

Average irrigated wheat production and below average rainfed wheat production are expected at the end of the 2024-25 agricultural season

Key Messages

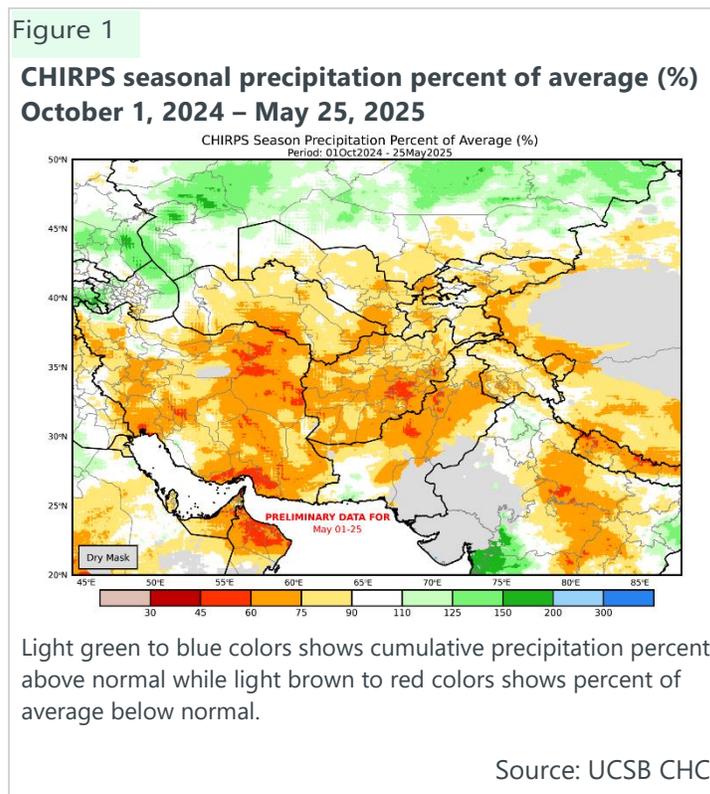
- Seasonal cumulative precipitation for most of the 2024-25 season (October 1, 2024, to May 25, 2025) has been below average across the country.
- Although above average snowpack conditions were briefly present in some medium to low elevations during January, snowpack has been persistently below average during most of the 2024-25 season.
- Snow water volume (SWV) levels in all basins were below average during the 2024-25 season. SWV levels in the northern and northeastern basins have been closer to record minimums throughout the 2024-25 season. SWVs had reached the end of their seasonal cycles in the northern, western, and southern basins last month at least 4-6 weeks earlier than usual.
- The ENSO Diagnostic discussion indicates a high likelihood of ENSO-neutral conditions to continue until October 2025. Seasonal cumulative precipitation is expected to be largely average to below-average while country-wide above-average temperature conditions are expected during June – August 2025.
- **CHIRPS-GEFS** short-term forecasts predict increased likelihood of below-average cumulative precipitation (October 1, 2024 – May 31, 2025) across the country. **ECMWF** weekly forecasts indicate a high likelihood of average to below-average cumulative precipitation conditions till June 9, 2025.
- Field reports indicate that the harvest of irrigated wheat is complete in the eastern, southeastern, and southern areas while it is in progress elsewhere (except in some central Highlands and higher elevations in the northeastern parts of the country where it harvested in August-September). There are reports of severe moisture stress in rainfed wheat crops and rangelands in the northern, northeastern and western parts of the country. It is also indicated that while near average irrigated wheat production is expected, however, reduced wheat production from rainfed wheat areas at the end of 2024-25 season.
- Although flood risk is less in the coming months, flash floods may be possible in some selected flood prone locations in the northeastern, eastern, and southeastern parts of the country.
- Forecasts of above-average temperatures and below-average precipitation may adversely affect the rainfed wheat and rangelands in the coming months. Second crop cultivation may be adversely affected by below-normal water availability in the downstream areas with farmers relying excessively on groundwater for the fifth year in a row.

Update on Seasonal Progress

In general, seasonal precipitation has been below average throughout the 2024-25 season (October 2024-May 2025). During May 2025, cumulative precipitation has been below-average, and this combined with dry weather last month has resulted in significantly reduced soil moisture levels in most areas of the country, especially in the rainfed wheat growing regions. Field reports indicate that rainfed wheat areas are under severe moisture stress in the western, northern, northeastern and central parts of the country. Harvest of irrigated wheat is complete in the eastern, southern, and southeastern parts of the country where near normal yields are expected. The surface and groundwater resources are below normal in most parts of the country as of the reporting date.

Precipitation

As of May 25, 2025, cumulative precipitation since October 1, 2024, has been below average across the country. Deficits in cumulative precipitation on the order of 75 to 90 percent of the average were observed in the northern, northern-central, and northeastern parts while the rest of the country received 60 to 75 percent of the average. (Figure 1).

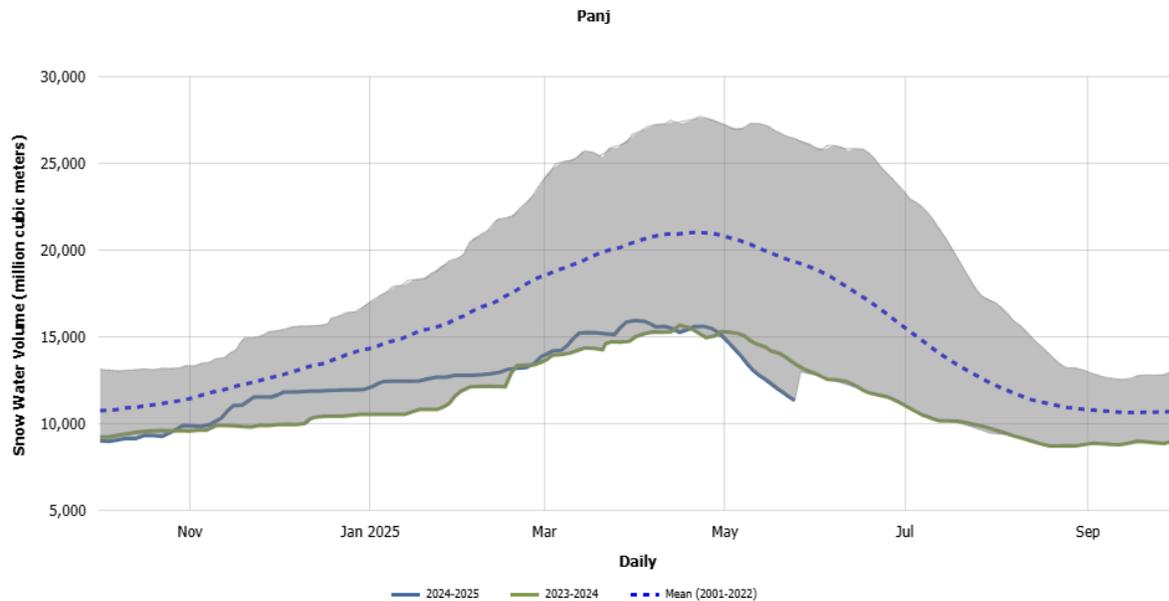


Snow Conditions

As of May 24, 2025, below-average snow water volume (SWV) conditions were observed over all elevations of the country. They are currently at record minimums in Panj, Kokcha_ab-i-Rustaq, and Khanabad basins; and at 20 percent of normal (2001-2022) in Kunduz basin. SWV levels in the remaining basins had already reached their zero levels at least four to six weeks earlier than usual last month. Figure 2 highlights the record minimum SWV level in the Panj basin.

Figure 2

Seasonal snow water volume in 2023-24 (light green line), 2024-25 (dark blue line), and historical average (blue dotted line) as a function of time in Panj (northeast) basin as of May 24.

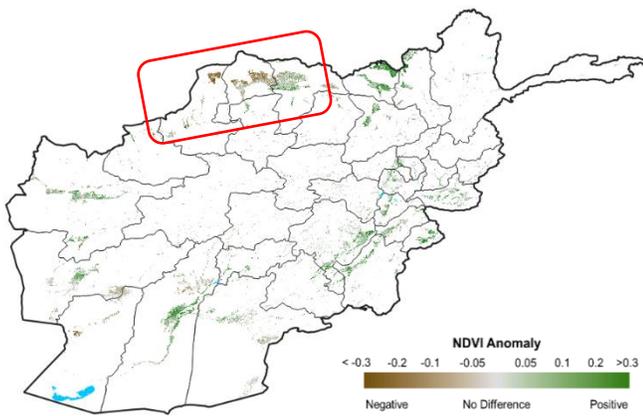


Source: USGS/NASA

Figure 3a

eVIIRS NDVI anomaly in irrigated agricultural areas
May 11, 2024 – May 20, 2025

Afghanistan Irrigated Agricultural Areas
NDVI Anomaly
2025 minus mean (2003 - 2022)
Period 14 / May 11 - 20, 2025



Shades of green indicate above average condition of crops while shades of brown indicate below average conditions.

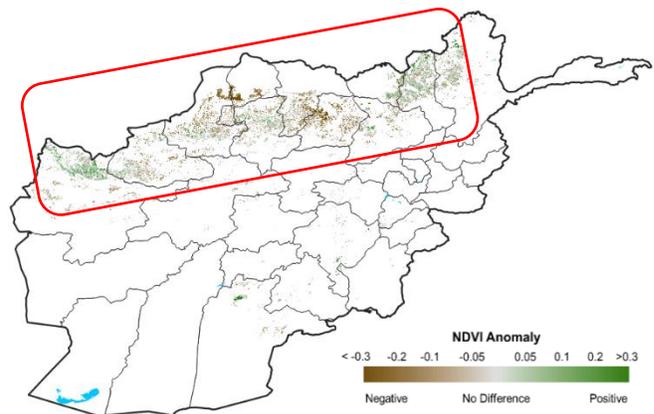
As of May 20, 2025

Source: USGS/EROS

Figure 3b

eVIIRS NDVI anomaly in rainfed agricultural areas
May 11, 2024 – May 20, 2025

Afghanistan Rainfed Agricultural Areas
NDVI Anomaly
2025 minus Mean (2012 - 2021)
Period 28 / May 11 - 20, 2025



Shades of green indicate above average condition of crops while shades of brown indicate below average conditions.

As of May 20, 2025

Source: USGS/EROS

NDVI over agricultural areas

As seen in the eVIIRS (375m) NDVI image of irrigated agricultural areas, below average irrigated wheat crop condition is seen in isolated parts in Herat, Faryab, Jawzjan, and Balkh (Figure 3a). However, the NDVI image of rainfed agricultural areas indicates that below average rainfed wheat conditions are more widespread in Herat, Badghis, Faryab, Jawzjan, Sari Pul, Samangan, Kunduz, and Takhar (Figure 3b); and rainfed wheat yields are most likely to be below average at the end of 2024-25 season.

Forecast

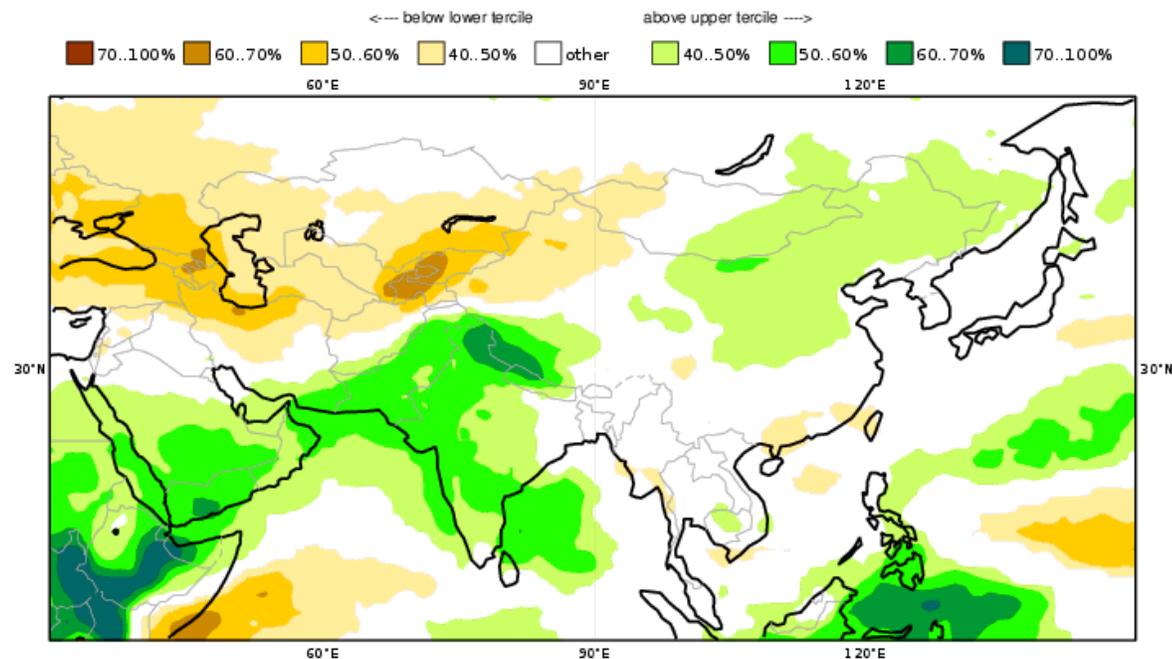
Precipitation

The Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) System precipitation forecast as of May 2025 for June – August 2025 shows an increased probability of average to below-average cumulative precipitation in the country (Figure 4). Localized flash floods may occur because of brief, intense rainfall events.

Figure 4

Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) multi-system seasonal precipitation forecast probabilities for June through August 2025 generated on May 1, 2025

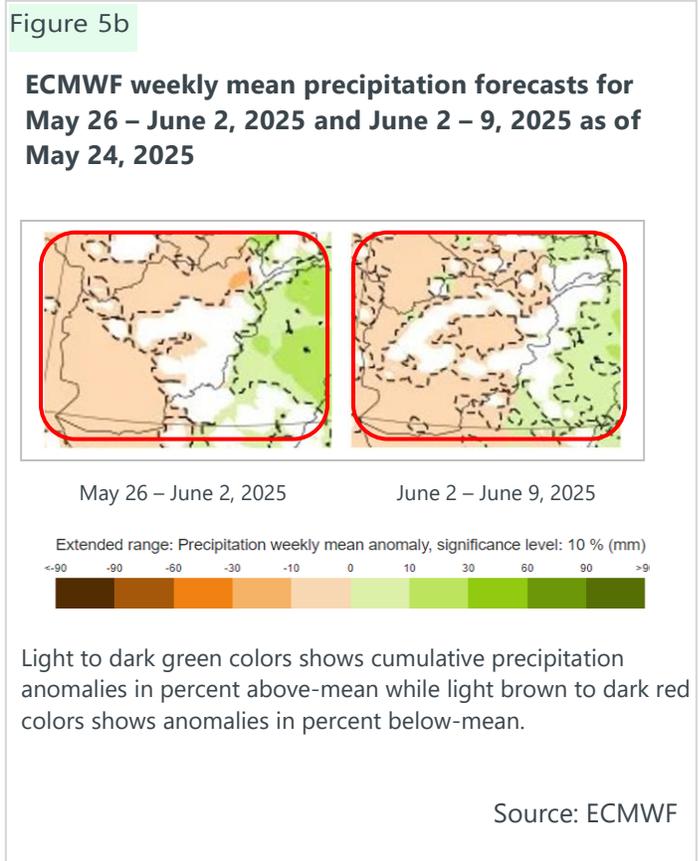
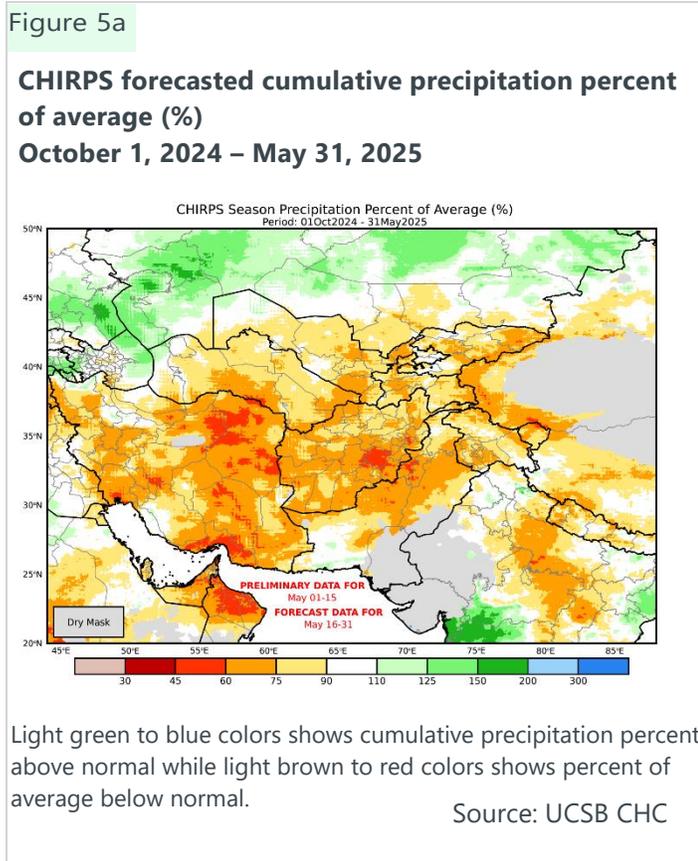
C3S multi-system seasonal forecast ECMWF/Met Office/Météo-France/CMCC/DWD/NCEP/JMA/ECCC/BOM
 Prob(most likely category of precipitation) JJA 2025
 Nominal forecast start: 01/05/25
 Unweighted mean



Source: Copernicus Climate Change Service

The **CHIRPS-GEFS** based short-term cumulative precipitation (October 1, 2024 – May 31, 2025) forecast widespread cumulative precipitation deficits across the country. It indicates cumulative precipitation deficits on the order of 75 to 90 percent of average in the northern and northeastern areas while precipitation deficits on the order of 60 to 75 percent of average are expected elsewhere (Figure 5a).

The **ECMWF** weekly precipitation forecasts between May 26 – June 9, 2025 indicates a high likelihood of average to below-average cumulative precipitation conditions (Figure 5b).



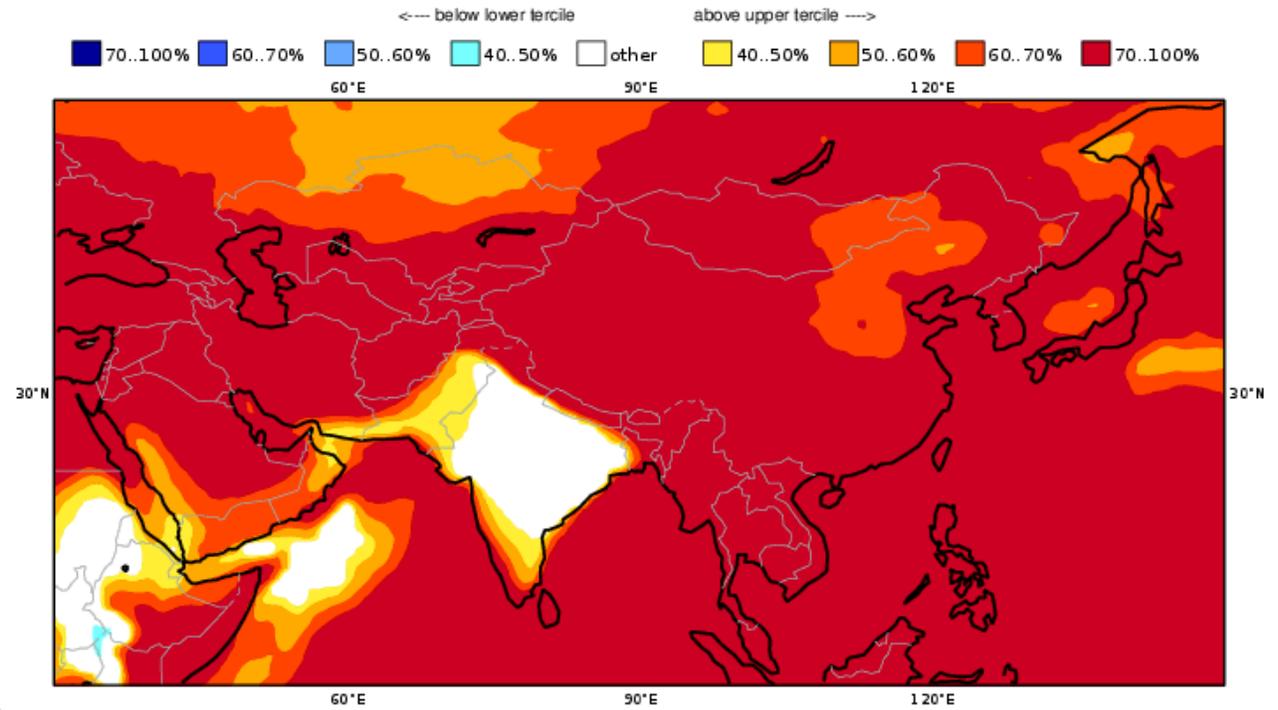
Temperature

There is a high probability of above-average temperatures for June – August 2025 in the forecast generated in May 2025 (Figure 6). Although some field reports have raised concerns about locust infestation, the situation has been brought under control in the affected areas of the country. The forecast of above-average day time temperatures may increase the likelihood of moisture stress in rainfed crop areas and rangelands in the coming months. Extended forecasts of above-average temperatures and below-average precipitation during the summer months may negatively impact the final stages of second-crop cultivation in areas that have heavily relied on groundwater for the fifth consecutive year.

Figure 6

Climate Change Service (C3S) multi-system seasonal temperature forecast probabilities (2 m temperature) for June through August 2025 generated on May 1, 2025.

C3S multi-system seasonal forecast ECMWF/Met Office/Météo-France/CMCC/DWD/NCEP/JMA/ECCC/BOM
 Prob(most likely category of 2m temperature) JJA 2025
 Nominal forecast start: 01/05/25
 Unweighted mean



Light yellow to red colors shows the likelihood of warmer temperatures in the upper tercile, while cyan to dark blue colors show the likelihood of cooler temperatures in the lower tercile.

Source: Copernicus Climate Change Service

About Seasonal Monitor

FEWS NET’s Seasonal Monitor reports are produced for Central America and the Caribbean, West Africa, East Africa, Central Asia, and Somalia every 10-to-30 days during the region’s respective rainy season(s). Seasonal Monitors report updates on weather events (e.g., rainfall patterns) and associated impacts on ground conditions (e.g., cropping conditions, pasture, and water availability), as well as the short-term rainfall forecast. Find more remote sensing information [here](#).