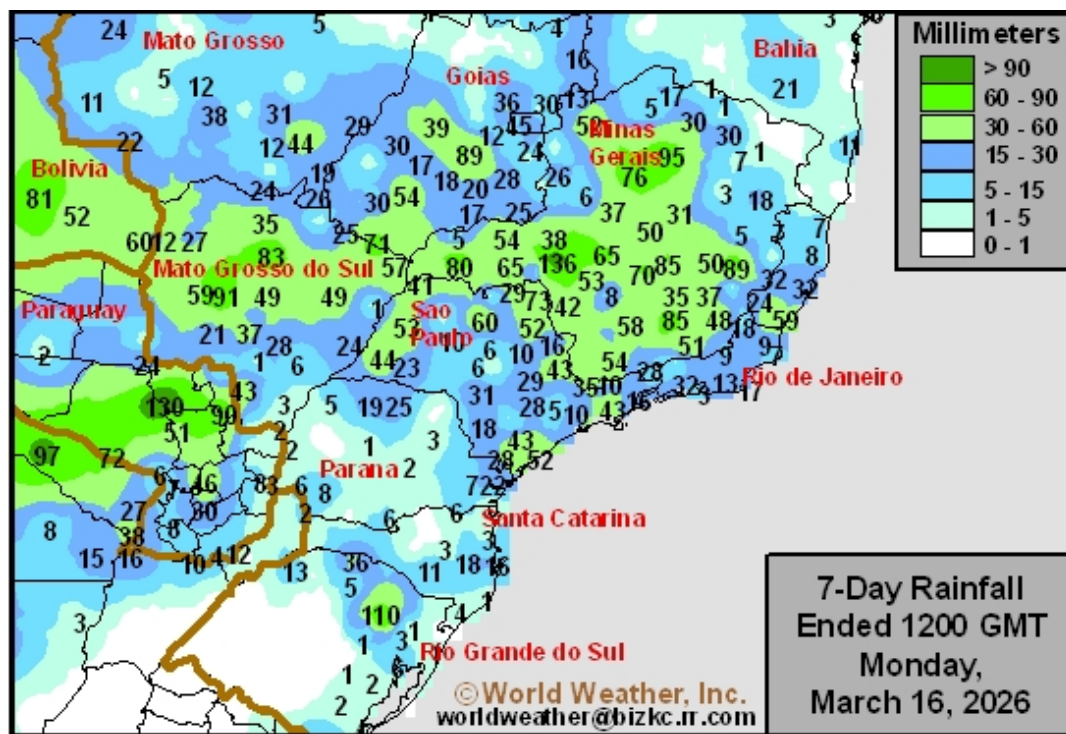


Brazil Northern Safrinha Corn Areas Favorably Moist

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, March 17 (World Weather Inc.) – *Weather conditions in Brazil over the past couple of weeks have been a bit unchanging with frequent rain falling from Minas Gerais to Mato Grosso and Mato Grosso do Sul while southern Brazil dried down. The pattern is classic La Nina and it will linger for a little while longer. Despite concern about some areas being too wet and others too dry the outlook is still quite favorable especially since the frequency and intensity of rainfall in center west through center south crop areas will slacken a bit over the coming ten days.*

Mato Grosso do Sul, Goias, Sao Paulo, and Minas Gerais received some of the most significant rain in Brazil during the week ending Monday. Moisture totals ranged from 0.75 to 3.75 inches with local amounts up to 5.35 inches in Minas Gerais. Several areas in Mato Grosso, Rio de Janeiro, Espirito Santo, and northern Rio Grande do Sul received 0.50 to 1.75 inches of rain with a local amount of 4.33 inches in northeastern Rio Grande do Sul. Portions of Parana, Santa Catarina, and southern Bahia received 0.24 to 1.00 inch of rain with drier pockets. Other areas in Rio Grande do Sul were dry.



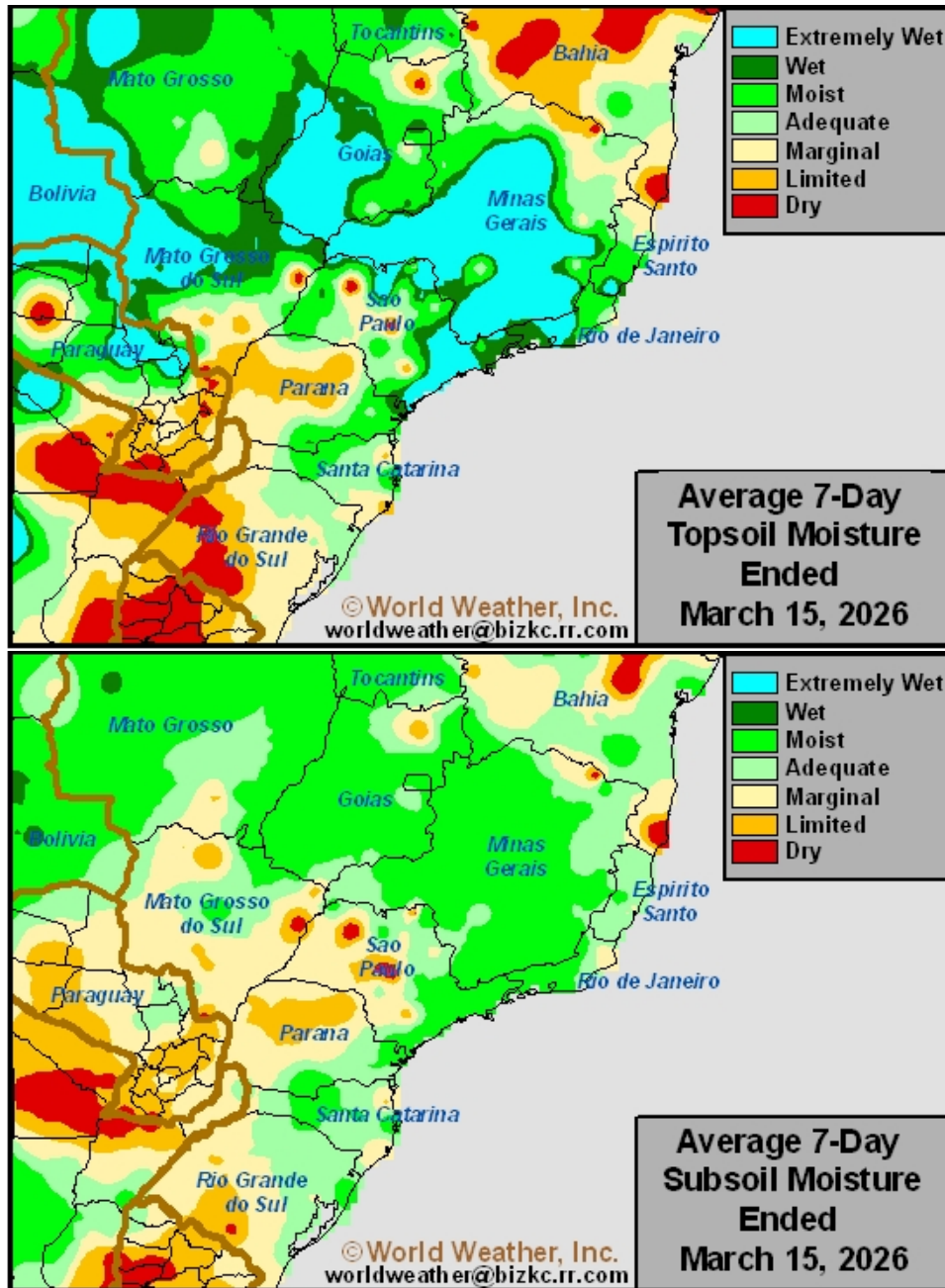
Soil moisture remains short to very short in portions of Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, Parana, and Bahia due to a lack of rain and warm daytime temperatures in recent weeks. Other locations have adequate to excessive moisture.

Safrinha corn planting advanced swiftly in Brazil despite some periods of significant rainfall. As of March 14, CONAB reported planting was 82.5% complete down from 89.6% last year, but ahead of the previous five-year average pace of 82.9%. Fieldwork was most behind the usual pace in Sao Paulo with only 14% of the planting

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complete compared to 23.2% average. Goiás was 90% done with planting while Mato Grosso fieldwork was complete. Parana and Mato Grosso do Sul planting was ahead and slightly behind the average pace respectively. Rainfall in recent weeks helped support relatively good establishment and early-season development in center-west and center-south Brazil.

Southern Safrinha crop areas were a little drier than desired, but these areas from southern Mato Grosso do Sul and Parana into Paraguay will have opportunities for rain from mid-latitude weather systems long after the monsoon season ends in center west and center south.



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Harvesting of early-season crops is also ongoing across Brazil. As of March 14, soybean harvesting was 59.2% complete according to CONAB, down from 69.8% last year but ahead of 58.4% for the previous five-year average. First-season corn harvesting was 34.0% complete, compared to 40.1% last year and 33.1% for the previous five-year average. Dry bean harvesting was 65% complete while rice harvesting was 27.2% finished. No significant quality impacts were suspected in areas that received the greatest amount of rain during the past week.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

Brazil's main production areas will continue to receive rain on a frequent basis this week. Rain will be scattered across center-west, center-south, and northeastern Brazil on a frequent basis. Southern Brazil will receive rain later today through Thursday as a disturbance passes over the region. Spotty rain will continue over the weekend. Moisture totals by next Monday morning will range from 1.50 to 5.00 inches and locally greater amounts for Mato Grosso, Goias, Minas Gerais, and northern Mato Grosso do Sul. Other locations will receive 0.50 to 3.00 inches of rain, though many areas in eastern Sao Paulo and eastern Parana will only receive trace amounts to 0.50 inch of rain. Waves of rain will prevail for much of crop country March 24 – 30, especially if a stronger Madden-Julian Oscillation event occurs.

Seasonable to seasonably warm weather is slated for Brazil this week despite the waves of rain. Daytime highs will peak in the 80s and lower 90s Fahrenheit with pockets only warming to the 70s during periods of more significant rain. Low temperatures will be in the 60s and 70s with pockets in southern Brazil cooling to the 50s. Temperatures will remain near to above normal March 24 – 30.

Harvesting of the early-planted crops and planting of the Safrinha corn will continue to advance around the rain in Brazil in the coming weeks. Establishment and early-season development conditions will remain favorable for much of the safrinha corn in center-west and center-south Brazil. These areas will still need timely rain late this month into early April to support ideal long-term production potentials.

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