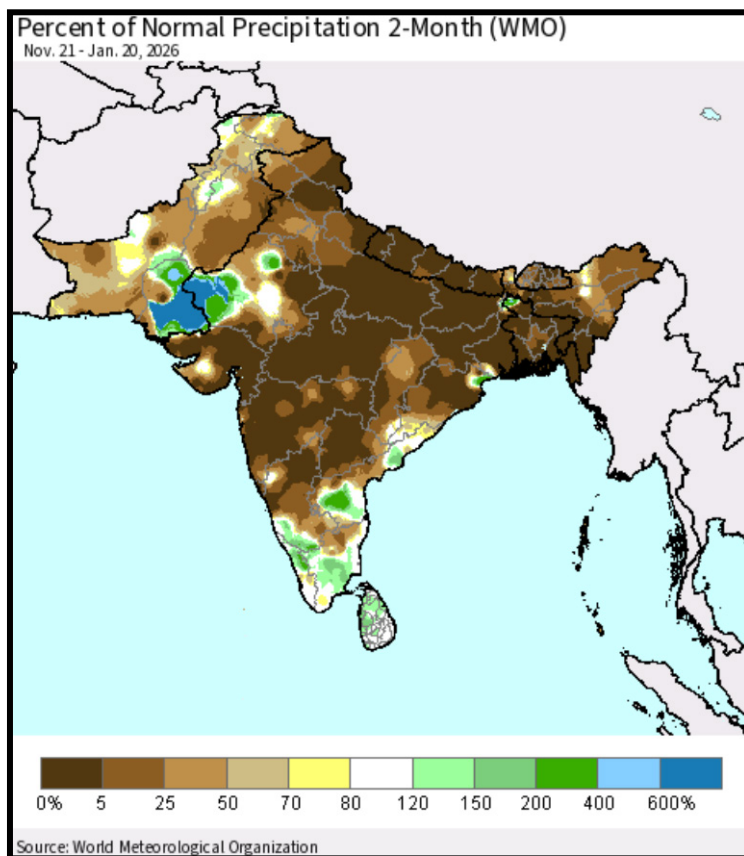


Northern India To Receive Rain As Reproduction Approaches

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, January 22 (World Weather Inc.) – Precipitation has been limited in northern India since last year's monsoon ended. Although the region does not usually receive heavy amounts of rain this time of year, western disturbances are needed to stimulate some precipitation for the rabi grains, oilseeds, pulses, and other crops. Two disturbances will promote waves of precipitation for the region during the coming week that will be well-timed for both irrigated and rain-fed crops. February is when crop reproduction usually occurs and the rain will help promote a good outlook for the region; though follow up rain will be required. Southern India will also have a few opportunities for spotty rain during the coming week while most other locations are dry.



Several areas in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and southern Karnataka were wetter than usual for the 60-day period ending January 20. A few locations in Rajasthan were also wetter than usual, though the region does not usually receive much rain this time of year. The remaining locations in India were drier than usual.

Despite the drier-than-usual weather in recent months, the outlook for India's rabi crops is relatively favorable. Late-season monsoonal rain last autumn helped support good planting and establishment conditions in the main production areas.

A significant amount of the crop is irrigated and most locations had enough moisture to stimulate growth. However,

portions of northern India produce rain-fed grains, oilseeds, and pulses this time of year.

The lack of rain so far this winter has not significantly impacted overall production potentials, though the need for timely rain is increasing.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

Two mid-latitude weather disturbances coming from the west will bring much-needed rain to northern India during the coming week. The first disturbance will promote precipitation today and Friday while tracking over the region. Periods of light rain will

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prevail over the weekend before the next disturbance generates more widespread rain Monday and Tuesday. Moisture totals by next Thursday morning will range from 3.00 to 6.00 inches and locally greater amounts in Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand. Other locations in northern India will receive 0.75 to 3.00 inches of rain and locally greater amounts. Northern India will again have opportunities for erratic precipitation January 30 – February 5, though overall rain totals will likely be lower compared to the first week of the outlook.

Waves of rain in the next couple of weeks will bolster soil moisture and reservoir levels for much of far northern India. Mountain snowpack will increase significantly as well. The combination of rain and irrigation will support favorable development across the region. Crops normally reproduce in February and the influx of rain ahead of reproduction will promote a good outlook for this season's grains, oilseeds, and pulses.

Southern India will have a few opportunities for spotty rain during the coming week. Light rain will be scattered across a few locations in Kerala today before a disturbance promotes more widespread rain late Friday through Monday. Moisture totals by next Thursday morning will range from 0.10 to 0.75 inch with local amounts of 1.50 inches or more in Tamil Nadu. Periods of light and erratic rain will prevail January 30 – February as well. The rain that does occur in the next two weeks will help maintain relatively favorable conditions for the rabi crops produced in the region.

The remaining production areas in India will be dry or mostly dry during the coming week. Any rain that does fall will be lost to evaporation. Dry or mostly dry weather will prevail January 30 – February 5 as well. Irrigated crop development conditions will remain relatively favorable despite the lack of rain.

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