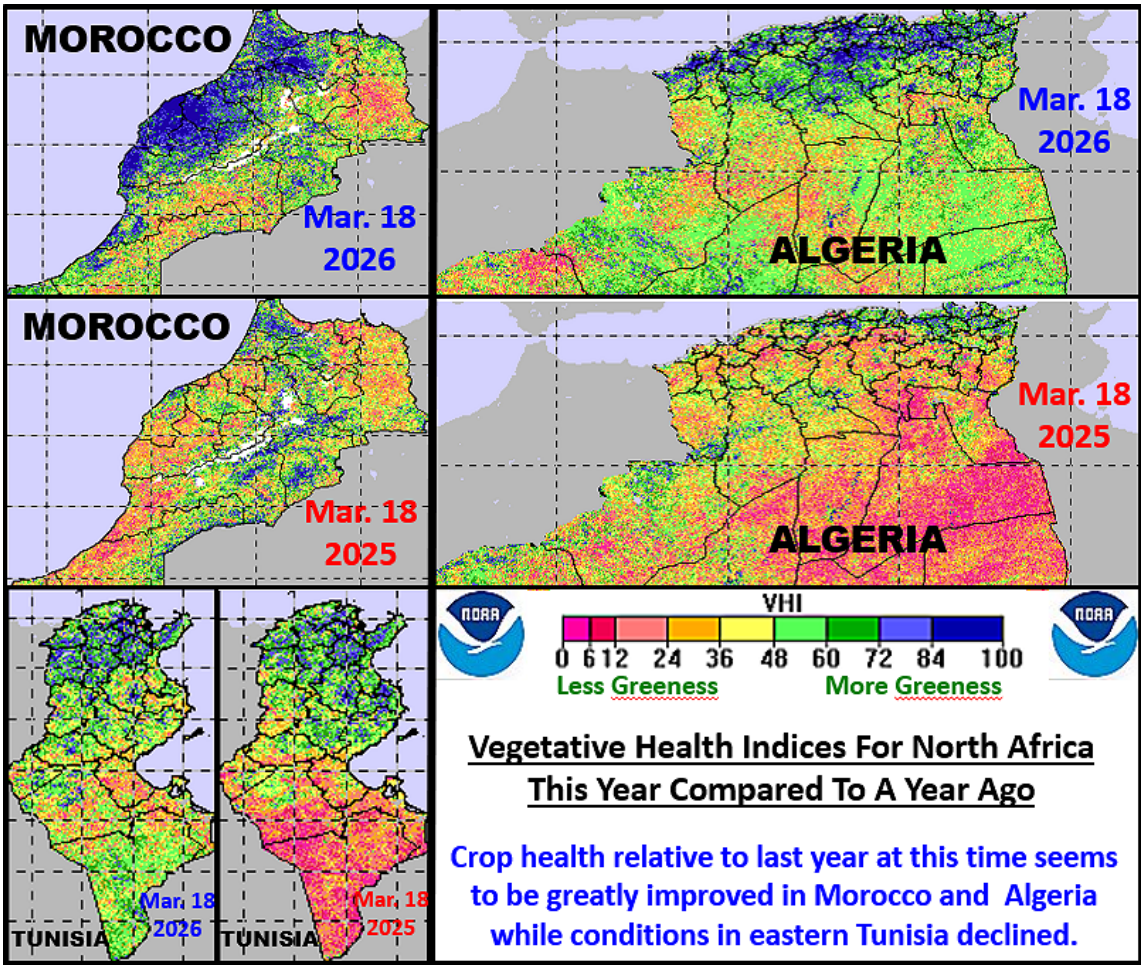
North Africa Winter Rain Bolsters Grain Production Potential

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, March 20 (World Weather Inc.) – ***Winter weather in North Africa was sufficiently wet to bolster soil moisture and water supply in Morocco and improve winter crop production potential from Morocco through most of northern Algeria. Weather in northern Tunisia was equally good to that of last year while east-central Tunisia has been drier biased.*** The change in weather ends multiple years of drought in southwestern Morocco where production of wheat, barley and other crops was greatly reduced in recent years due to poor water supply.



Improved rain and mountain snowfall during the past winter can be easily seen in the Vegetative Health Index (VHI). ***The green index shows much more lush vegetative conditions in Morocco and northern Algeria where most of the wheat and barley is produced. The deeper blue shading noted in the above imagery reflects much healthier crops relative to those of a year ago.*** Northern Tunisia's VHI is mostly unchanged from one year ago while east-central crop conditions are not rated quite as well as those in 2025.

The VHI is just one tool reflecting the improvement. Another indicator is the water supply especially in Morocco where a seven-year drought in the southwest was seriously eased. ***Nationwide water storage in Morocco jumped to 71% of normal in mid-March***

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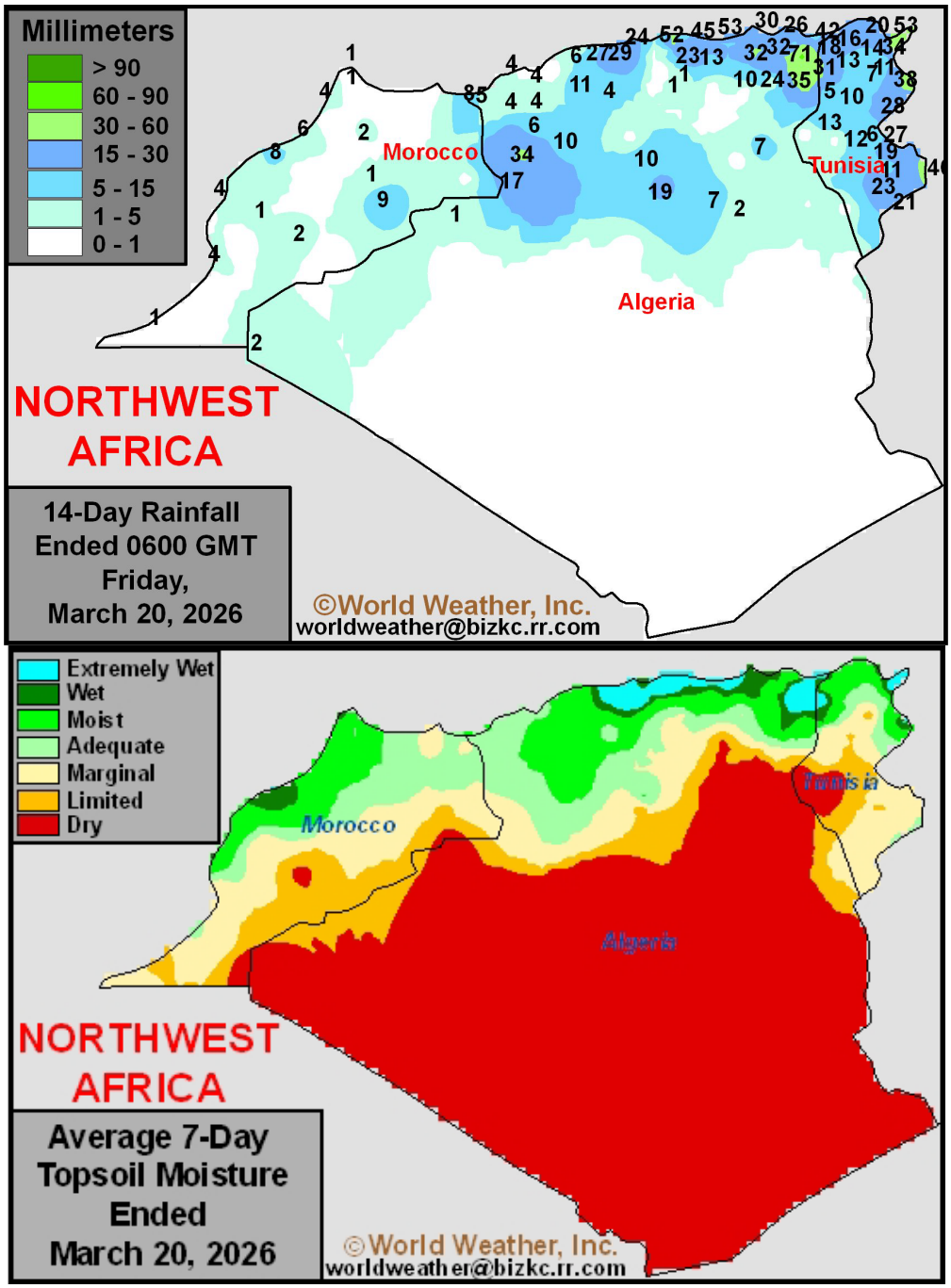
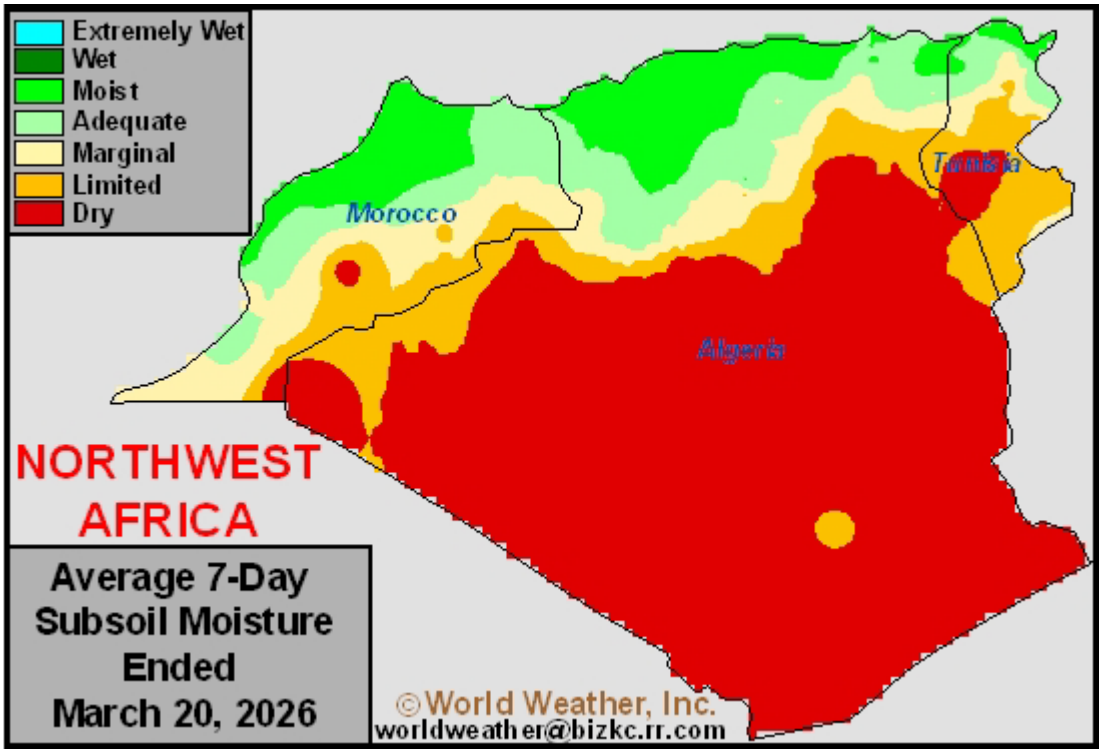
which is up from 27-32% in mid-March 2025. The improved water supply bides well with future irrigated crop use and production potential. Poor water supply in southwestern Morocco the past few years greatly reduced the area planted to irrigated wheat and barley and cut deeply into production. ***This year's water supply is not back to normal, but timely rain has been supportive of improved dryland production and a few of the irrigated areas have likely experienced a boost in area planted.***

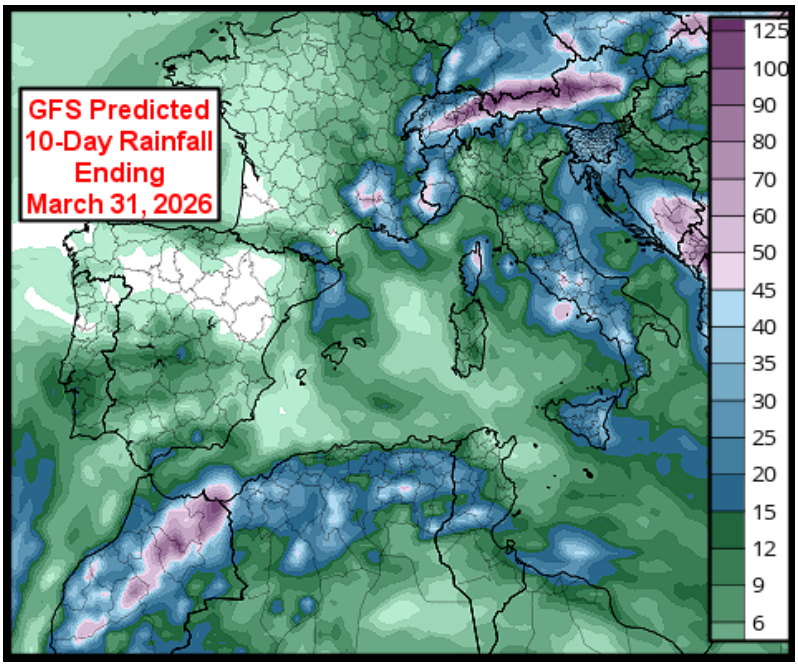


The most recent weather in Morocco has not been quite as wet as it was in February, but sufficient rain has fallen to support very good crop development. Soil moisture is still

rated well throughout northern Africa; though there are areas in southwestern Morocco, interior eastern Algeria and southern and eastern Tunisia that would benefit greatly from a boost in rainfall. The environment up until now, though has been virtually ideal with very good reproductive prospects if a few timely rain events occur over the next couple of months.



WEATHER OUTLOOK



Additional rain is predicted for all of North Africa in this coming week. Moisture totals will be greatest in Morocco where 1.00 to 3.00 inches are expected with the central mountains into the northeast getting the greatest amounts. More runoff from the rain and mountain snow is expected as a result of the new precipitation. Soil moisture will improve additionally as well. Rain in Algeria and Tunisia will vary from 0.50 to more than 2.00 inches and some of the

greatest rainfall is expected away from the coast which is a bit unusual compared to recent past years.

The moisture boost in these areas should also support wheat, barley and other crops as they move through the reproductive and filling process which is occurring now. Harvesting normally occurs from May through July. ***The current soil moisture situation, predicted rainfall in the coming ten days and mostly seasonable temperatures should support a very good production year – certainly much improved over that of the past few years***. ***Production potentials could still change, but it would take some rather harsh conditions in April and May to create an adverse enough environment to cut deeply into the production for this year***. Nonetheless, a close watch on the situation should continue.
