only warming to the 70s during periods of more significant rain. Low temperatures will be in the 60s and 70s with pockets in southern Brazil cooling to the 50s. Seasonable to seasonably cool weather is then slated for Brazil April 2 – 8.

Late-season Safrinha corn planting will likely finish in the coming days despite the periods of erratic rainfall. Establishment and early-season development conditions will remain favorable for the main production region in Mato Grosso. Mato Grosso do Sul, Goiás, São Paulo, Paraná, and neighboring production areas will also receive enough rain to improve or maintain a good environment for short-term development conditions. Additional rain will still be needed to support ideal crop prospects. Harvesting of the soybeans, first- season corn, and other crops will likely advance swiftly around the periods of rain as well. Progress should remain near or ahead of normal despite the rain.

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