Precipitation received in April may allow normal completion of the main 2025/26 agricultural season

Key Messages

- Below-average cumulative precipitation conditions (October 1, 2025, through April 25, 2026) are seen in most parts of the country while localized average to slightly above-average cumulative precipitation conditions exist in the west, north, northeast, and south.
- All basins in the country have below-average snow water equivalent (SWE) except for above-average SWE in some isolated places in the Bala Murghab_Kushk and Balkhab basins as of April 25, 2026.
- Snow water volume (SWV) levels are normal in Bala Murghab_Kushk, Farah_Adraskan, and Khash_Khuspas basins due to late March to early April precipitation, while other basins exhibit below normal levels. SWV reached zero levels in Khulm, Shirin Tgab, and Ghazni basins four to eight weeks earlier-than-normal. SWV levels are at record minimums in Panj, Kokcha_Ab-i-Rustaq, and Khanabad basins in the northeast as of April 26, 2026.
- **ENSO-neutra**l conditions are likely to continue till May 2026. El Niño is expected by June-August 2026. El Niño is expected (more than 90% chance) to persist through December 2026.
- The **CHIRPS-GEFS** short-term forecast for cumulative precipitation (October 1, 2025 – May 10, 2026) predicts below-average precipitation (45–90% of average) conditions in most parts of the country. However, average to above-average cumulative precipitation conditions may be found in isolated locations in western, northern, northeastern, and southern parts by the end of the forecast period.
- **ECMWF** weekly forecast for April 27 – May 4, 2026, as of April 28, 2026, indicates increased likelihood of above average precipitation in central, southeastern, northeastern, and northern parts while there is no tilt in odds towards either above- or below average precipitation elsewhere. Below average precipitation is most likely in the country during the forecast period May 4 -11, 2026.
- According to field reports, widespread precipitation during late March - early April facilitated increased spring wheat planting. Wheat and pasture conditions are generally favorable, with some isolated places exhibiting below average conditions in the north, central highlands, east, and southeast. Harvest of early-sown wheat is expected to begin in May as per schedule. Water shortage is not expected for first season late sown crops.
- Field reports indicate that localized flooding caused damage in settlements along river plains and urban areas in nearly all provinces during late March to early April. However, there is no risk of floods or landslides due to dry weather since mid-April, and below-average precipitation forecasted until mid-May.
- Groundwater conditions are expected to remain below average in most basins across the country.

Update on Seasonal Progress

According to field reports, widespread precipitation that occurred between late March and early April mitigated the cumulative precipitation deficits in some areas since the beginning of the season. Currently above average cumulative precipitation conditions are seen in isolated locations in the west, north and south while below-average cumulative precipitation conditions exist elsewhere. SWV levels are below normal in all basins with SWVs in most of

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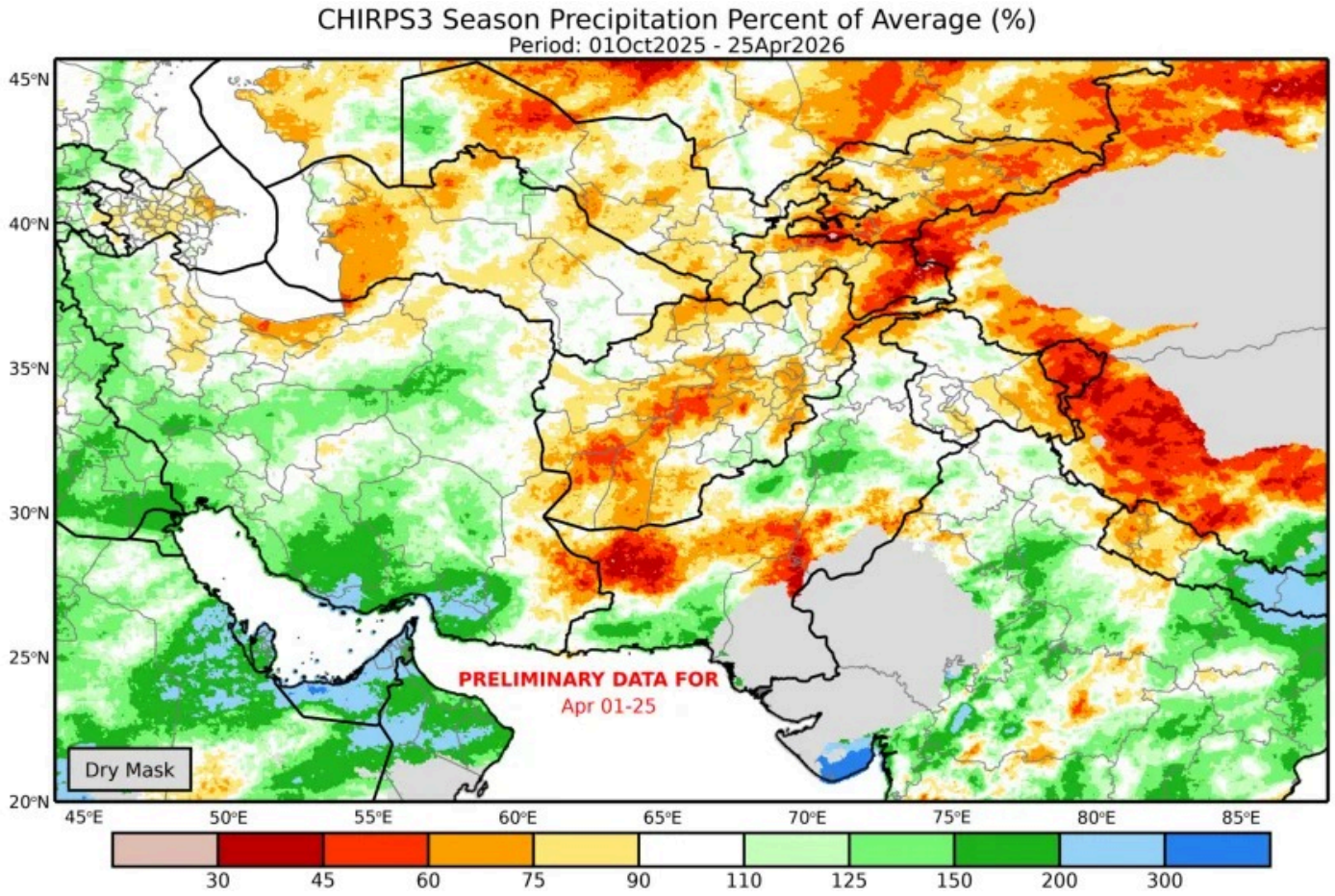
the southern basins at zero level at least 6 – 8 weeks earlier-than-normal while northeastern basins continue to exhibit record minimum levels. There are no reports of adverse soil moisture, pest and disease, or moisture stress conditions in wheat cultivating zones and pastures.

Precipitation

Localized average cumulative precipitation (October 1, 2025 – April 25, 2026) conditions are seen in in parts of Herat, Badghis, Faryab, Sari Pul, Balkh, Samangan, Baghlan in the north, and in Ghazni and Zabul in the south while below-average cumulative precipitation conditions (45-90% of average) persist in the remaining areas (**Figure 1**).

Figure 1. CHIRPS seasonal precipitation percent of average (%), October 1, 2025 – April 25, 2026



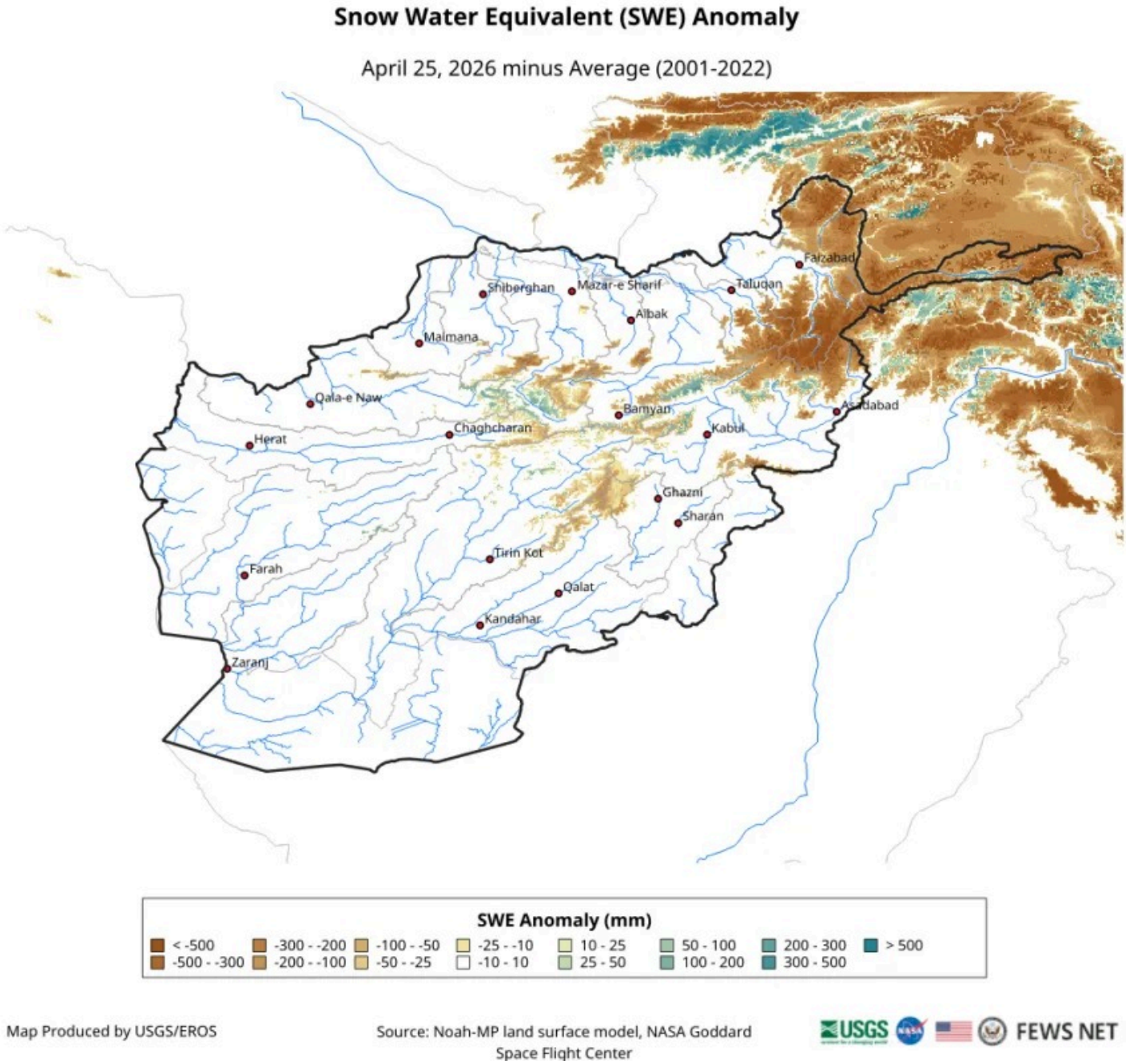
Light green to blue colors shows cumulative precipitation percent above normal while light brown to red colors shows percent of average below normal.

Source: UCSB/CHC

Snow conditions

Below-average SWE conditions are observed over higher elevation areas for the fifth year in a row. Currently, average to above-average SWE conditions are seen only in some isolated parts in Bala Murghab_Kushk and Balkhab basins (**Figure 2**).

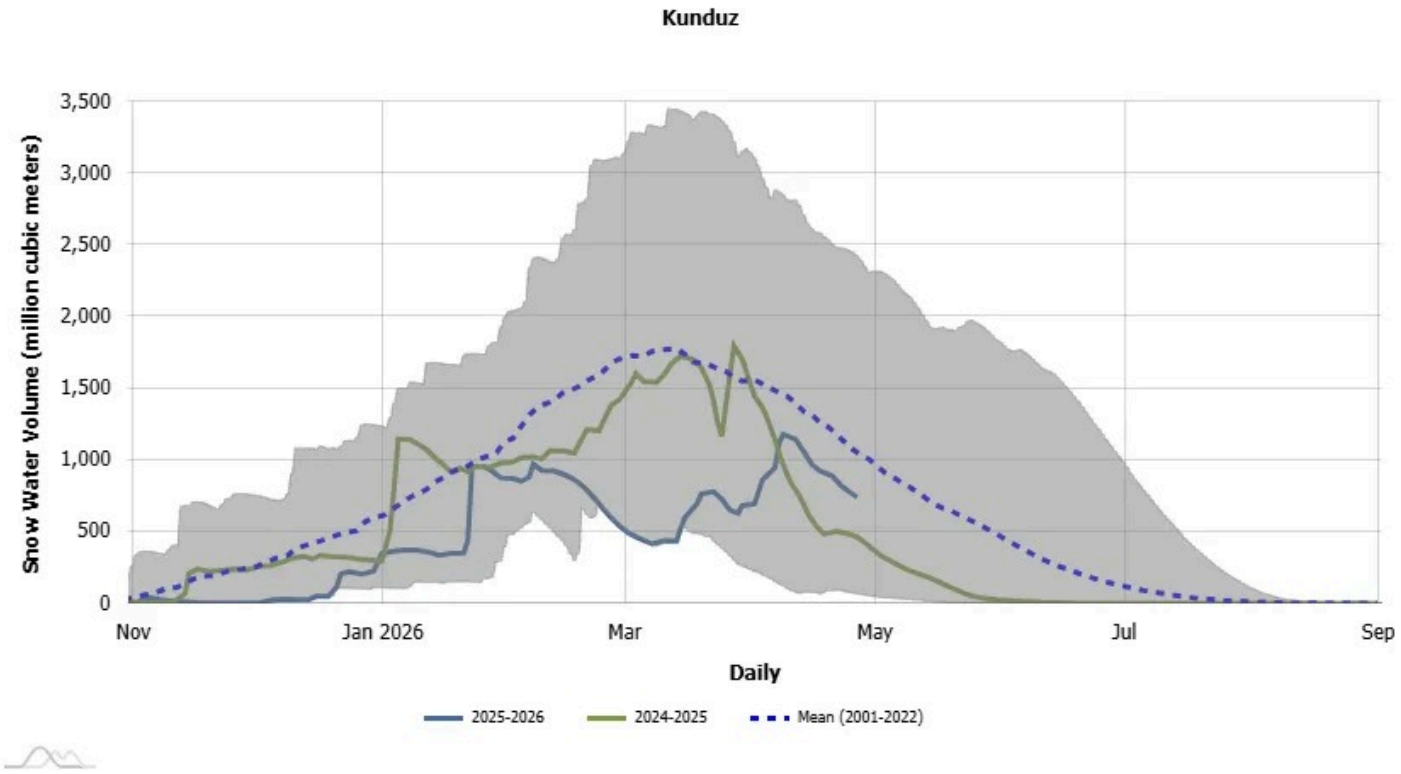
Figure 2. Snow water equivalent anomaly (mm), October 1, 2025 – April 25, 2026



Source: USGS/NASA

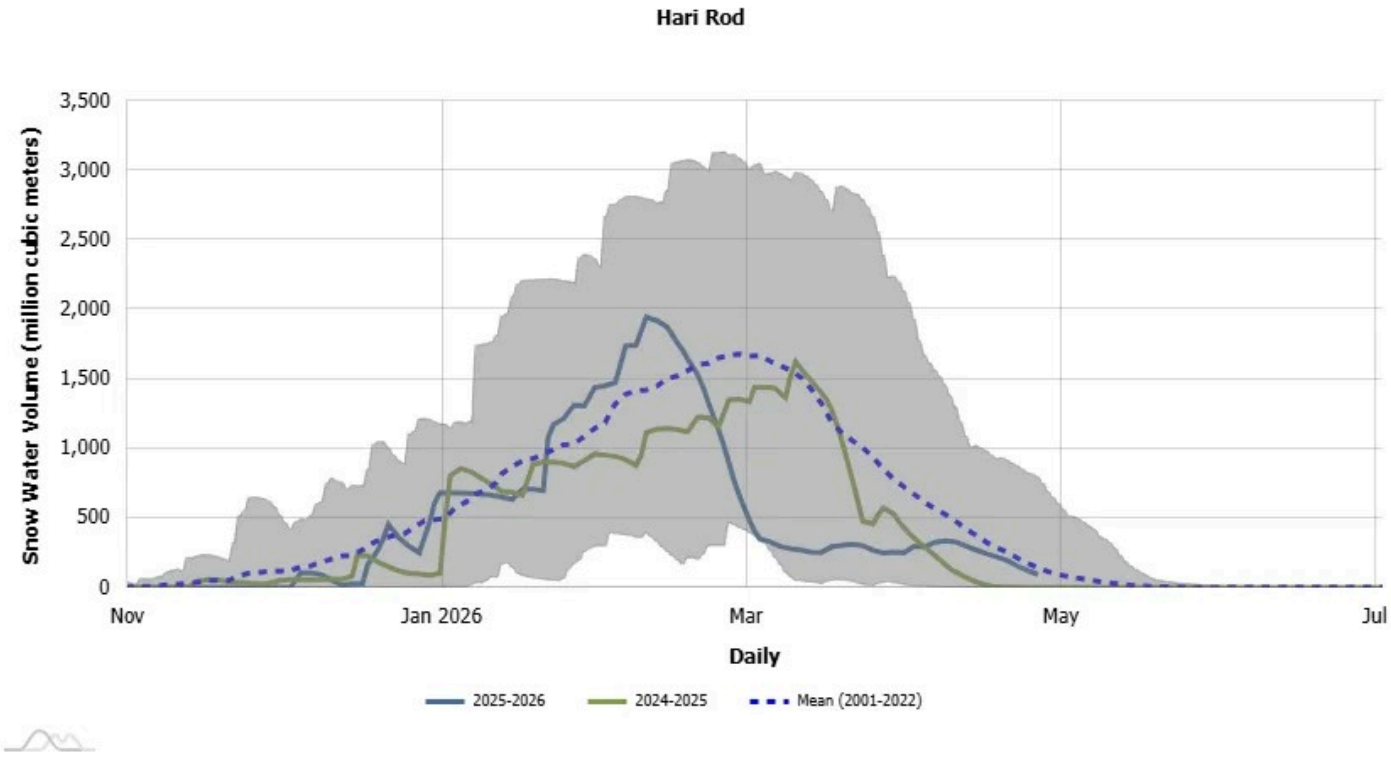
Late March - early April precipitation elevated the SWV to above normal levels late in the season in Bala Murghab_Kushk, Farah_Adraskan, and Khash_Khuspas basins. SWV levels remain below normal in remaining basins, with record minimum levels in Panj, Kokcha-Ab_i_Rustaq, Khanabad, and Khulm basins in the northeast. SWVs have reached zero levels at least four to eight weeks earlier-than-normal in Khulm, Shirin Tgab, and Ghazni basins. **Figure 3 a-d** indicate below-average SWV levels in Hari Rod (west), Helmand (south), Kunduz (north), and record minimum level in Panj (northeast) basins as of April 26, 2026.

Figure 3a. Seasonal snow water volume in 2024-25 (green line), 2025-26 (blue line), and historical average (blue dotted line) as a function of time in Kunduz basin (north) as of April 26, 2026



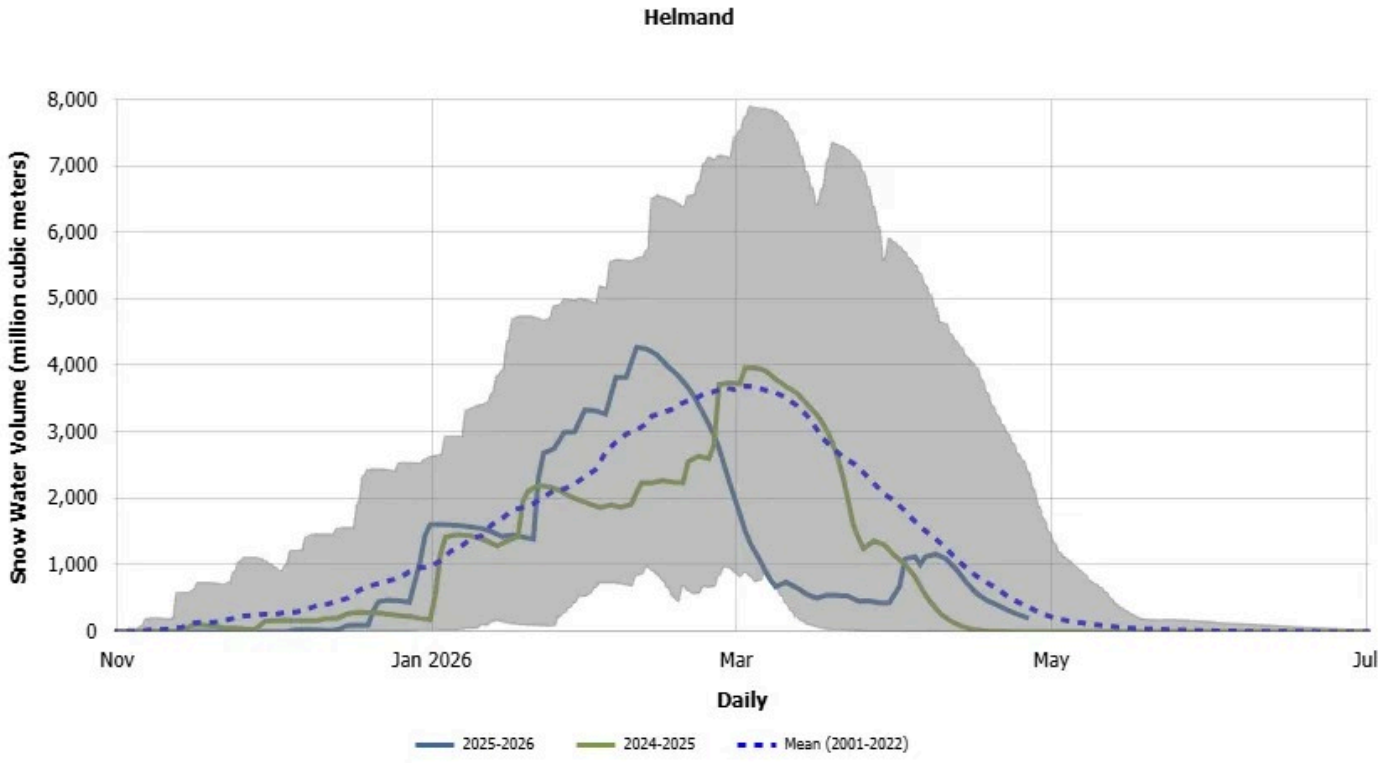
Source: USGS/NASA

Figure 3b. Seasonal snow water volume in 2024-25 (green line), 2025-26 (blue line), and historical average (blue dotted line) as a function of time in Hari Rod basin (west) as of April 26, 2026



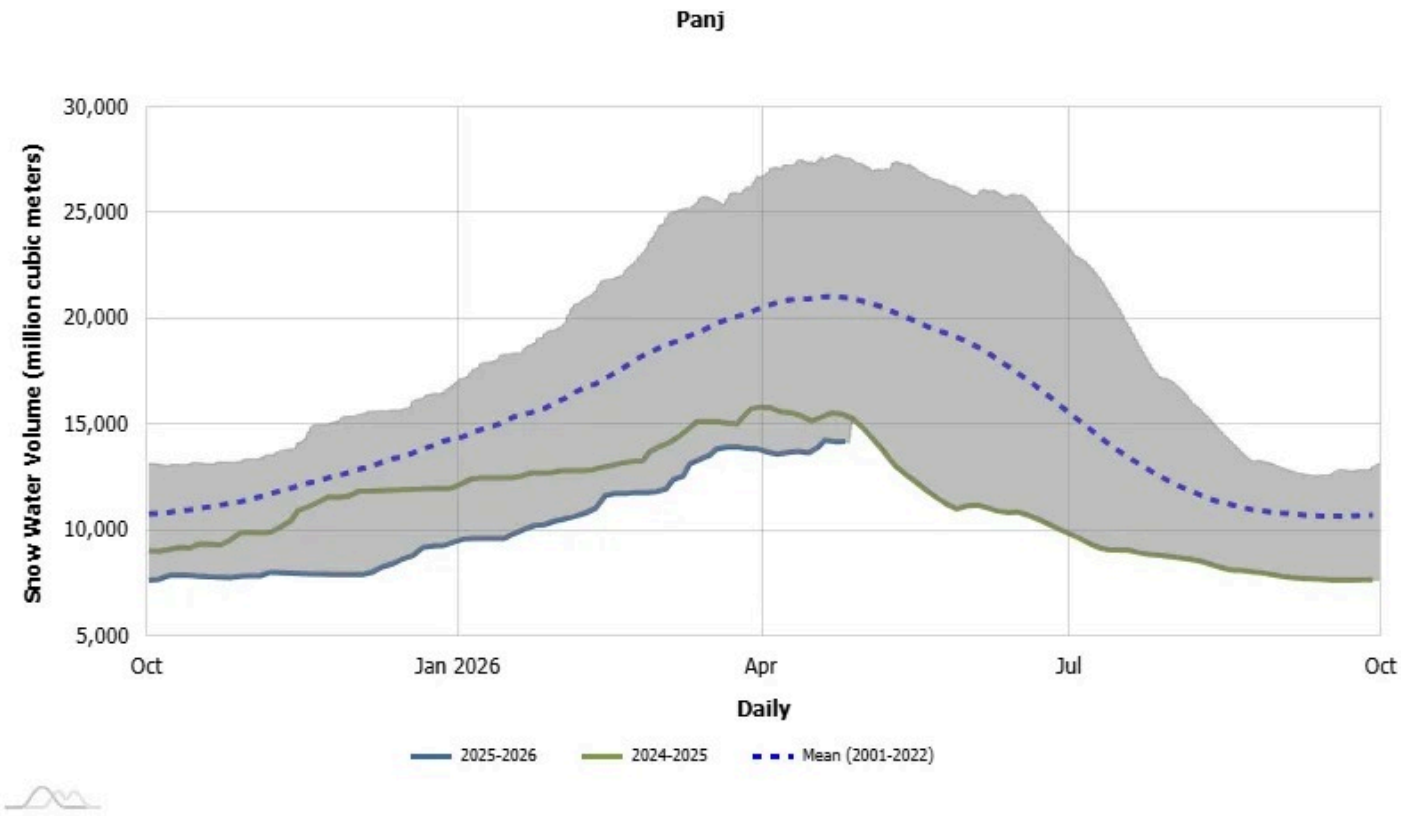
Source: USGS/NASA

Figure 3c. Seasonal snow water volume in 2024-25 (green line), 2025-26 (blue line), and historical average (blue dotted line) as a function of time in Helmand basin (south) as of April 26, 2026



Source: USGS/NASA

Figure 3d. Seasonal snow water volume in 2024-25 (green line), 2025-26 (blue line), and historical average (blue dotted line) as a function of time in Panj basin (northeast) as of April 26, 2026



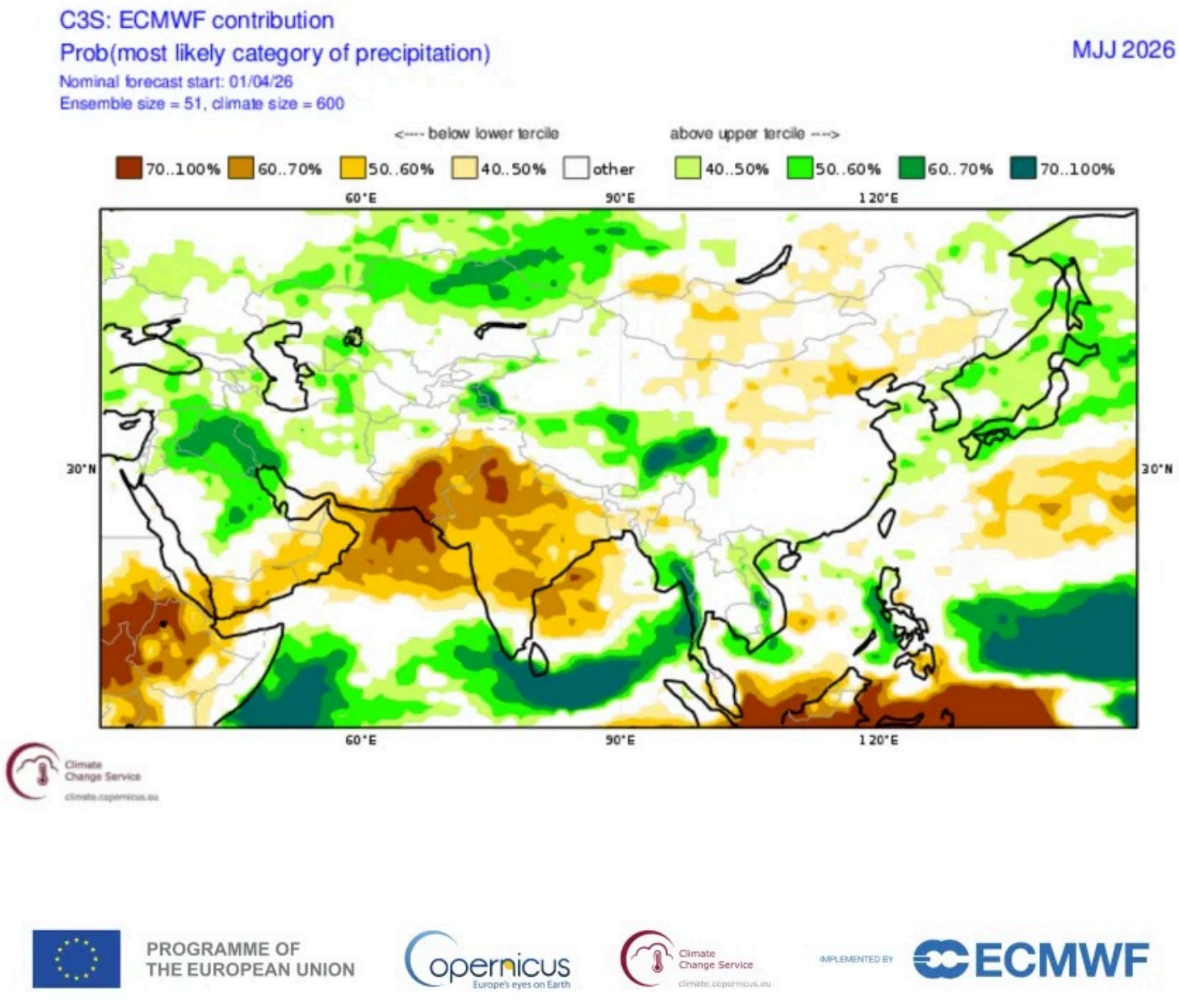
Source: USGS/NASA

Forecast

Precipitation

The precipitation forecast for May – July 2026 from the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) System in April 2026 shows no tilt towards either above- or below-average precipitation over most of the country (**Figure 4**).

Figure 4. Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) multi-system seasonal precipitation forecast probabilities for May through July 2026 generated on April 1, 2026

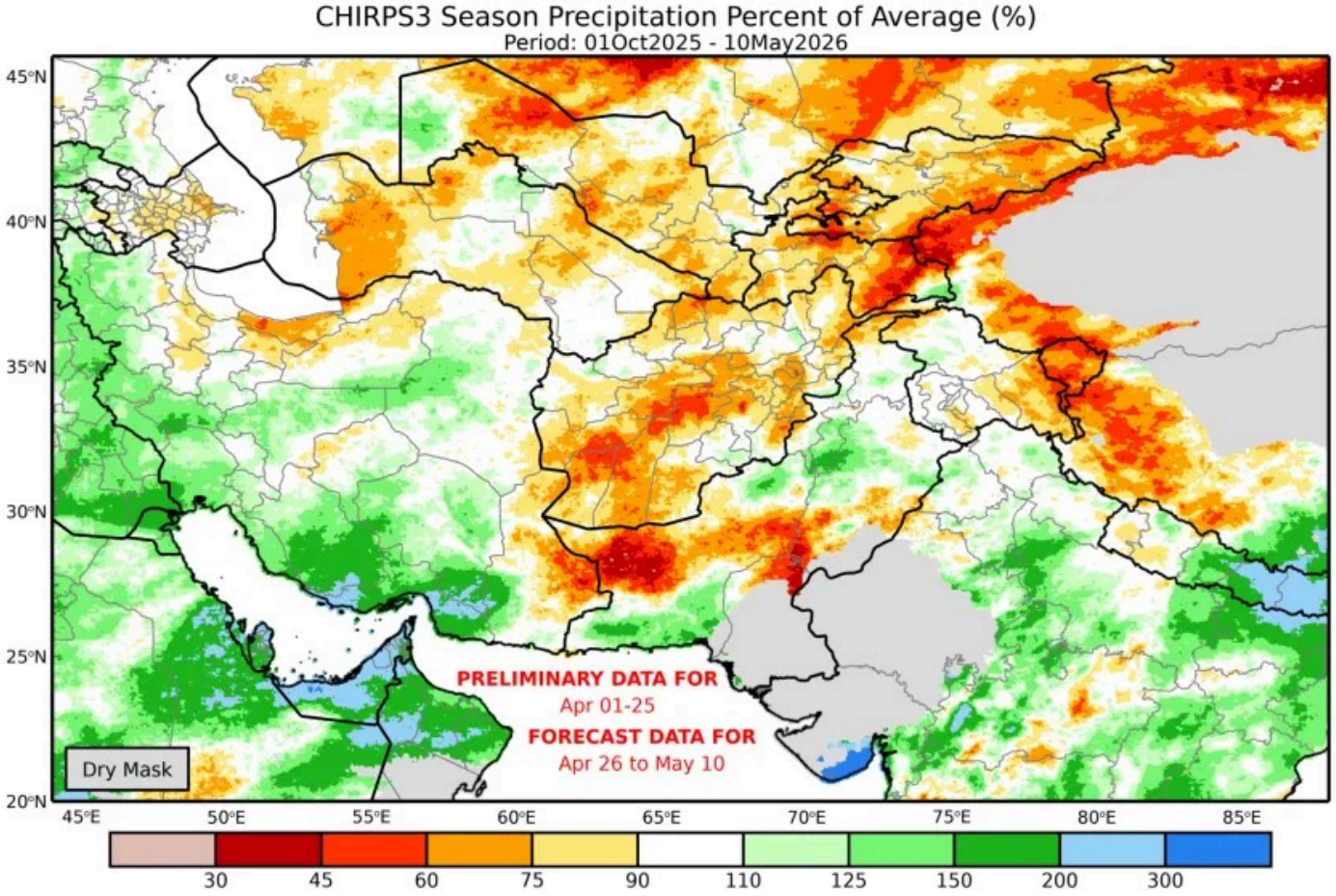


Light yellow to red colors show likelihood of below normal precipitation in the lower tercile, and light to dark green colors show the likelihood of above normal precipitation in upper tercile

Source: Copernicus Climate Change Service

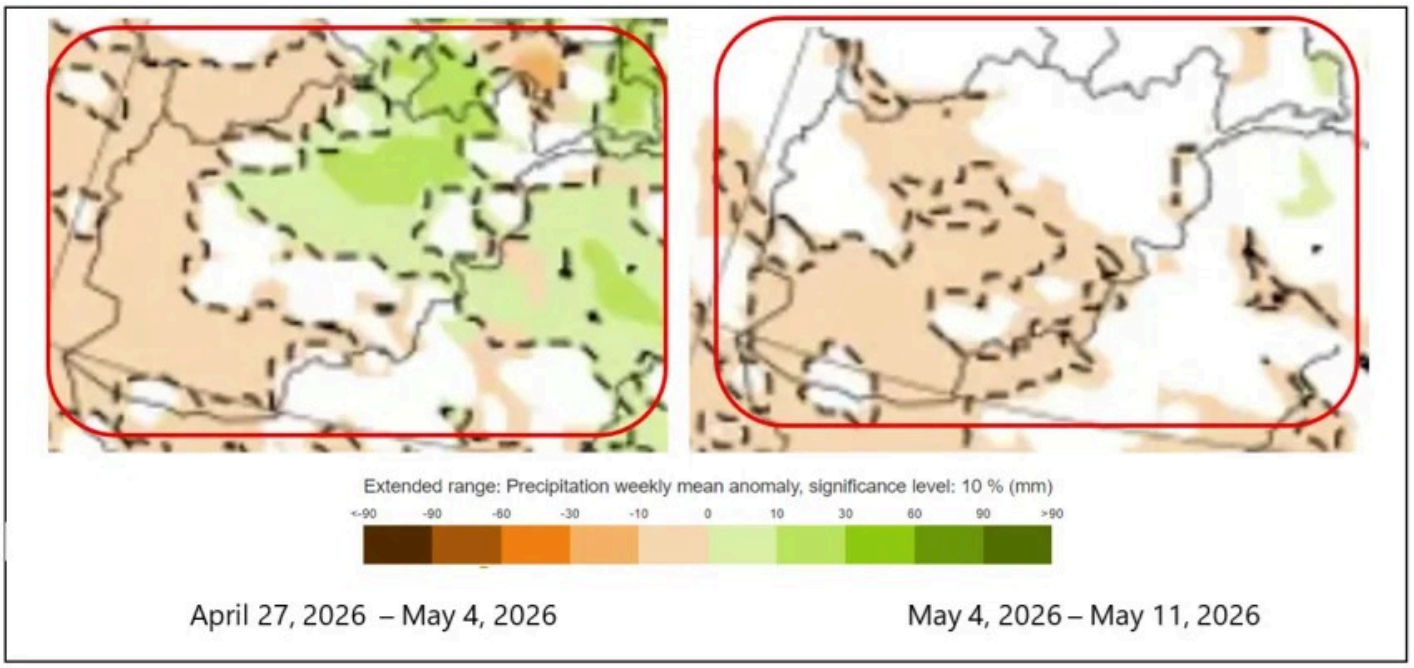
The **CHIRPS-GEFS** short-term cumulative precipitation forecast (October 1, 2025 – May 10, 2026) indicates average to above average cumulative precipitation conditions in the western, northern, northeastern, and southern parts while cumulative precipitation deficits in the range of 45 – 90% of average may persist in the rest of the country **(Figure 5).** The **ECMWF** weekly precipitation forecasts between April 27 – May 4, 2026 indicates an increased likelihood of above average precipitation in central, southeastern, northeastern, and northern parts while there is no tilt in odds towards either above- or below average precipitation elsewhere. There is increased likelihood of below average precipitation in most of the country during the forecast period ending May 11, 2026 (**Figure 6**).

Figure 5. CHIRPS forecasted seasonal precipitation percent of average (%), October 1, 2025 - 10 May 2026



Source: UCSB/CHC

Figure 6. ECMWF weekly mean precipitation forecasts for April 27, 2026 – May 4, 2026, and May 4, 2026 – May 11, 2026, as of April 28, 2026



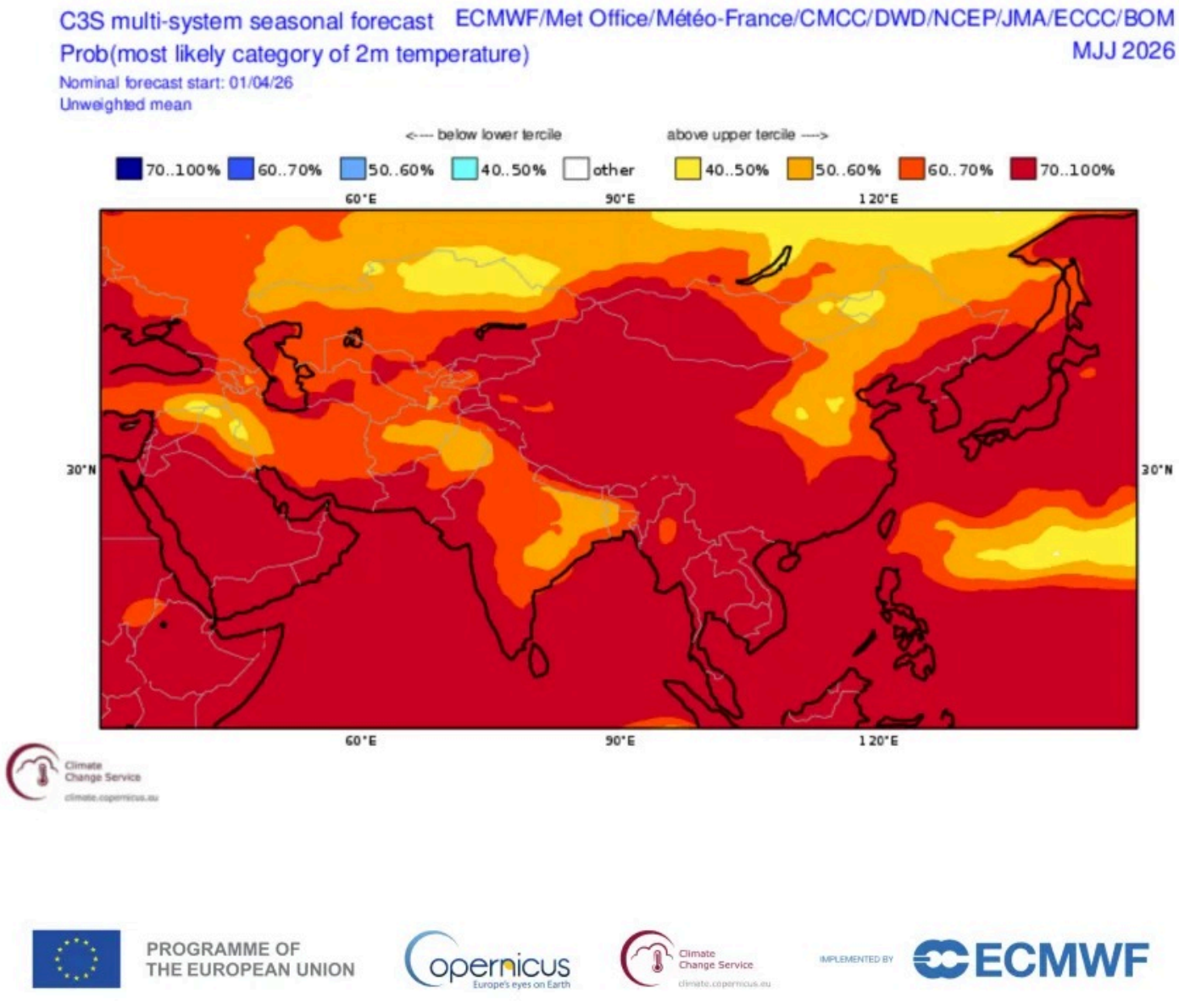
Light to dark green colors show cumulative precipitation anomalies in millimeters above-mean, while light brown to dark red colors show anomalies in percent below-mean.

Source: ECMWF Forecast System

Temperature

Long-term forecasts for May - July 2026 indicate a 50-70% probability of above-average temperatures through the harvest period of the 2025/26 main agricultural season (**Figure 7**).

Figure 7. Climate Change Service (C3S) multi-system seasonal temperature forecast probabilities (2 m temperature) for May through July 2026 generated on April 1, 2026



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

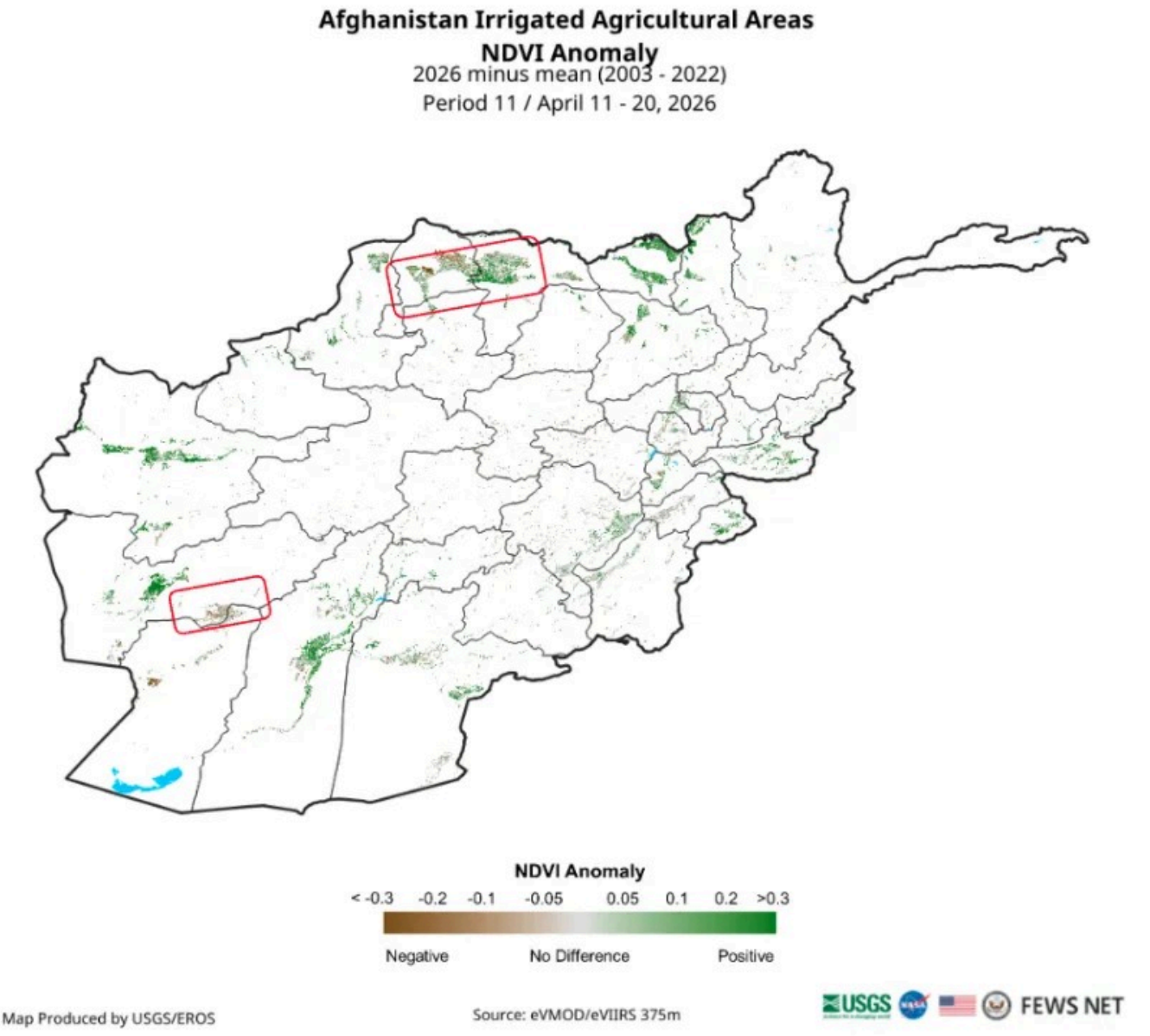
Source: Copernicus Climate Change Service

Crops, orchards, pastures and rangelands

Field reports indicate that extensive rainfall during late March and early April had increased spring wheat planting nationwide. Improved soil moisture levels across various parts of the country have resulted in stable conditions for wheat growth. However below-normal irrigated crop condition in some isolated parts of Jawzjan, Farah, and Nimroz, and below-normal rainfed crop condition in parts of Balkh, Samangan, and Baghlan are highlighted by below-average NDVI as of April 20 indicated by red colored polygons in **Figure 8 and 9**. According to field information, increased inflows into reservoirs have been reported which will ensure water for irrigated crops through early summer. Field

reports also indicate that the total area under wheat is expected to be near average despite below average winter wheat areas at the end of January 2026 due to increased spring wheat planting activity in April 2026. The outlook for regional wheat yields is expected to be near average for the 2025/26 main agricultural season due to the timely precipitation in April 2026. Currently there are no adverse reports of pest and disease, or locust threats in the country.

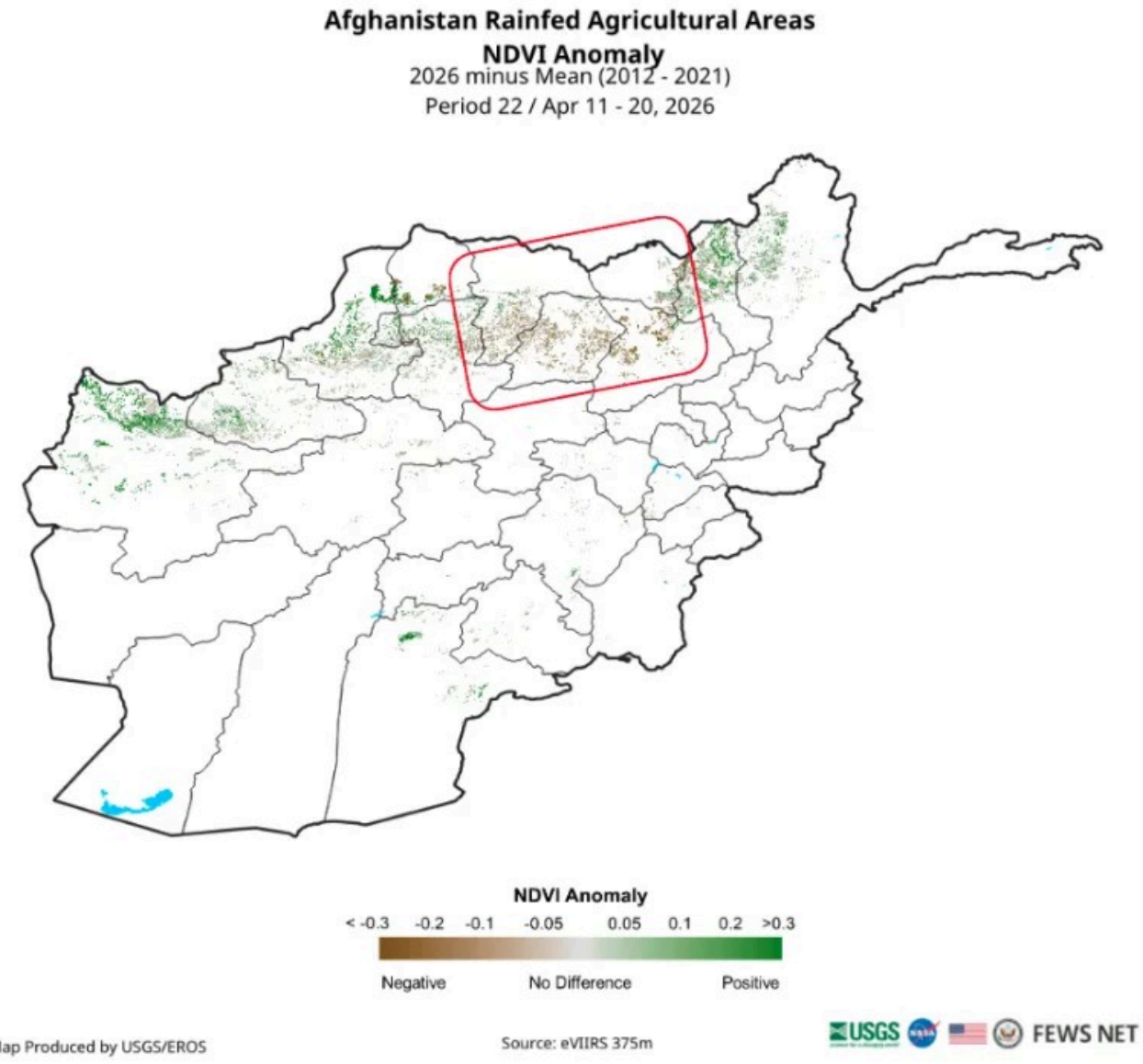
Figure 8. eVIIRS NDVI anomaly in irrigated agricultural areas, April 11 – 20, 2026



Shades of green indicate above average condition of crops while shades of brown indicate below average conditions. NDVI anomaly (less than -0.05) within the red polygon indicates below average condition of irrigated areas as of reported date.

Source: USGS EROS

Figure 9. eVIIRS NDVI anomaly in rainfed agricultural areas, April 11 – 20, 2026



Shades of green indicate above average condition of crops while shades of brown indicate below average conditions. NDVI anomaly (less than -0.05) within the red polygon indicates below average condition of rainfed areas as of reported date.

Source: USGS EROS

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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**.