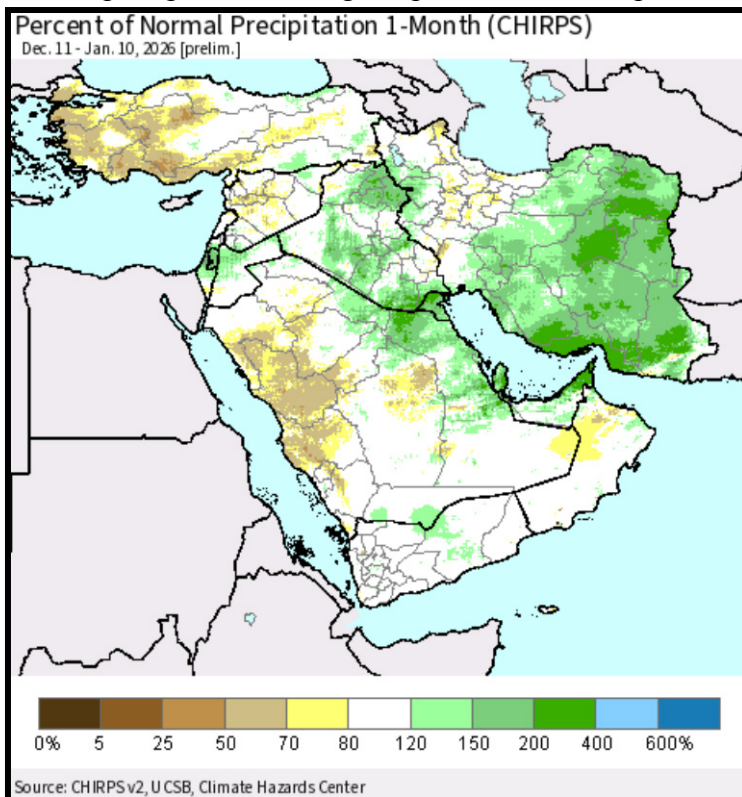


Middle East Moisture Situation Improving

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, January 14 (World Weather Inc.) – Severe drought evolved in 2025 for portions of the Middle East, notable in Iraq, Iran, Syria and southeastern Turkey. Moisture shortages and low water storage levels impacted planting and establishment prospects for winter crops and were raising concern for spring crops dependent upon either rainfall or irrigation water. While much-needed precipitation was noted during the past month, there are still several locations still struggling with significant moisture deficits. Crop conditions improved where precipitation was greatest and overall yield potentials likely increased. Eastern Turkey into northern Iraq and portions of Iran will again see timely precipitation through the middle of next week that will further improve the moisture situation. As long as timely rain persists later this winter, crop prospects will improve.

Iraq and much of Iran outside a few locations in the northwest received much-needed precipitation during the past month. Precipitation was near to above normal for the



30-day period ending January 10. Many areas in eastern and southern Iran and pockets in northern and southern Iraq received 150% to over 200% of normal precipitation. Syria and eastern Turkey received near or slightly below normal precipitation during this time with pockets that were slightly wetter than usual.

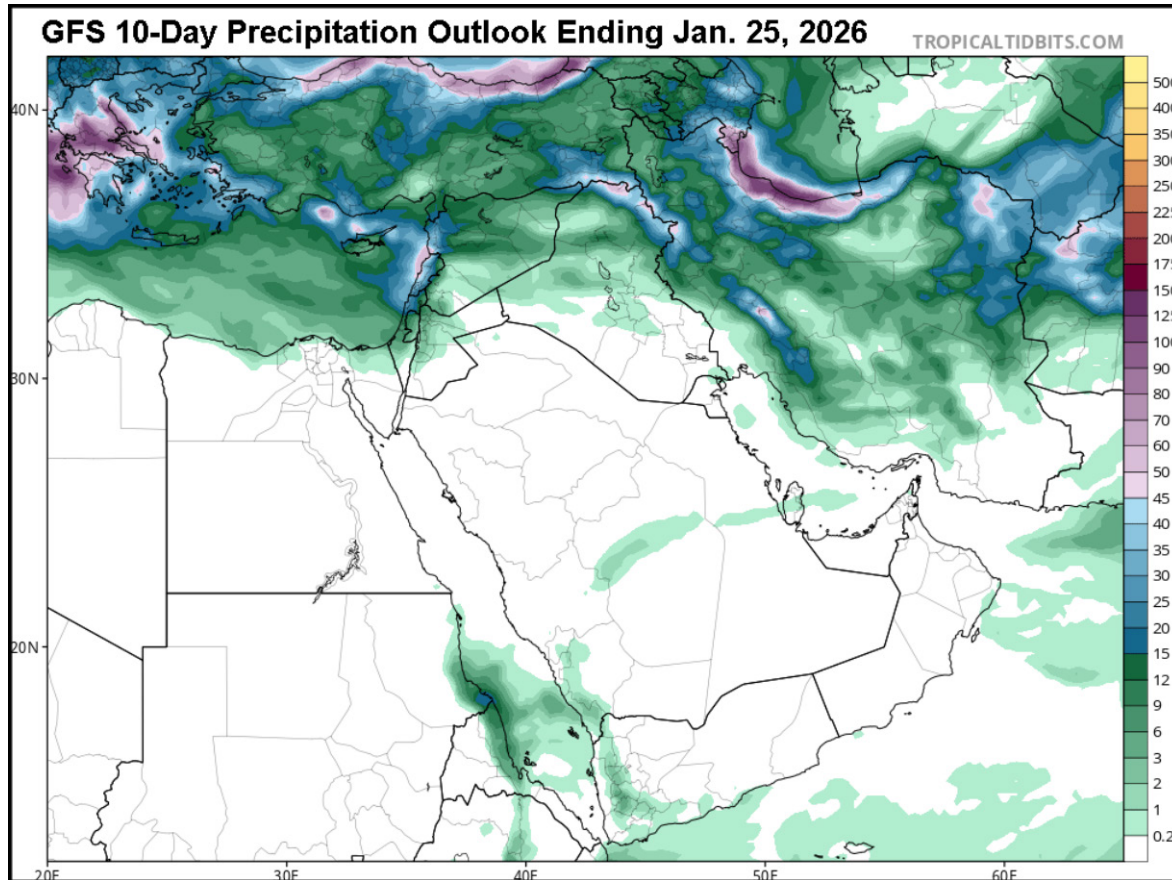
Recent precipitation was a welcome sight for much of the Middle East in recent weeks. Iraq and several neighboring areas were suffering from severe drought conditions that caused a critical shortage of moisture in storage. Portions of the Middle East produce winter wheat and barley over the winter with some rapeseed in Iran.

There has been concern over possible lower production because of reduced acres planted or just poor performance this year because of drought; though, recent precipitation has at least temporarily perked up the potential for better establishment and production potentials.

Establishment and early-season development conditions last autumn and earlier this winter were generally poor in the Middle East due to the lack of moisture. Irrigated crops that received some moisture are likely developing better than rain-fed crops. Recent precipitation likely improved short-term development and establishment conditions. However, much more rain is needed to further improve production potentials. Spring

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planted crops have a much better chance of performing favorably if precipitation can fall routinely and abundantly over the next several weeks.



Precipitation will vary across the main production areas in the Middle East through the middle of next week. Disturbances will make their way from Turkey into Iran during this time that will promote precipitation for several production areas. Southeastern Turkey into northern Iraq and northern and western Iran will receive 0.75 to 2.00 inches of moisture with local amounts of 3.00 inches or more by next Wednesday morning. Syria and other areas in Iraq, Iran, and eastern Turkey will receive trace amounts to 0.50 inch of moisture with many pockets in southern Syria and southern Iran that will be mostly dry. Eastern Turkey and northern sections of Iraq and Iran will again have a few opportunities for precipitation January 22-28 while precipitation is limited elsewhere in Iraq, Iran, and Syria.

Additional precipitation in coming weeks will either keep soil moisture and water storage near current levels or marginally increase water levels for eastern Turkey, northern Iraq, and portions of Iran. Winter grain and cotton conditions will improve; though, much greater precipitation is needed for better long-term production potentials, most notably for rain-fed crops.

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