

Weekly World Rice Weather

Central America Bracing For More Flooding Rain

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, October 20 (World Weather, Inc.) – Flooding rain has been reported in recent weeks across portions of the Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and now in parts of Central America. The situation in Central America is about to become more serious with two new tropical weather systems about to impact the region resulting in new flooding from Nicaragua to Guatemala. In the meantime, weather conditions in Mercosur remain favorable and early season planting and crop development with little change expected through the coming week.

CENTRAL AMERICA/MEXICO

Remnants of Hurricane Jova and Tropical Depression 12E moved inland from the Pacific Ocean over Mexico last week producing some heavy rain. Energy from the two systems merged together and formed a new broad region of disturbed tropical weather last weekend from Honduras through Guatemala to southeastern Mexico. The system became a very broad-based tropical disturbance by late in the weekend. Very heavy rain and flooding occurred in many of above noted areas before the system moved northeast into Florida. Drier weather has since developed.

Now there are two more tropical systems poised to influence Central America. The first system was impacting northeastern Nicaragua and eastern Honduras earlier today. Waves of heavy rain will impact region into Saturday. Rainfall of 2.00 to 4.00 inches and locally more may be dwarfed by the size of the second tropical disturbance that was becoming better organized at the time of this report over open water east of Panama. The developing tropical cyclone may move along the Nicaragua and Honduras coasts during the weekend and first half of next week. If the storm behaves as advertised it will likely produce additional heavy rain and possible flooding. Another 3.00 to 7.00 inches of rain may accompany this second tropical event and that will likely translate into some potential flood damage to unharvested rice. Eastern portions of Nicaragua and Honduras will be most impacted.

This is the rice harvest season. Fieldwork is advancing more slowly than previously expected because of recent flooding rain and that which is still forthcoming. The GFS forecast model has been suggested a third tropical weather system might evolve near the Windward Islands and march toward Central America. The most recent GFS model run has suggested this last storm system may turn to the north and impact Cuba rather than Central America.

October through February is normally the “dry” season, but La Nina has delayed the withdrawal of seasonal rains for a while, hence the wetter biased forecast. The threat of damage to some crops will run high until drier weather finally arrives.

PHILIPPINES

A much improved week of weather was noted across the archipelago this past week. Restricted rainfall was reported except in northern Luzon Island and Mindanao

Weekly World Rice Weather

Central America Bracing For More Flooding Rain

where light to moderate rainfall was reported. None of the rain was threatening and the lighter precipitation elsewhere led to some net drying conditions which were imperative for improving rice maturation and harvest conditions after recent weeks of excessive moisture.

The tropics remain relatively quiet right now and the negative phase of Madden Julian Oscillation is under way which should suppress tropical cyclone development. A near-daily occurrence of showers and thunderstorms will occur over the next two weeks, but that is unlikely to generate heavy rain. Precipitation amounts will be sufficient to carry on normal farming activity with brief interruptions periodically by light shower and thunderstorm activity.

INDONESIA/MALAYSIA

Colder-than-usual ocean temperatures are still prevailing from Sumatra and Java to the northern Australia coast. The environment is responsible for the below-average rainfall that has been prevailing for a while. Normally, La Nina events would generate abundant rain throughout the archipelago, but when ocean water is colder than usual in the described area there is a tendency for rainfall to be suppressed. This trend will continue over the next few weeks leaving rice areas in southern Sumatra, Java and the Lesser Sunda Islands a little drier than usual. Seasonal rainfall will be increasing, but rain intensity and coverage will be lighter than usual until the ocean warms up satisfactorily.

Rain elsewhere across the archipelago will produce sufficient moisture for normal rice development.

Rain in the past week was abundant from northern Sumatra to northwestern Kalimantan and parts of Sarawak, Malaysia.

VIETNAM/CAMBODIA/THAILAND/LAOS

Torrential rains occurred during the first 18 days of this month in central Vietnam. Totals for the month had reached over 43.00 inches at Hue and nearly 37.00 inches at Dong Hoi. Central Vietnam Rice production is not very important relative to the nation as a whole, but the losses from flooding were significant in some areas and with damage in other Southeast Asian nations, every little bit of damage adds up.

Cambodia and Laos each reported flooding of their own during the past week. Production cuts are possible from both countries, although the overall loss is probably not very great relative to these other areas.

Weather in the coming week is expected to be a little more tranquil. Isolated to scattered showers and thunderstorms will occur, but their significance will not likely be very great. Flood water will recede during the week.

TAIWAN

Rainfall during the past week was restricted. Rice continued to mature and be harvested in a favorable manner. The coming week is expected to be drier than usual and that too will help support the maturation and harvest of late season crops.

Weekly World Rice Weather

Central America Bracing For More Flooding Rain

CHINA

Good drying conditions occurred in eastern China during the past week. Rice harvesting advanced swiftly with only a few delays resulting. Rain was light and infrequent with areas between the Yellow and Yangtze Rivers wettest.

The coming week will bring a cold front from north to south through eastern China resulting in the development of occasional showers and thunderstorms. The wet weather will last only a few days, but fieldwork will be stalled during that period of time.

Dry and mild to warm weather will prevail before and after the rain event and that should help assure rice harvesting advances favorably.

MYANMAR

A tropical cyclone formed in the northern Bay of Bengal earlier this week before moving inland across northwestern Myanmar during mid-week. The storm likely produced some very heavy rain near and south of the Bangladesh/India border where some flooding may have occurred. Early indications suggest some hefty rain fell across the region, but rainfall data from Myanmar is not shared with the remainder of the world making it difficult to assess crop and field moisture relative to normal.

INDIA

The majority of rice production areas in the nation were left dry or mostly dry during the past week. The actual rainfall data suggested random showers and thunderstorms occurred over a large part of the far south and west-central parts of the nation, as well as some locations in the far Eastern States. The moisture was a deterrent for rice maturation and harvesting, but great for late season crop development. The outlook will remain mostly unchanged over the coming week.

The negative phase of Madden Julian Oscillation will prevail in the coming week suppressing rainfall for the next week or two.

KOREAN PENINSULA

Rain fell most significantly in South Korea resulting in some delay to rice harvesting. North Korea also reported some rain, but amounts were much lighter than those in the south. Weather conditions in this coming week will be very similar with South Korea notably wetter than crop areas further north. No crop quality issues are anticipated, but some drier weather is needed to protect unharvested grain quality.

JAPAN

Near to above average rainfall is predicted for the coming week. The precipitation will be sufficient to raise topsoil moisture possibly delaying rice harvesting. The environment should not have been serious, but there is need for drier and warmer weather.

Weekly World Rice Weather

Central America Bracing For More Flooding Rain

The forecast produces another week of similar wet conditions raising the potential threat to unharvested rice. Rain totals for the week will be near to above average.

PAKISTAN

Favorable harvest weather has been occurring and will continue for a while. Generally dry weather and warm temperatures should prevail through the majority of the next two weeks supporting unlimited fieldwork.

BANGLADESH

A tropical cyclone passed by to the south in Myanmar this past week. Some rain fell in southeastern parts of Bangladesh, but its impact on crops and general farming was minimal. The outlook will continue to generate some periodic showers through the weekend and then mostly dry weather next week. The environment should remain good for some of the early Aman rice harvesting.

WEST CENTRAL AFRICA

Most rice producing areas in west-central Africa received rain at one time or another during the past week. The precipitation was sufficient in supporting rice needs across the region and the outlook will continue quite favorable over the next couple of weeks with additional rain falling periodically.

EAST-CENTRAL AFRICA

Rain has been more erratic and light in recent days. Net drying has evolved in many areas of Ethiopia. Rain continues periodically further south in Kenya and Uganda, although daily amounts and coverage have been light at times. The forecast will not likely bring back much change over the coming week to ten days. This is the time of year that annual rains withdraw from Ethiopia making the drying bias of little concern.

COLOMBIA/VENEZUELA

Rain diminished during the week in northern Venezuela and northern Colombia and continued periodically in the remainder of the two nations' rice conditions were rated favorably, although some drier weather might be welcome in Venezuela to support harvesting.

MERCOSUR

Rice planting should be under way across eastern Argentina, Uruguay and southern Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. The region should be favorably poised for fieldwork and crop development. Soil conditions are in good shape and should remain that way over the next two weeks. There will be some well timed rainfall maintaining favorable soil moisture.

Weekly World Rice Weather Central America Bracing For More Flooding Rain

Some locally heavy rain is possible, but only periodically. For the most part, the outlook is looking quite favorable for crop development and planting.

Planting is also under way in other areas of Brazil and Paraguay, although rainfall has only recently been sufficient to support such activity. The environment for that process will only get better in the next few weeks.

UNITED STATES

Dry weather will continue in most rice production areas through the first half of next week. A cold airmass will settle into the eastern half of the nation Wednesday and Thursday of next week producing some rainfall in the Delta. The precipitation may be disruptive to late season harvest activity, but its brevity should prevent any long term impacts from evolving. Dry weather will quickly resume again late next week and continue into the week of Oct. 31.

California will also be dry during much of the next two weeks favoring crop maturation and harvest progress.

World Weather, Inc. forecasts and comments pertaining to present, past and future weather conditions included in this report constitute the corporation's judgment as of the date of this report and are subject to change without notice. Comments regarding damage or the impact of weather on agricultural and energy as well comments made regarding the impact of weather on the commodity and financial markets are the explicit opinions of World Weather, Inc. World Weather, Inc. can not be held responsible for decisions made by users of the Corporation's information in any business, trade or investment decision.

©2011 World Weather, Inc. Any unauthorized redistribution, duplication or disclosure is prohibited by law and will result in prosecution.