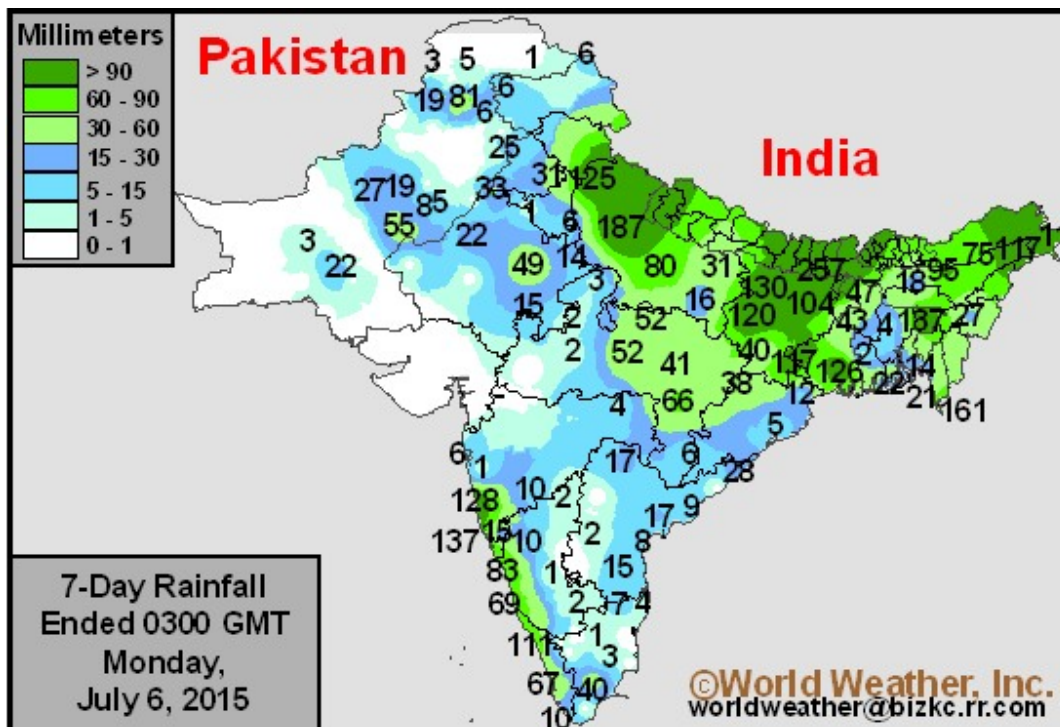


Western India Drying May Last Two More Weeks

By Andrew Owen and Drew Lerner

Kansas City, July 6 (World Weather Inc.) – Aggressive fieldwork has likely occurred in western parts of India during the past week to ten days thanks to generally dry weather after abundant June rainfall. However, the region is quickly drying out and the favorable environment for seed germination and early plant development is beginning to wane. The region will continue to experience net drying that may last two more weeks and that could lead to a slowdown in planting and an increase in crop moisture stress. In the meantime, eastern and some far northern India crops will continue to receive frequent rain.

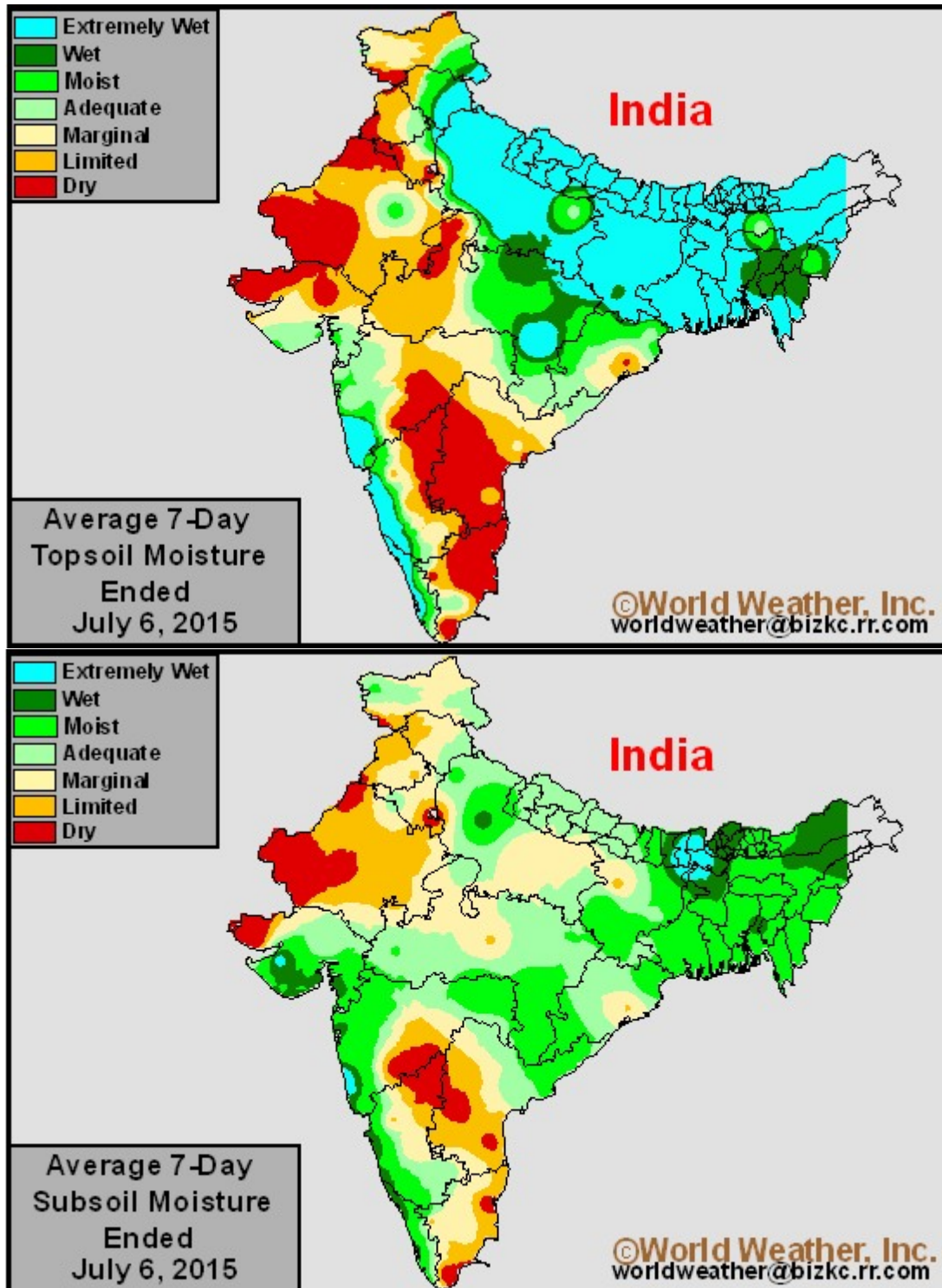
Monsoonal rainfall during the past week ending this morning favored areas from the Eastern States through Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and northern Odisha. Rain amounts ranged from 1.50 to 5.15 inches with locally greater amounts. The west coast of India also reported timely rain with amounts varying from 2.64 to 5.40 inches while Punjab, Haryana, and portions of Rajasthan received up to 2.00 inches. Southern crop areas from Odisha through Andhra Pradesh reported up to 0.75 inch of rain while mostly dry conditions occurred elsewhere. Net drying occurred in many crop areas from southern Pakistan through western Rajasthan and Gujarat to western Madhya Pradesh and most of Maharashtra to parts of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and eastern Karnataka.



Topsoil moisture from Uttar Pradesh to Chhattisgarh and eastward through the Eastern States was rated adequate to excessive today. Similar conditions were noted along the west coast and in portions of southern Gujarat. In contrast, many other areas in India have marginally adequate to very short topsoil moisture and slightly more favorable subsoil

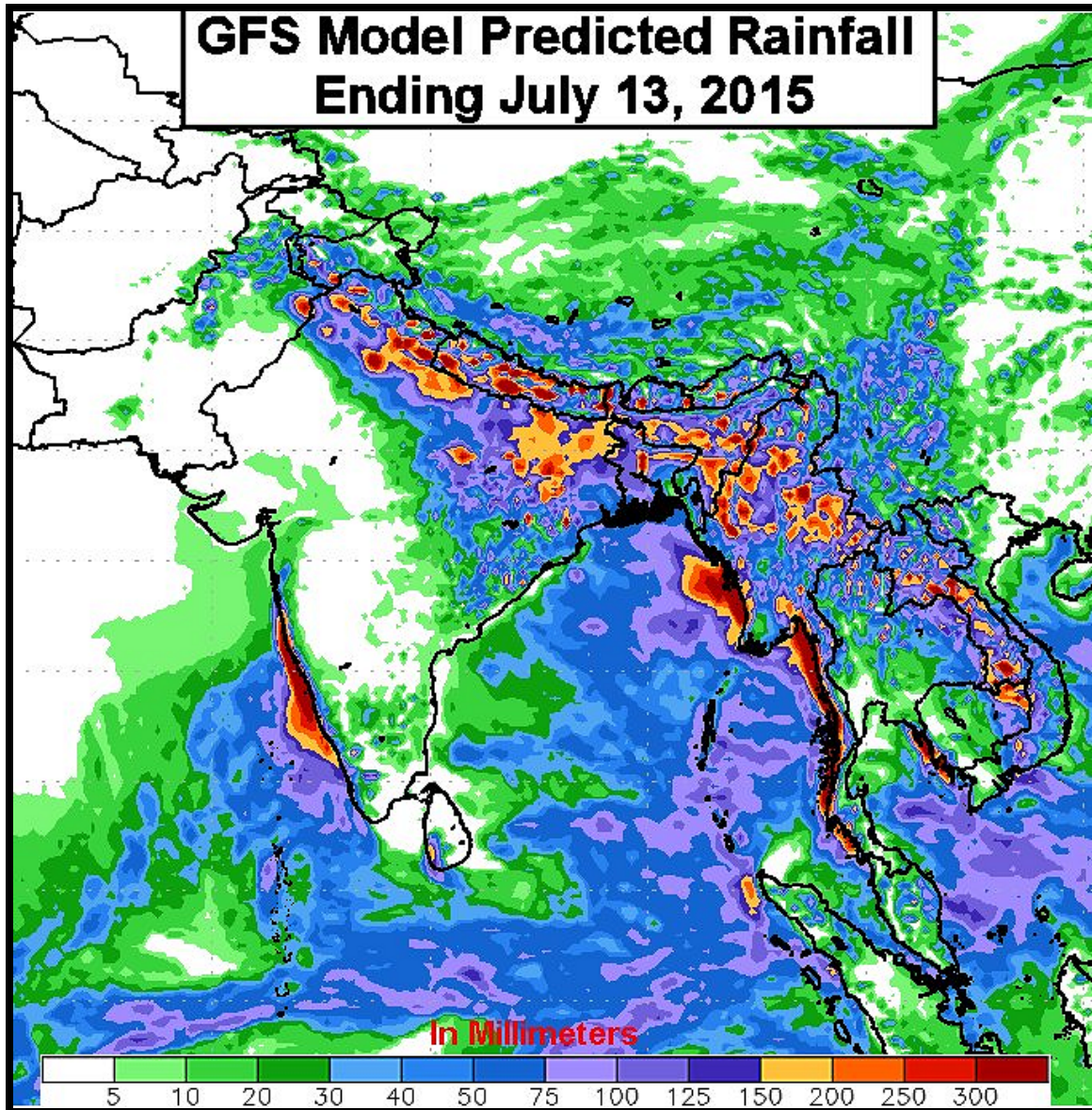
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moisture. The driest areas are in Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, northern Madhya Pradesh and from south-central Maharashtra to Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh where sub and topsoil were rated short to very short of moisture. Most other areas in the drier region described above still has favorable subsoil moisture limiting crop stress, for now.



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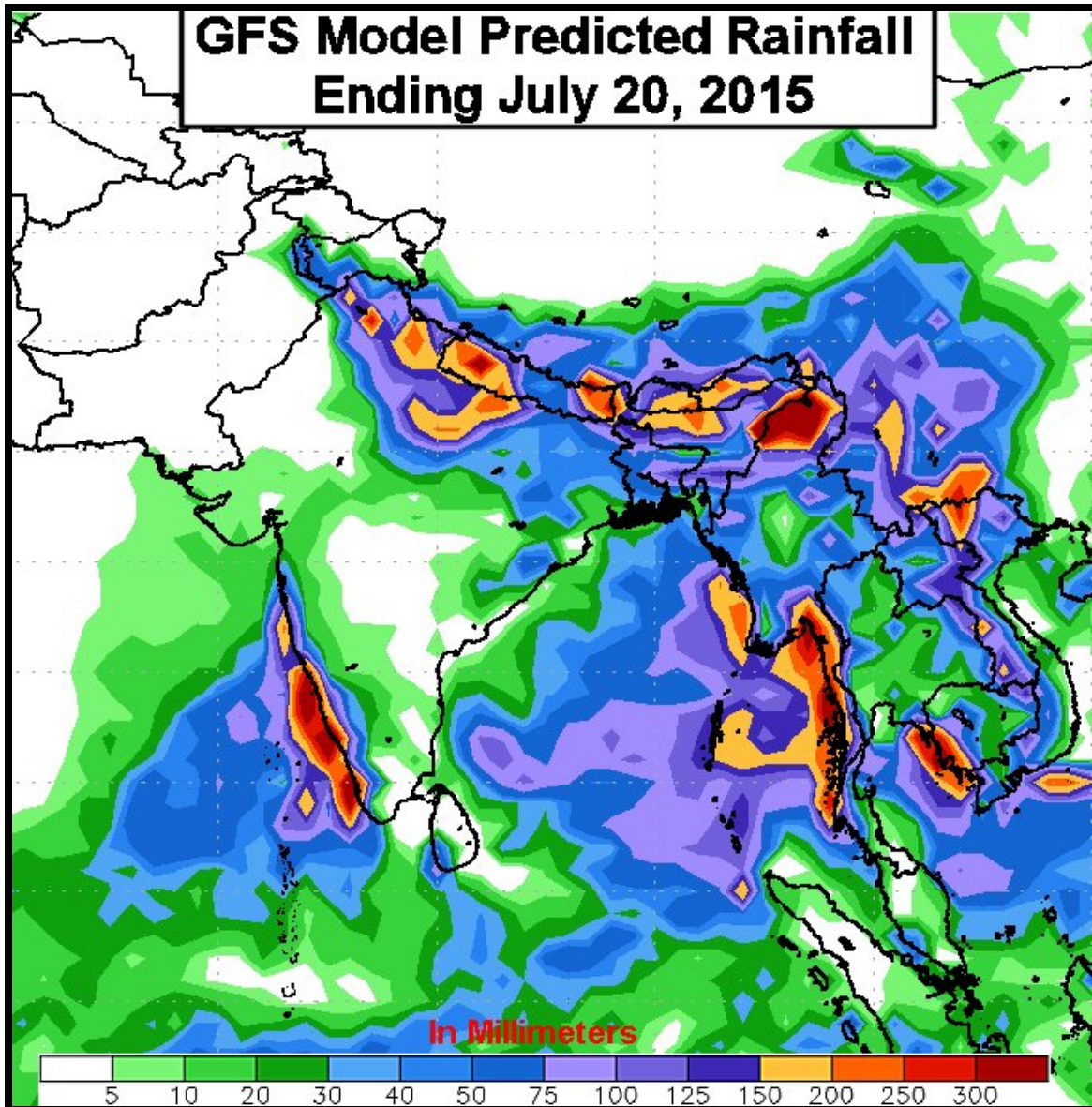
El Nino and the negative phase of Madden Julian Oscillation (MJO) coupled with a strongly negative Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) were all supporting the drier bias and many of these events are unlikely to change during the next two weeks perpetuating the drier bias.



Dryness in southern India is not yet a major concern. Monsoonal rainfall normally evolves later in the summer compared to other portions of India. The region reported timely rain at the beginning of the monsoon season that helped promoted a good start to the planting season. Timely rain would be welcome in the next few weeks to promote a better environment for crop development.

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Monsoonal rain will favor areas near and east of a line from Odisha through Punjab and Haryana this week. Rain totals for the seven day period ending next Monday morning will range from 1.50 to 5.00 inches most often with locally greater amounts in the Eastern States. Most of these areas will receive enough rain to either bolster soil moisture to excessive levels or keep the ground saturated and induce some significant flooding.



The immediate west coast of India will also receive several inches of rain during the next week while other areas from Gujarat and Rajasthan through southern India will receive little or no rain. The July 13-20 period is not likely to generate much greater rainfall and increasing dryness in the west (away from the coast) will raise crop moisture stress and threaten production cuts.

Temperatures will trend near to above average most days this week. The warm and dry weather will lead to aggressive drying in much of western and southern India. Crop development conditions will be poor. Most of the summer grain, oilseed and cotton crops,

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along with rice and sugarcane will become increasingly more stressed as the region dries out additionally.

Crop development will advance favorably in northern and eastern India where the most frequent rain and favorable soil moisture will continue. Fieldwork, however, may be slowed at times due to the frequent precipitation.

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