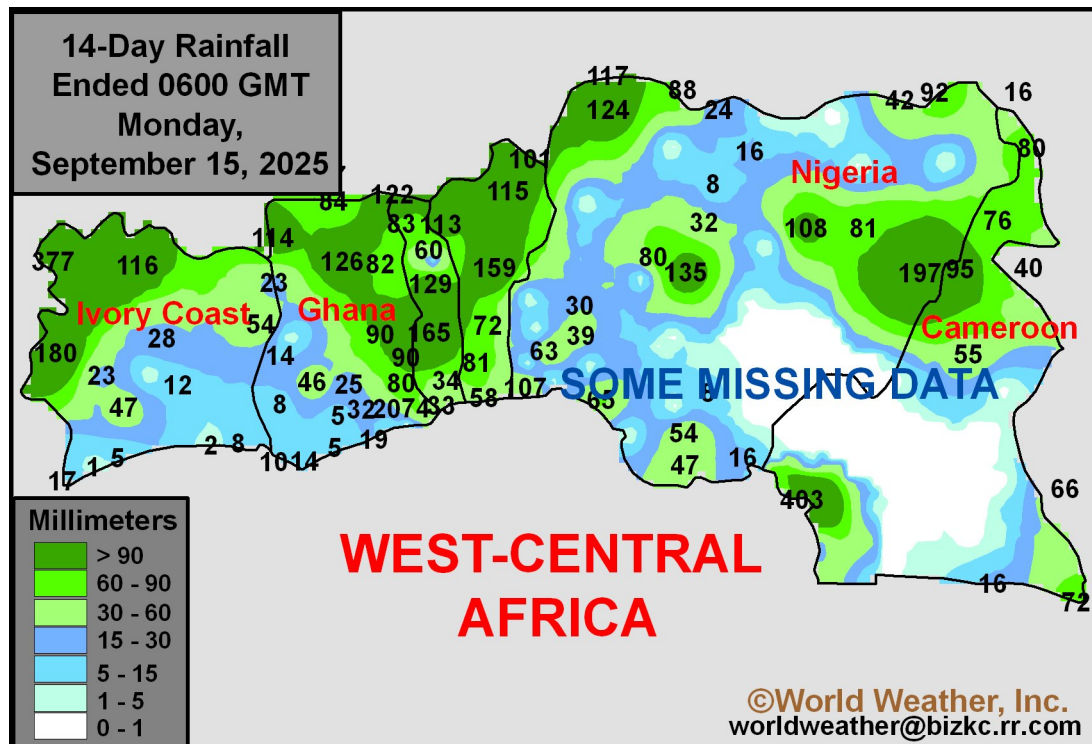


West-Central Africa Rain Slowly Improving Coffee, Cacao

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, September 15 (World Weather Inc.) – Seasonal rains have been slow to return to west-central Africa this year after shifting far to the north in late July and early August. Dryness that has occurred in recent weeks has led to concern over the success of flowering for the mid-crops of coffee and cacao which will be harvested in the second quarter of 2026. Precipitation was also needed for the main season crops which will be harvested late this year and into early 2026. Rain during the weekend and late last week in parts of Ghana and Benin was welcome and sufficient enough to induce greatly improved topsoil moisture, but Ivory Coast and western Ghana are still too dry.



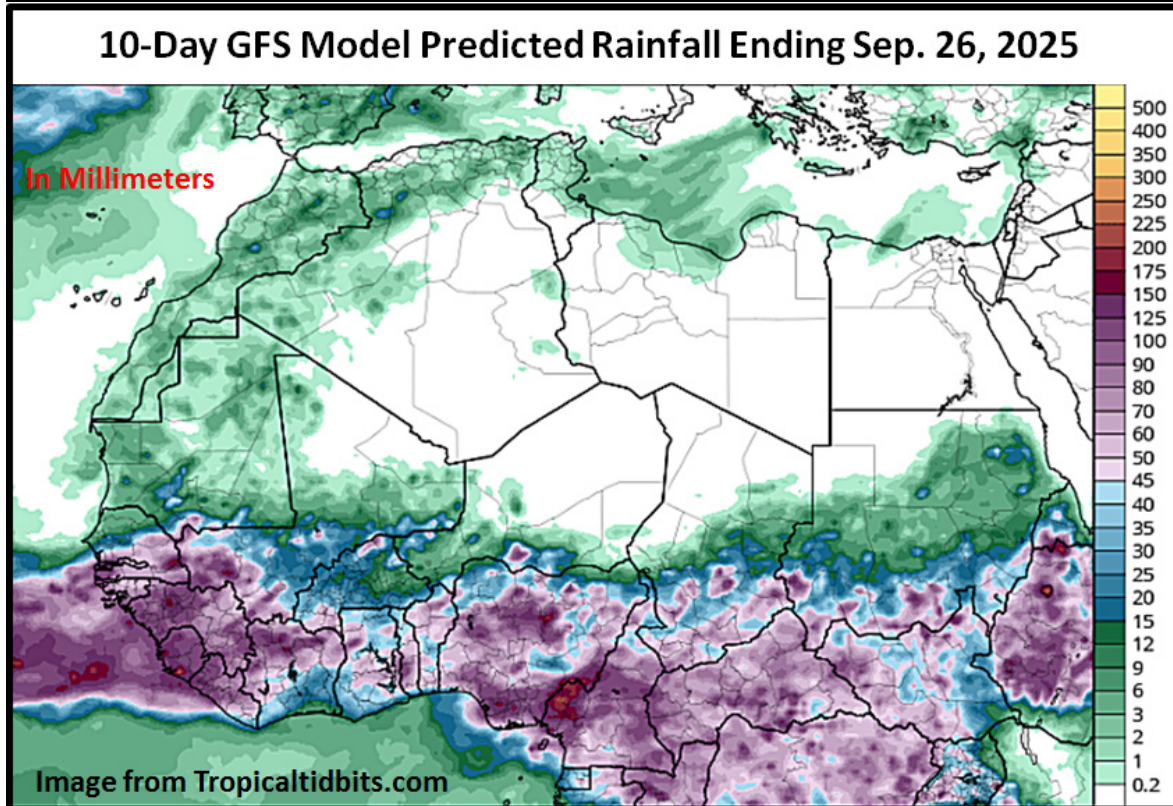
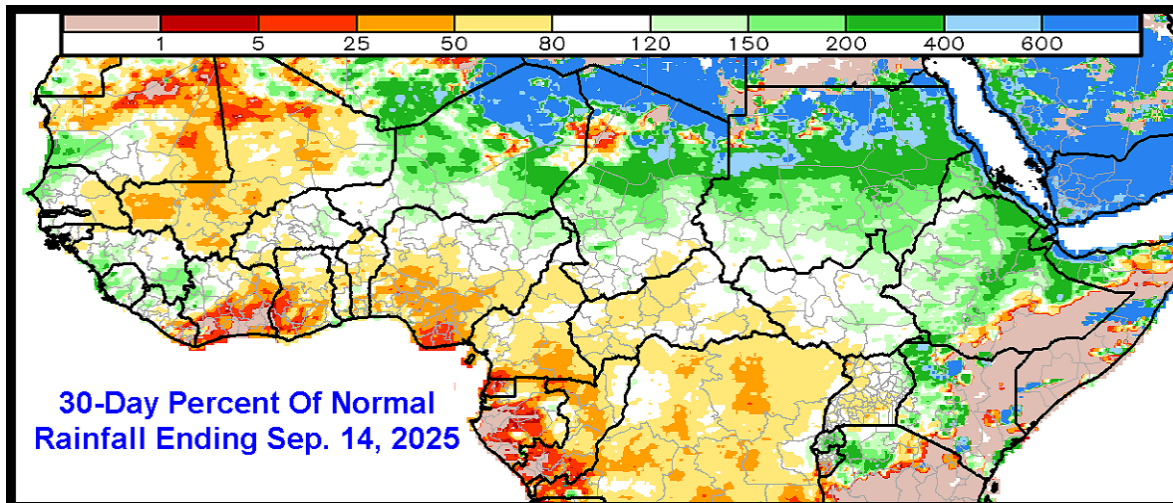
Much of the rain reported in central and southern Ghana and Benin coffee and cocoa production areas fell during the past several days. The first part of this month, August and late July had been quite dry. Some of the dry weather is quite normal. Seasonal rains usually arrive in west-central Africa in late February and March. By late July, the precipitation usually shifts far enough to the north to stop significant rain from impacting central or southern Ivory Coast, Ghana, Benin and some areas in Nigeria.

The northward shift in the tropical rainfall is normal and typically the rain moves back to the south in late August and September, but this year's southward shift was delayed and soil conditions became quite dry in August and earlier this month raising worry over the condition of main season coffee and cacao produced in the region. The returning rain normally occurs in time to prevent crop moisture stress from impacting the main season crops which typically have saturated soil when the first rainy season ends.

Crop moisture stress in late August and September can impact developing coffee cherries and cacao pods reducing some the fruit sizes and hurting yields. Sometimes the

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crop can suffer a quality decline as well. In the meantime, the mid-crop harvest usually occurs from March through August and the dry finish to July and August is usually a perfect time for harvesting to conclude and routine plantation activity to take place.



The flowering of the mid-crops of both coffee and cacao are associated with the return of seasonal rainfall. Significant delays to the resumption of rain does not usually cause a problem for flowering, but sometimes the lack of rain initially will shorten the length of the second rainy season which could harm production if flowering was significantly late. The second rainy season usually lasts through October, but ends in November.

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The most recent rain was welcome and sufficient in improving soil moisture in central and eastern Ghana and Benin, but not quite great enough to seriously change the moisture situation in western Ghana or portions of Ivory Coast which are still anomalously dry.

Additional rain is predicted over the next ten days throughout west-central Africa's coffee and cacao production areas; however, the rain will be lightest in southern Ivory Coast and in a few southwestern Ghana locations which may lead to some additional concern about long term crop development. A general soaking of rain is needed to improve deep subsoil moisture. Once that soaking occurs crops will be better equipped to handle lighter than usual rain, but some areas are so dry today that scattered light showers are not likely to be enough to seriously support the best flowering and pollination potential for the mid-crop. Main season crops also need a soaking to remove stress and allow trees to produce a normal sized cacao pod and a good quality coffee crop. **The distribution of rainfall in the next few weeks will be very important for the drier areas.**

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