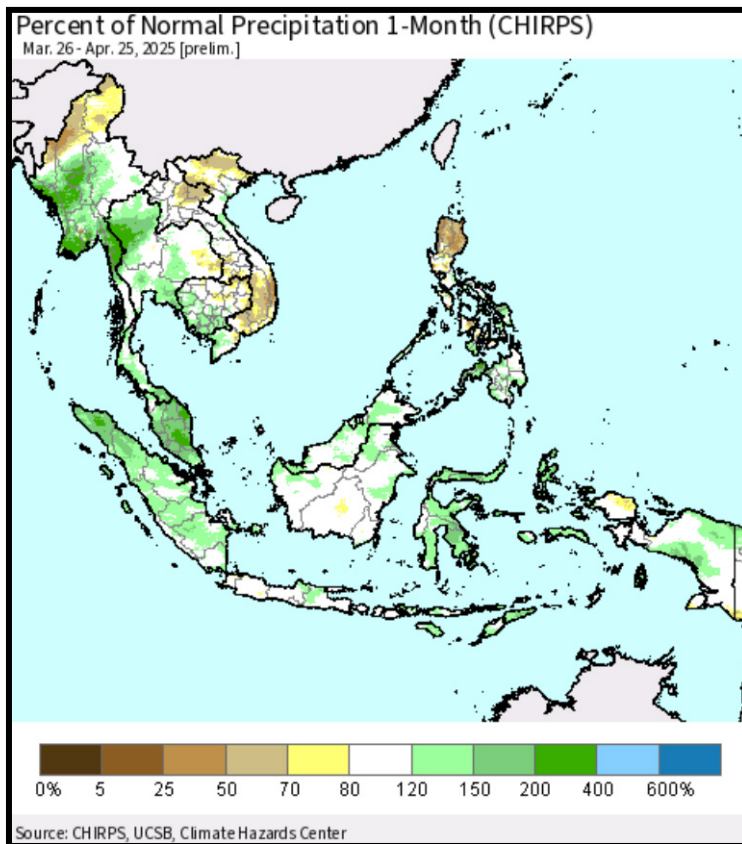


Philippines, Mainland SE Asia Crops To Get Needed Rain

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, April 28 (World Weather Inc.) – Recent drying in the northern Philippines has brought on some significant declines in soil moisture. The drier bias is well timed with the harvest of second season rice, but a little stressful for some of the new season crops as well as sugarcane and other short-rooted crops that require more routinely occurring rainfall. The dryness is not critical, though it does warrant some relief. In the meantime, pre-monsoonal showers and thunderstorms have been popping up across the mainland areas of Southeast Asia, although resulting rainfall has been less than ideal for the planting of rice and corn in unirrigated areas. Precipitation is needed for a whole host of crops including sugarcane. Pre-monsoonal showers and thunderstorms will increase rainfall this week and continue well into May resulting in improved soil moisture for many areas.

Vietnam, Laos, and eastern sections of Cambodia and Thailand all received near to



below normal rainfall for both the 30-day and 90-day period ending April 25. Several areas in southern and northern Vietnam and northeastern Laos only received 25-70% of normal rainfall in the most recent 30-day period. Other locations in mainland Southeast Asia received near to above normal rainfall for both the 30-day and 90-day periods ending April 25.

Outside of a few pockets that received significant rain in recent weeks, much of mainland Southeast Asia has a shortage of moisture.

While moisture shortages are common this time of year, the need for abundant rainfall is increasing.

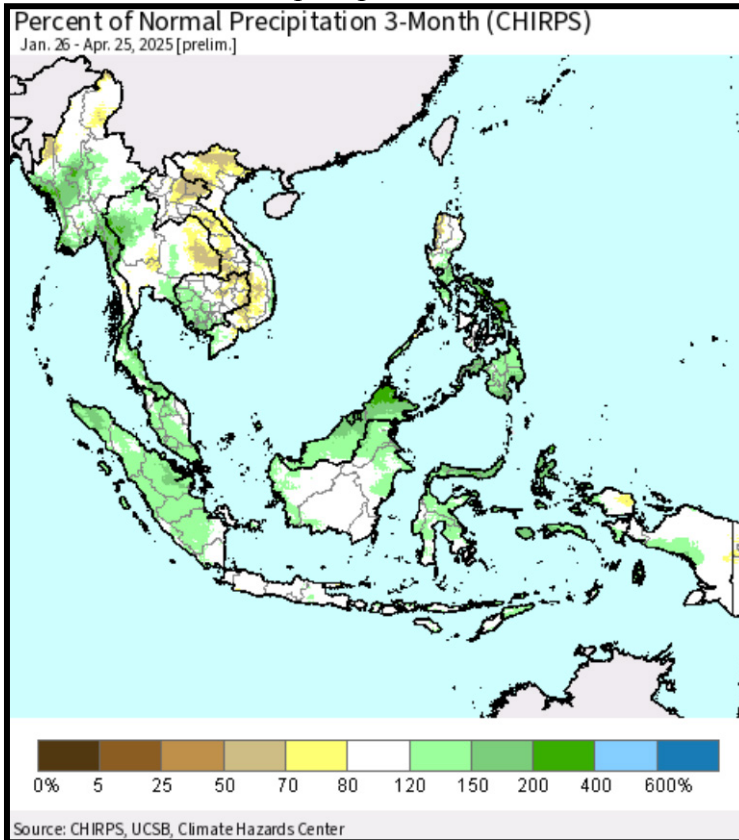
Planting of the main rice, corn, and oilseed crops begins in May and continues into the summer depending on the crop. Early-season planting may get off to a sluggish start ahead of the monsoon in the driest fields.

Mainland Southeast Asia will see a mix of erratic rainfall and sunshine this week. Scattered showers will occur on a daily basis with the most widespread rain occurring through Friday. Moisture totals by next Monday morning will range from 0.75 to 3.00 inches and locally more. A similar weather pattern is expected May 6 – 12 as well.

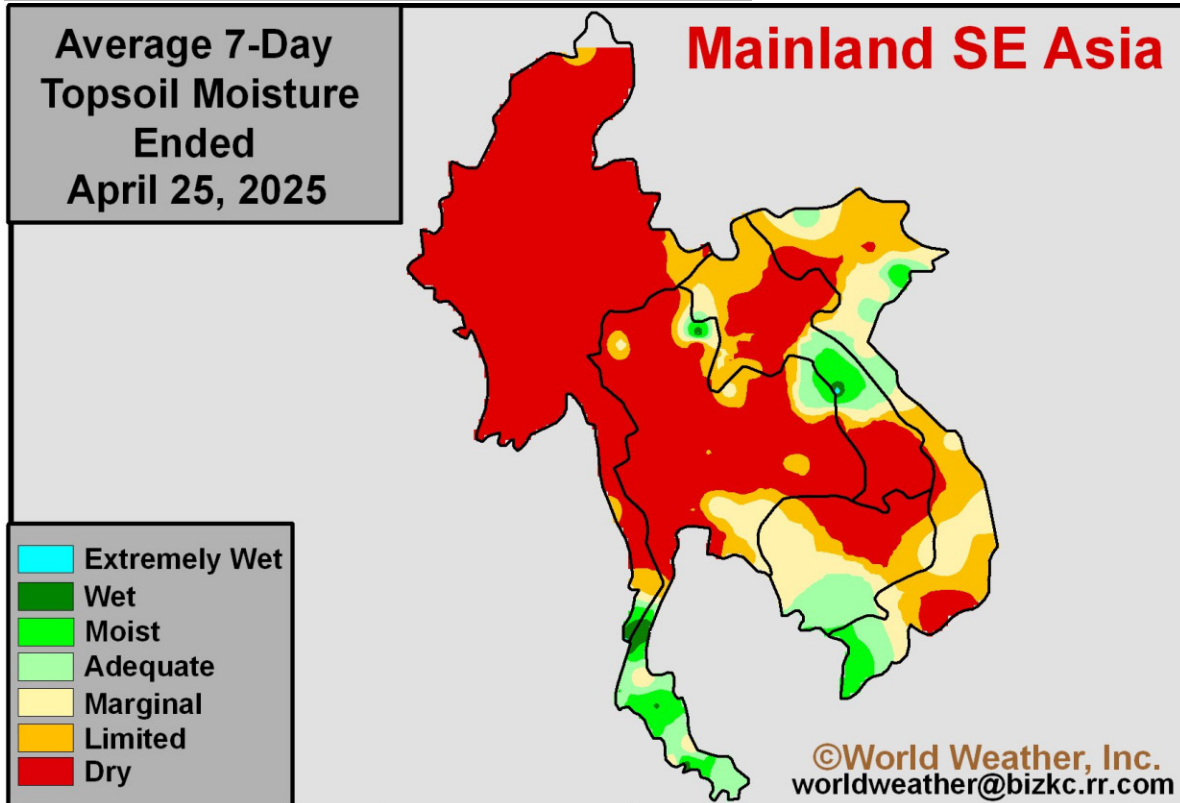
Pre-monsoonal rain in the coming weeks will gradually improve the moisture profile for mainland Southeast Asia. The rain may be too light to completely fix the moisture

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deficits and additional precipitation will still be needed later in May. However, early-season planting prospects will slowly improve across the region.

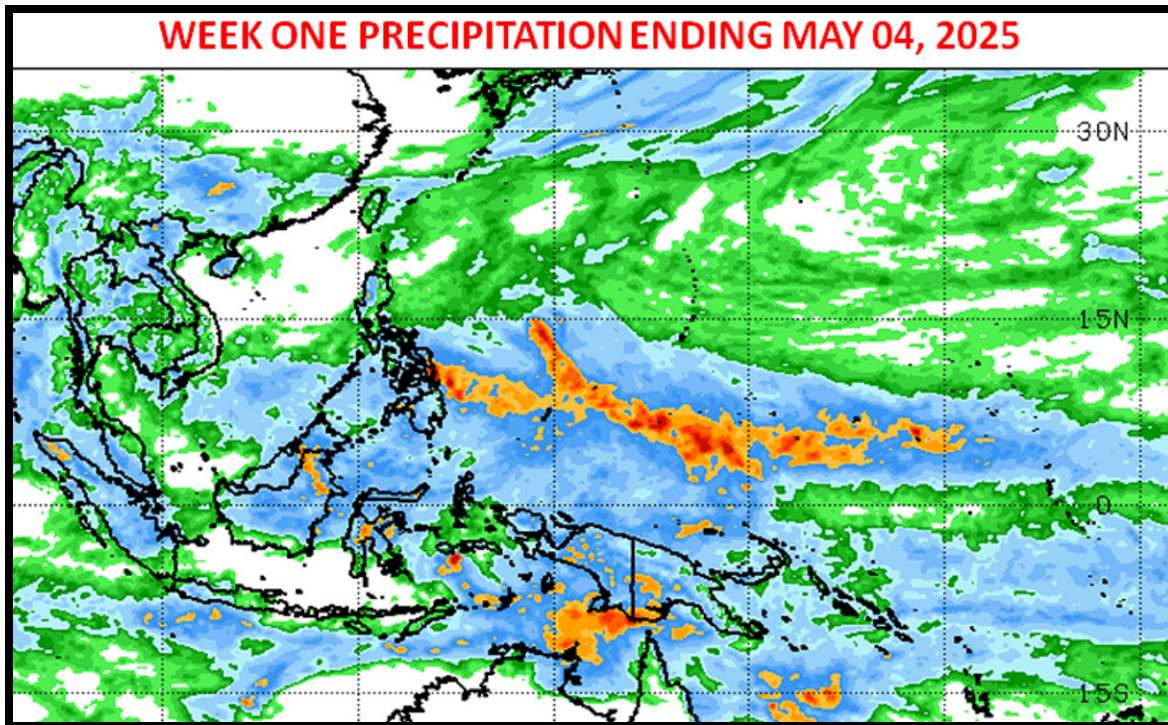


Luzon Island, Philippines also received near to below normal rainfall for the 30-day period ending April 25. The northern half of the island generally received 25-70% of normal rainfall. However, drying in northern Luzon has been a relatively short-lived event with much of the island receiving near to above normal rainfall for the 90-day period ending April 25 outside a few locations along the northwestern corner of the island. Other locations in the Philippines generally received near or above normal rainfall for the 30-day and 90-day periods ending April 25.



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Corn and rice, among other crops, are produced this time of year in Luzon Island and across the Philippines. Moisture shortages in Luzon have likely impacted establishment and early-season development and the need for rain is high. Other areas in the Philippines have enough moisture to support relatively good development, though more rain would be ideal to ensure ideal crop prospects.



Most of the deep-rooted tree crops; like rubber, oil palm, coconut, coffee, cocoa and numerous nut and fruit trees have not been impacted by the short term dryness, especially not in the Philippines. Greater is needed and if it does evolve as suggested there will be some notable improvement in long term crop development.

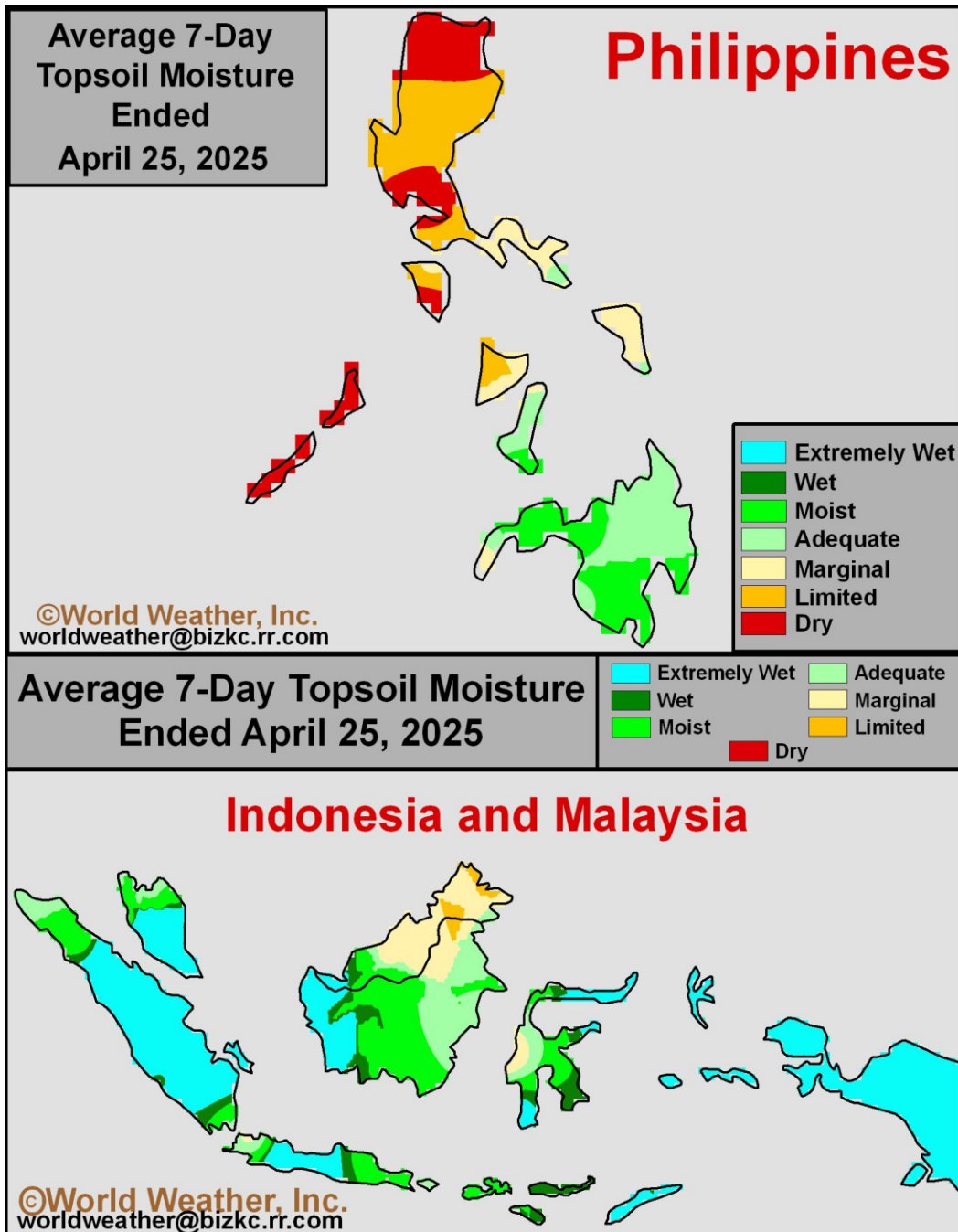
Waves of erratic rainfall are slated for the Philippines this week. Precipitation will occur on a near daily basis across the country. Moisture totals by next Monday morning will range from 0.75 to 3.00 inches with local amounts of 5.00 inches or slightly more in northwestern Luzon Island and western Mindanao. Erratic rainfall will continue across the country May 6 – 12, though resulting rainfall may trend a littler lower compared to the first week of the outlook.

The waves of rain in the coming weeks will slowly bolster soil moisture across Luzon Island. The environment will gradually improve for the corn, rice, and other crops produced this time of year. Other locations in the Philippines will have ample moisture to maintain aggressive development as well.

Unlike portions of the Philippines and **mainland Southeast Asia, Indonesia and Malaysia** generally received near to above normal rainfall for both the 30-day and 90-day periods ending April 25. Soil moisture is rated adequate to excessive in most locations. The environment was generally favorable for the rice, corn, and other crops produced this time of year.

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The weather pattern will be relatively normal for this time of year in Indonesia and Malaysia this week with scattered showers occurring on a near daily basis. Moisture totals by next Monday morning will range from 1.00 to 4.00 inches with local amounts of 6.00 inches or more in northern Sumatra, northeastern Borneo, and neighboring locations. Pockets in the Lesser Sunda Islands will also only receive 0.25 to 1.00 inch of rain. A similar weather pattern is expected May 6 – 12, though portions of Java, southern Sumatra, and neighboring locations may trend a little drier than usual. Additional rain in the coming weeks will continue to support a good outlook for crops.



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