Cocoa Weather

Most Crop Areas Still Seeing Good Conditions

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Kansas City, June 11 (World Weather, Inc.) – ***Cacao weather in most areas around the world is still occurring in a favorable manner. El Nino is still evolving and will likely be declared very soon, but it will take a couple of months for adverse weather to develop in key production areas.*** World Weather, Inc. anticipates some lighter than usual rainfall will begin to evolve in Indonesia first, although there will be some areas in northern South America that will get a little too much rain. With the Intertropical Convergence Zone shifting northward for the Northern Hemisphere summer excessive rain in Ecuador, Peru and Colombia will likely occur late this year and into early 2027. The developing dryness in Indonesia and West Africa will come sooner than that, but still a couple of months away from becoming an issue.

BRAZIL

Cacao production is most abundant in eastern Bahia and rainfall in that region has been greater than usual over the past 30 days. Sufficient rain has occurred to leave soil conditions and most crops rated favorably. June is normally the first month in the mid-crop harvest season and weather conditions have been a little wet for the best harvest, but not excessively wet. Drier and warm biased conditions would be best for the harvest and drying out pods.

A small part of southeastern Bahia and immediate neighboring areas have been a little drier biased than other production areas, but no extreme crop weather has evolved.

Weather conditions are expected to change, but probably not in a serious manner until the Southern Hemisphere spring season. ***A below normal precipitation and above normal temperatures regime is expected to evolve in September and become most notable in the November through February period. That is when crops will be most stressed.***

Mid-crop harvesting is expected to advance relatively well in the next few weeks, although there will be some brief rain delays. The dry season usually occurs from June through September and into October and that is when much harvesting occurs. Some of the late mid-crop harvest could have a little lower yield, although ***most likely it will be the main season crop of 2026-27 that will experience a more stressful weather pattern.***

In the meantime, Para is the second largest Cacao production state in Brazil and its weather has been relatively close to normal in recent weeks. Some below normal precipitation has occurred in the south.

A new area of developing cacao production is in western Bahia and this region has a few years to go before it starts raising Brazil's production, but the area is irrigated and tightly controlled which is liable to lead to improved production later this decade.

INDONESIA

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An unusual period of below normal rainfall occurred from the last days of May into the first ten days of June in Java, portions of Sulawesi and Sumatra. Most of the cacao production region was impacted, although the dry period has not lasted long enough to be much of a threat to crop development especially since it followed a very wet period of time earlier in May.

Concern has evolved for the Indonesian cacao crop because of its strong dry bias associated with most El Nino events. Fear was rising in early June that the developing dryness was associated with the developing El Nino, but in reality, it was associated with a passing Madden Julian Oscillation (MJO) event. That MJO event has passed and is weakening very quickly raising the potential for a short-term bout of improved rainfall. That greater rain event should begin this weekend and be most significant next week and into the following weekend. ***The precipitation event will be extremely important for raising soil moisture once again because the odds are high that another period of below normal rainfall will impact the region later this month. As El Nino evolves the below normal precipitation bias will expand and prevail as well.***

June and July are at the end of the main cacao harvest season and it is normal for rainfall to lighten up at this time of year. However, with El Nino developing aggressively there will be potential that rainfall during the "dry" season will be lighter than usual and temperatures will rise above normal leading to some crop stress for the flowering of the new main season crop.

Mid-crop harvesting in Indonesia usually occurs from September through November. It is during that period of time that the first signs of reduced production may evolve. Rainfall should be lighter and more sporadic than usual in August through October which may stress a few trees, but the greater impact should be on the 2027 main season crop that will be dependent upon normal seasonal rainfall from December through April. It is during that period of time that cacao production is likely to be most impacted by El Nino.

El Nino will begin to evolve during the balance of June and start having some influence on Indonesia's cacao region during July. However, ***the more anomalous rainfall period is expected to be from September through March impacting the 2027 main season crop and some of the potential flowering of the 2027 mid-crop as well.***

WEST AFRICA

Rainfall over the most recent 30 days has been near to above normal. Soil and crop conditions are rated quite well with temperatures that have been a little warmer than desired, but not oppressively hot. The environment was expected to continue over the next couple of weeks.

Cacao tree conditions were rated well with the mid-crop harvest well under way. Seasonal rains are expected to subside in July as the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITZC) shifts farther to the north temporarily. The influence of El Nino is expected to begin in August and September – at least that is when the anomalous trends will become a little more notable.

Less than usual rainfall is expected at that time and there is some potential that seasonal rains that usually return in late August and September may be a little late arriving.

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When the seasonal rains do begin, they are likely to be more sporadic and lighter than usual especially from September into November. This may have an impact on the main season crop which is normally harvested from October through February. The more significant impact on cacao production may show up in in the first quarter of 2027 when the peak of El Nino's influence is passing, but the impact of less than usual rain from previous months may be most significant.

It is important to note that every El Nino is different in how substantial its rainfall is impacted. There is nearly always a cut in rain, but the timeliness of what rain does fall will determine much about the production along with temperature anomalies. A close watch on the changing weather will be warranted in the next few months, but changes in the balance of June are unlikely to be significant.

ECUADOR

Rainfall in the most recent 30 days, ending June 9, has been greater than usual west of the central mountains impacting the coastal plantations. Some of the recent rainfall has been well above normal, but only a few plantations have likely experienced adverse conditions.

Less frequent and less significant rain is possible over the next several weeks as the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITZC) shifts northward. Warm ocean water will perpetuate coastal rainfall and should help prevent any seriously dry conditions from evolving, though the high volume of rain noted recently should slowly abate. Areas east of the central mountains will experience more significant drying.

The wetter-than-usual weather is expected to return as the ITZC moves back southward again late in the third quarter and especially in the fourth quarter. That is also when El Nino should be at its peak with the most anomalously warm ocean surface temperature anomalies in place. The added water vapor moving into northwestern parts of South America will interact with the ITZC resulting in frequent bouts of heavy rain and flooding for the coastal cacao plantations in particular. The wet bias could interfere with pod development and raise the potential for wet weather disease that could cut into production.

In the meantime, ***June is typically the last month of the main crop harvest. The next few months are typically the "dry" season when rainfall is more limited than at other times of the year. Mid-crop cacao development should advance relatively well especially with the abundance of moisture in the soil after recent wetter than usual weather. Flowering of the new main season crop will be closely monitored for any signs of unusual weather that might impact production.***

COLOMBIA/PERU

Weather conditions in Colombia and Peru are much more varied than in other parts of the cacao production in the world. Northern production areas in Peru have been wettest relative to normal in recent weeks while conditions in the southern production region have tended to be drier than usual. Colombia's rainfall has been below normal in a part of the

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west while a little wetter than usual in a few northeastern production areas. Most of the anomalies outside of southern Peru have not been great enough to have much impact on production.

Peru's primary harvest season is under way now with June at the center of that season. Northern production areas have had sufficient rain in recent weeks to support a good finish to the main season crop and production has likely been successful. Southern production areas have been drier for a longer period of time and the harvest is likely more advanced with some potential for slightly smaller pods than usual.

This is the dry season in Peru and for the next few months rainfall is expected to be more erratic and lighter than at other times of the year. This will promote additional maturation and harvesting. Any rain that falls would help to support late season crops and may induce some new flowering for the new crop.

Colombia's cacao production areas are still seeing timely rainfall even though rain amounts have been lighter than usual at times. Some plantations have seen greater rain than others and World Weather, Inc. believes the current crop has been successful. This is the end of the minor harvest season. Main season cacao is likely developing relatively well and rain that falls in the next few weeks will support the new crop. Main season harvesting in Colombia normally occurs October through January.

This year's developing El Nino is likely to reduce rain in Colombia for a while leading to some drier-than-usual conditions in the third quarter. However, returning seasonal rainfall later this year should bring on some greater than usual rain that could induce some flooding and may harm some of the new flowering. There is also potential that if rainfall becomes too great that it could harm production. Every El Nino event is different leaving the door of debate wide open as to how Colombia's cacao crop will impacted.

The same can be said of Peru, although the northwestern production areas in the nation usually experience excessive rainfall late in the third and fourth quarters as well as early in the new year. ***That wet bias will need to be closely monitored. Southern Peru cacao areas will likely experience a higher potential for delayed seasonal rainfall and dryness could be a threat later in the year.***
