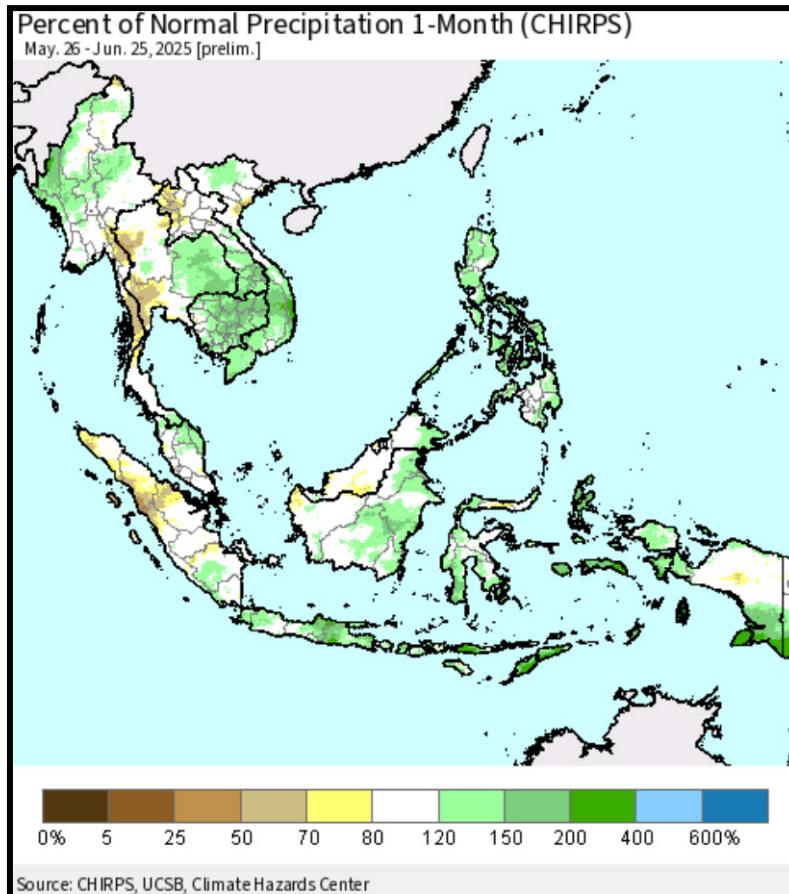


Western Thailand Into Sumatra, Indonesia Drying Out

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, July 1 (World Weather Inc.) – Several areas from western Thailand into Sumatra, Indonesia trended a little drier than usual during the past month. These areas will again see limited rainfall for at least another seven-day period. These areas will continue to dry down and would benefit from a boost in rain later in July. The environment has not been a problem for rice, corn, sugarcane, or other crops – at least not yet, but there is some growing concern about the drier bias. Below normal rainfall in western Thailand will expand to the east for a little while and will impact some important sugarcane production land; though, the situation is not likely to be critical for a while because of good subsoil moisture from prevent rainfall. Other areas in Southeast Asia will receive timely rain this week, which will maintain a good environment for the crops.

Western Thailand, northern Sumatra, and pockets in northwestern Laos received

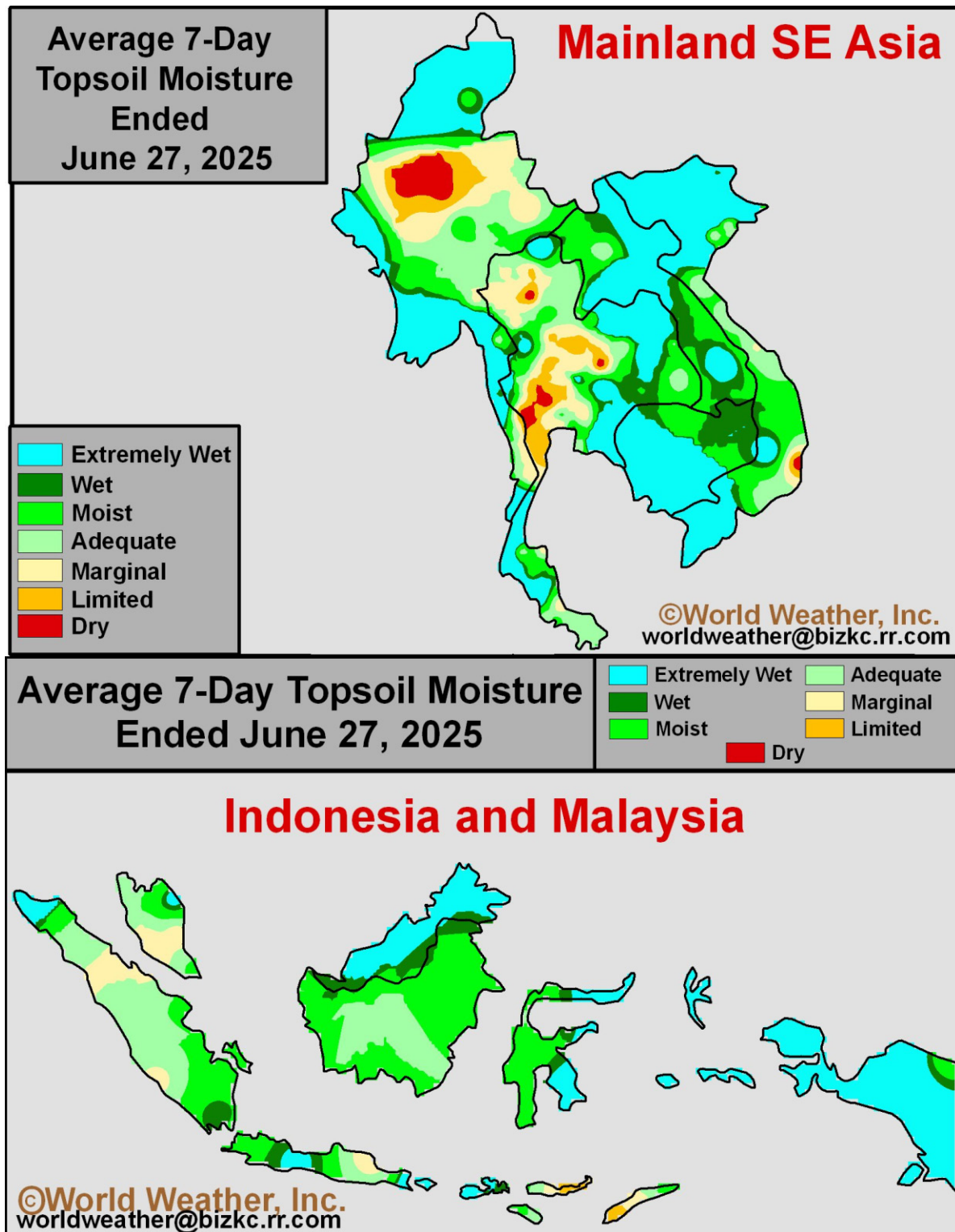


near to below normal rainfall during the past month. A few pockets only received 25% to 70% of normal rainfall for this time of year. Other locations in Southeast Asia received near to above normal rainfall with portions of Cambodia, southern Laos, southern Vietnam, Eastern Thailand, eastern Java, and the Lesser Sunda Islands receiving more than 150% of normal precipitation.

Soil moisture remains at adequate to excessive levels in a large section of Southeast Asia. However, many areas in western Thailand are already struggling with some moisture deficits due to the lack of abundant rainfall in June.

Western Thailand, northern Sumatra, northwestern Laos, and neighboring locations still have enough moisture to support crop development; however, there is a growing need for more significant rain. The remaining crop areas in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and other mainland Southeast Asia countries have ample moisture to support aggressive growth.

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WEATHER OUTLOOK

Drier-than-usual weather will prevail for western Thailand northern Sumatra, and neighboring locations this week. Periods of rain will still occur with several locations

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receiving 0.25 to 1.50 inches of rain and local amounts over 2.00 inches by next Monday morning. The remaining locations in mainland Southeast Asia, Indonesia and Malaysia will continue to receive monsoonal rain on a frequent basis. Rainfall by next Monday morning will range from 0.75 to 4.00 inches with local amounts of 6.00 inches or slightly more in Laos and northern Vietnam. The Philippines will also receive rain on a frequent basis. Much of the country will receive 1.00 to 4.00 inches of rain, though many areas in western Luzon Island will receive 4.00 to 8.00 inches of rain and locally greater amounts.

Much of Southeast Asia will again receive rain on a frequent basis July 8 – 14. Western Thailand and northern Sumatra could see rain potentials increase marginally during this time compared to the first week of the outlook, especially if a weak Madden-Julian Oscillation pulse evolves over the region.

Many areas in western Thailand and northern Sumatra will continue to dry down this week due to the lack of abundant rainfall. There will be some moisture and precipitation to support relatively good development, though the need for more significant rain will remain high heading into mid-July. The remaining locations in Southeast Asia will continue to see relatively good crop development conditions due to the additional rain.

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