

El Niño conditions expected to be a key driver of the 2026/27 agricultural season

Key Messages

- **El Niño** conditions are present and expected to intensify through at least January 2027. Strong El Niño conditions are likely to emerge in late 2026 and continue into early 2027.
- Typically, El Niño events result in above-average October through April precipitation. Northern, central, and northeastern areas usually receive above-average precipitation in terms of increased snowfall over higher elevations and increased rain and snow over lower elevations.
- Above-average temperatures are forecast for July–September 2026. While summer crops receive supplementary irrigation, rangeland and pastoral vegetation may be adversely affected by the elevated temperatures (**Figure 1**).
- C3S forecast for September–November 2026, issued in June, suggest wide-spread above-average precipitation is likely. Despite the long lead time, the forecast of above-average precipitation indicates a likely favorable start to the 2026/27 winter wet season. (**Figure 2**).
- With above-average precipitation likely, increased short-term groundwater recharge is expected to partially offset the country's chronic groundwater over-extraction.
- Vegetation conditions are good in the northeastern, eastern, southeastern, and central regions, while they are poor in the northwestern and northern regions (red polygon) as of the reporting date (**Figure 3**).

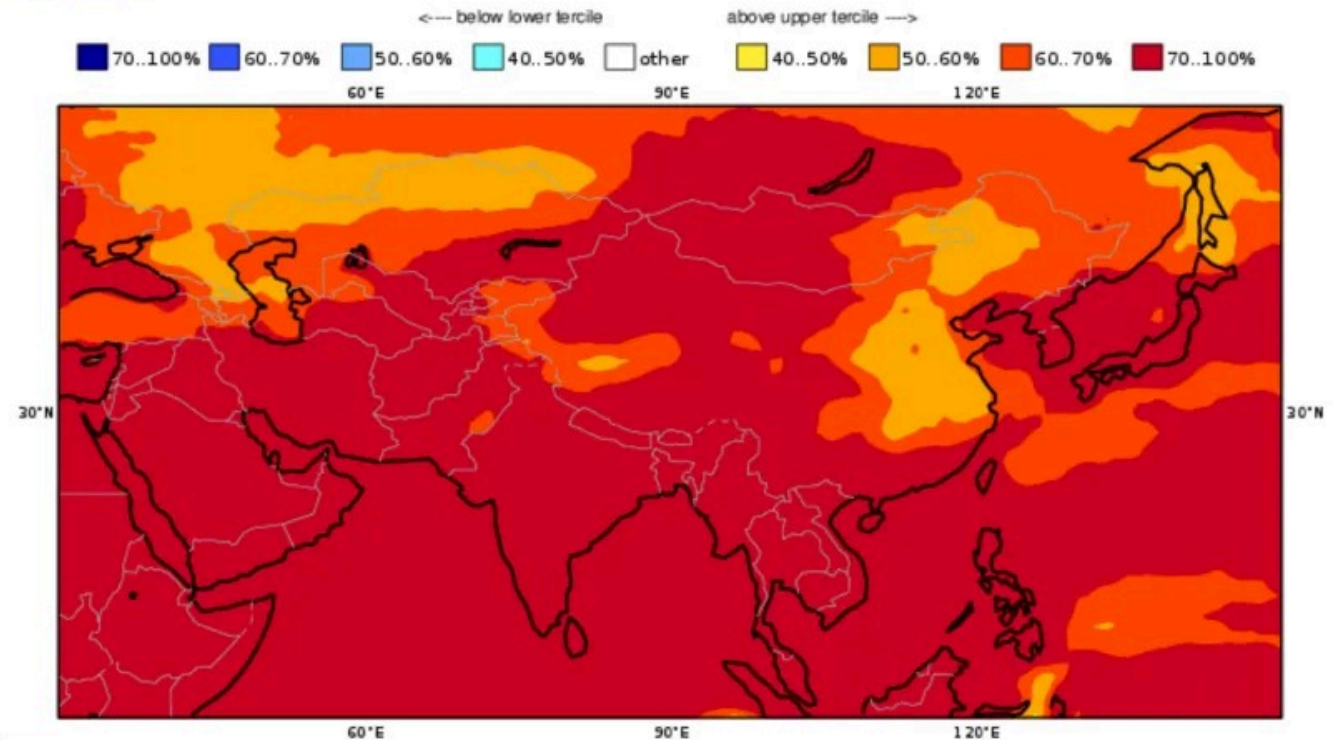


Figure 1

Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) multi-system seasonal temperature forecast probabilities (2 m air temperature) for July through September 2026 generated on June 1, 2026

C3S multi-system seasonal forecast ECMWF/Met Office/Météo-France/CMCC/DWD/NCEP/JMA/ECCC/BOM
 Prob(most likely category of 2m temperature) JAS 2026

Nominal forecast start: 01/06/26
 Unweighted mean



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

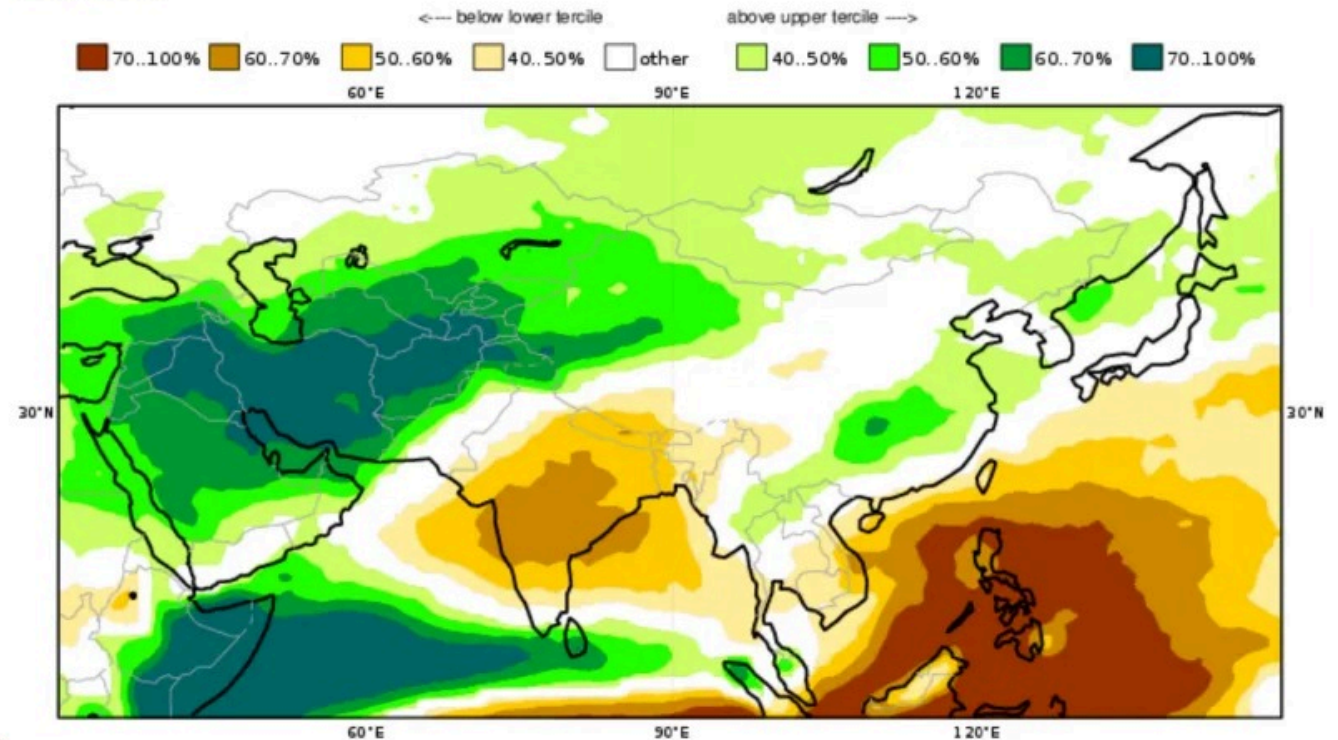
Source: Copernicus Climate Change Service

Figure 2

Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) multi-system seasonal precipitation forecast probabilities for September through November 2026 generated on June 1, 2026

C3S multi-system seasonal forecast ECMWF/Met Office/Météo-France/CMCC/DWD/NCEP/JMA/ECCC/BOM
 Prob(most likely category of precipitation) SON 2026

Nominal forecast start: 01/06/26
 Unweighted mean



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Light yellow to dark brown colors shows 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

Figure 3

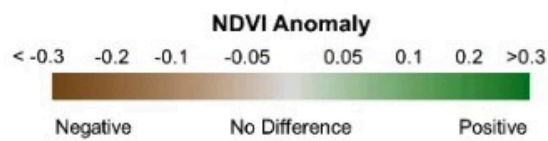
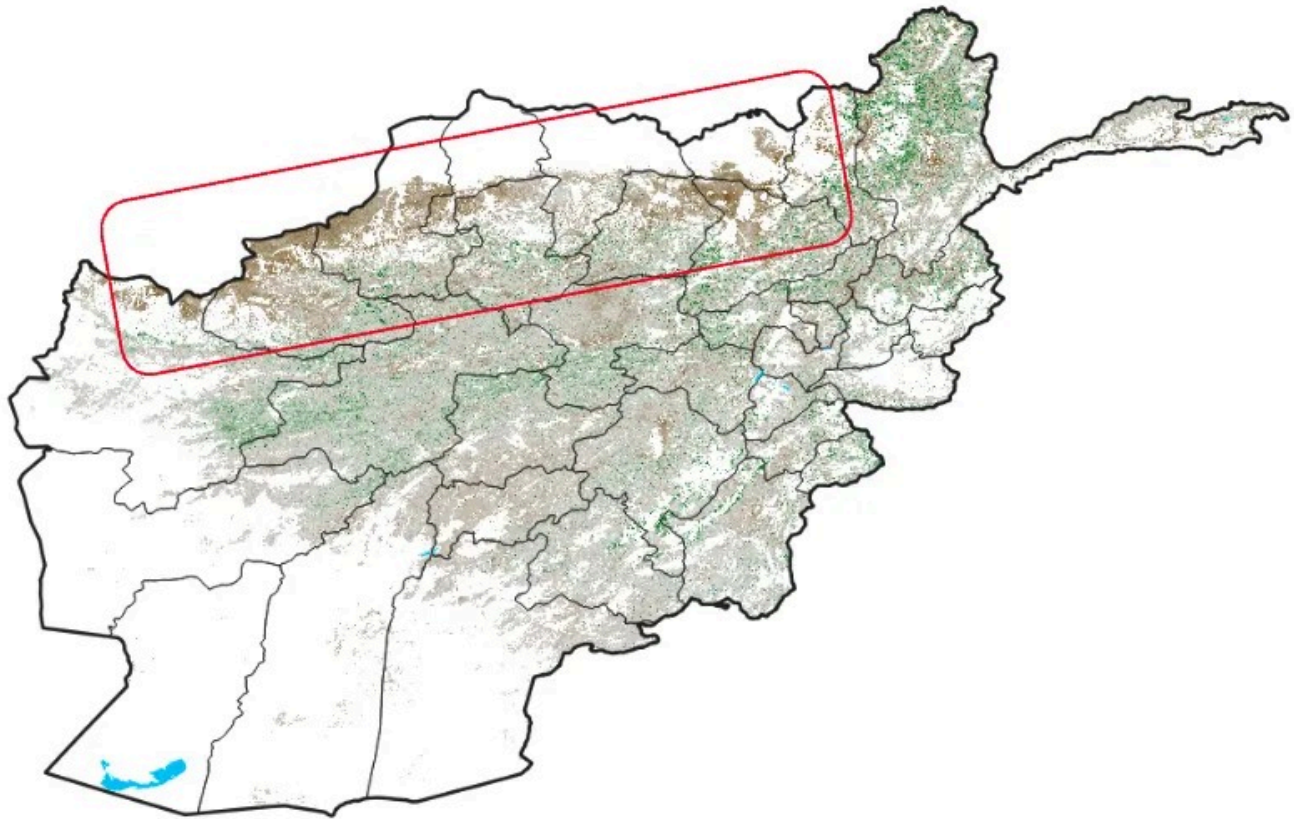
eVIIRS NDVI anomaly in rangeland agricultural areas, June 11 – 20, 2026

Afghanistan Rangeland Agricultural Areas

NDVI Anomaly

2026 minus Mean (2012 - 2021)

Period 34 / Jun 11 - 20, 2026



Map Produced by USGS/EROS

Source: eVIIRS 375m



Shades of green indicate above average condition of rangeland vegetation 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](#).