2025/26 wheat yields are expected to be better than 2024/25 with improved domestic wheat availability

Key Messages

- Below-average cumulative precipitation (October 1, 2025, to May 31, 2026) conditions in most parts of the central, central highlands, west, south, northeast, and north are interspersed with localized average to slightly above-average cumulative precipitation conditions elsewhere.
- Below-average cumulative precipitation (April 1 – May 31, 2026) conditions are seen in some parts of the central, west, south, and north, while average to above-average cumulative precipitation conditions exist in the rest of the country.
- Snow water volume (SWV) levels continue to be at record minimums in Panj, Kokcha_Ab-i-Rustaq, and Khanabad basins in the northeast as of May 25, 2026, while SWV is at 50% of the normal level in the Kunduz basin as of the reporting date. SWV in the rest of the basins are currently at their end-of-the-season levels. SWV levels reached their end-of-the-season minimums on time in Bala Murghab_Kushk, Farah_Adraskan, Khash_Khuspas, Helmand, Arghandab, and Shamal basins on time while SWV reached the minimum levels 2-4 weeks earlier-than-normal elsewhere.
- **El Niño** will emerge in May–July 2026 (82% probability) and continue through winter 2026/27.
- The CHIRPS-GEFS cumulative precipitation forecast (April 1 – June 15, 2026) indicates below average conditions (45-75 percent of average) in some western, central, and northern parts while average to above average conditions exist elsewhere.
- **ECMWF** weekly forecast for June 1 to June 8, 2026, indicates above-average precipitation (up to 10 mm) in some isolated locations in the northeast, while dry weather will persist elsewhere. Below-average precipitation is forecast in most parts of the country, although some isolated locations in the northeast may receive average precipitation during June 8 – 15, 2026.
- Irrigated crop conditions are favorable nationwide except in Jawzjan and Nimroz, while rainfed crop conditions are favorable nationwide except in Kunduz as of the reporting date. Pastoral health is also reported to be favorable across the country.
- As per field reports, the 2025/26 wheat production is forecast to be near average annual wheat production (2021-2025).
- Field reports indicate that groundwater conditions improved in isolated areas following April and May precipitation but remain below average in most basins nationwide.

Update on Seasonal Progress

Above-average precipitation from March 25 to April 10, 2026, supported extended spring wheat sowings till mid-April. Field reports indicate that above-normal spring wheat planting helped restore winter wheat area left fallow because of below-average precipitation till end of January 2026. Further, spring rains also improved the condition of wheat crops in flowering stage which in turn improved the irrigated and rainfed wheat yield prospects. Currently, harvest of wheat is in progress in different parts of the country. SWV levels are below normal in the northeastern basins while SWV have reached their end-of-the-season levels in the rest. There are no reports of adverse soil moisture or

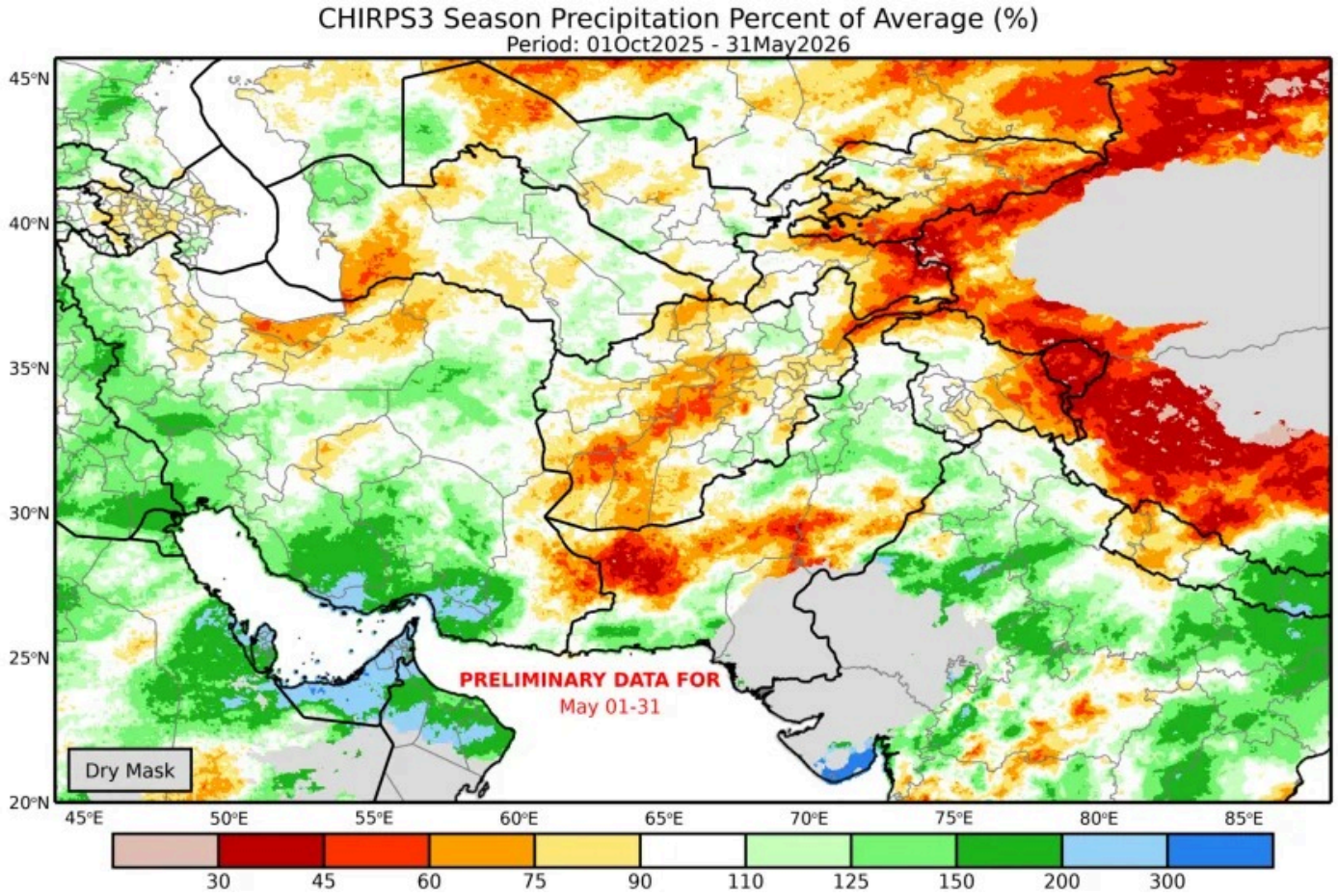
FEWS NET Afghanistan
afghanistan@fews.net
fews.net/middle-east-and-asia/afghanistan

widespread pest and disease outbreaks, or moisture stress conditions in wheat cultivating zones and pastures. However, there are reports of localized infestations of yellow rust, pests, and locust attack in some areas. These incidents are not expected to have any significant impact on wheat yields at the national level.

Precipitation

Cumulative precipitation from October 1, 2025, to March 25, 2026, was below average across the country. Well-distributed rainfall through April 10, 2026, reduced these deficits in some areas, while localized average to above-average conditions emerged in parts of Badghis and Faryab in the west; Baghlan, Samangan, and Takhar in the northeast; and Zabul, Ghazni and Nangarhar in the east, and Paktika in the south (**Figure 1**). From April 1 to May 25, 2026, cumulative precipitation remained below average (45–60 percent of average) in parts of Faryab, Badghis, Herat, Farah, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Dayakundi, Jawzjan, Balkh, and Sari Pul, while average to above-average conditions were observed elsewhere (**Figure 2**).

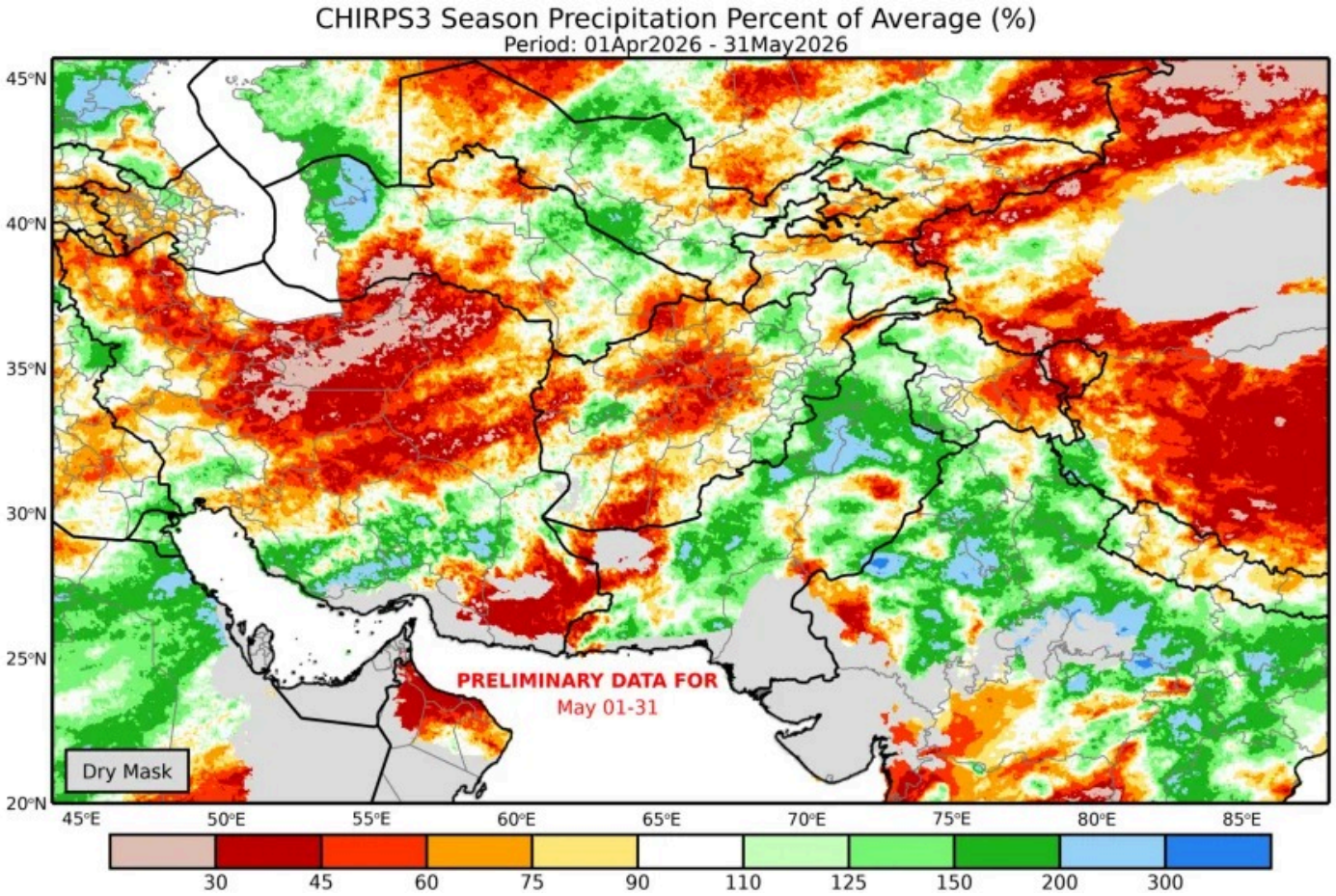
Figure 1. CHIRPS seasonal precipitation percent of average (%), October 1, 2025 – May 31, 2026



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

Figure 2. CHIRPS seasonal precipitation percent of average (%), April 1, 2026 – May 31, 2026



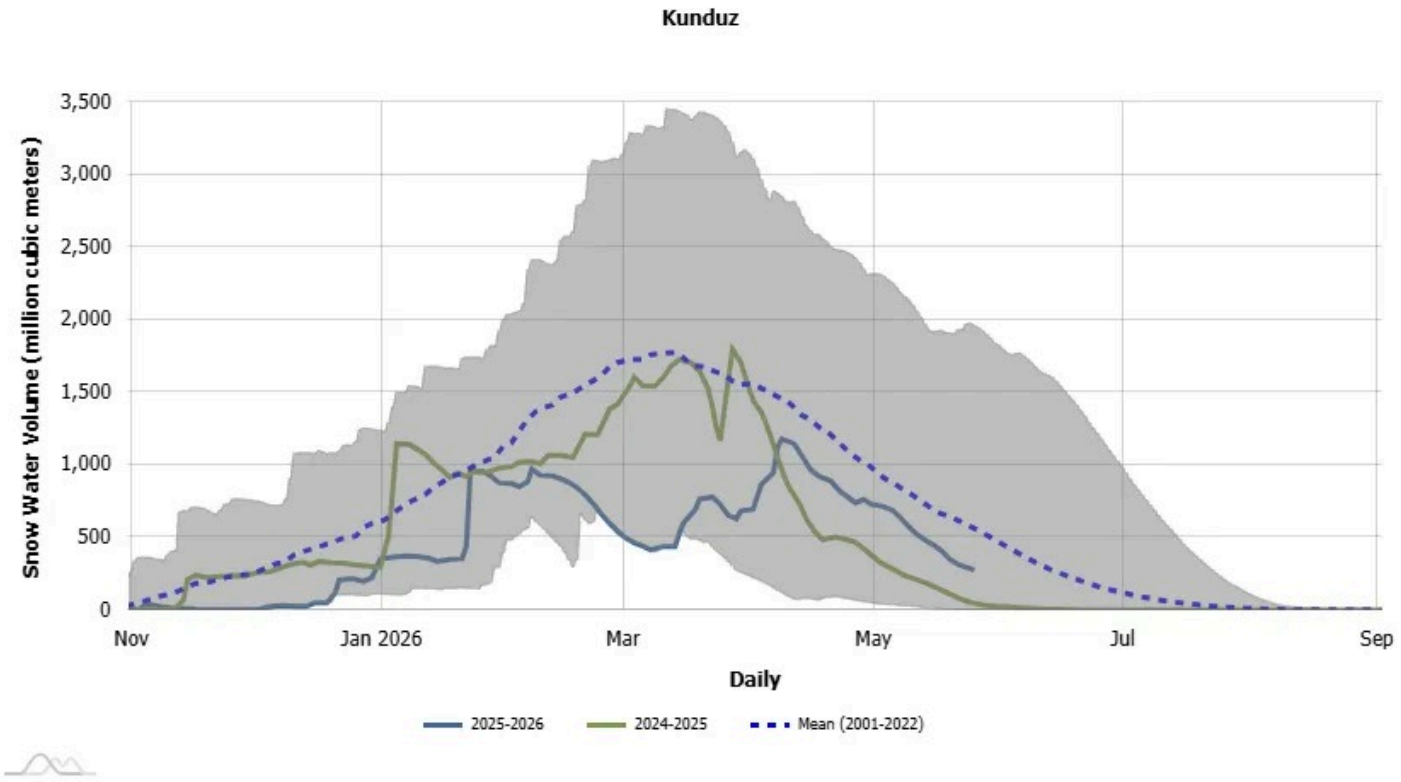
Source: UCSB/CHC

Snow conditions

Snow water equivalent (SWE) remained below average at higher elevations throughout the 2025/26 season. In April, above-average SWE was observed at medium and lower elevations in the central highlands, central, and southeastern basins. SWE is currently below average across all basins.

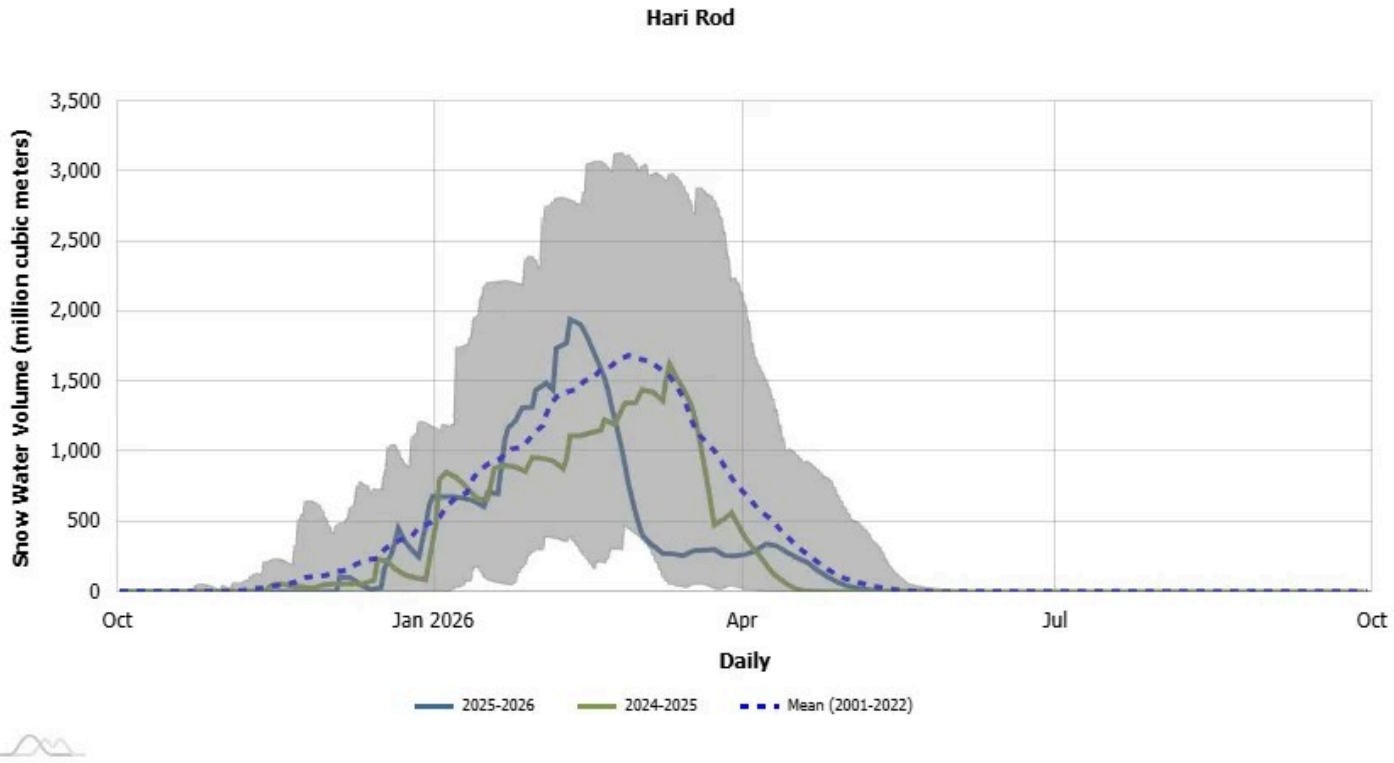
Snow water volume (SWV) levels were at record minimums in Panj, Kokcha_Ab-i-Rustaq, and Khanabad basins in the northeast during entire 2025/26 season. SWV levels in Sari Pul and Shirin Tagab basins in the north; in Bala Murghab_Kushk, Farah Adraskan, and Khash Khuspas basins in the west; and in Helmand, Ghani, and Shamal basins in the south recorded above-average levels during January-February 2026 however were below average for the rest of the 2024/25 season. SWV levels were below average throughout the 2025/26 season. An increase in the snow water volume (SWV) levels is seen in most basins due to snowfall at medium and lower elevations in April 2026. SWV in the Kunduz basin is 50 percent of normal, while levels in the remaining basins have reached their end-of-season minimums; northeastern basins remain at record lows as of the reporting date. **Figures 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 May 24, 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 May 25, 2026



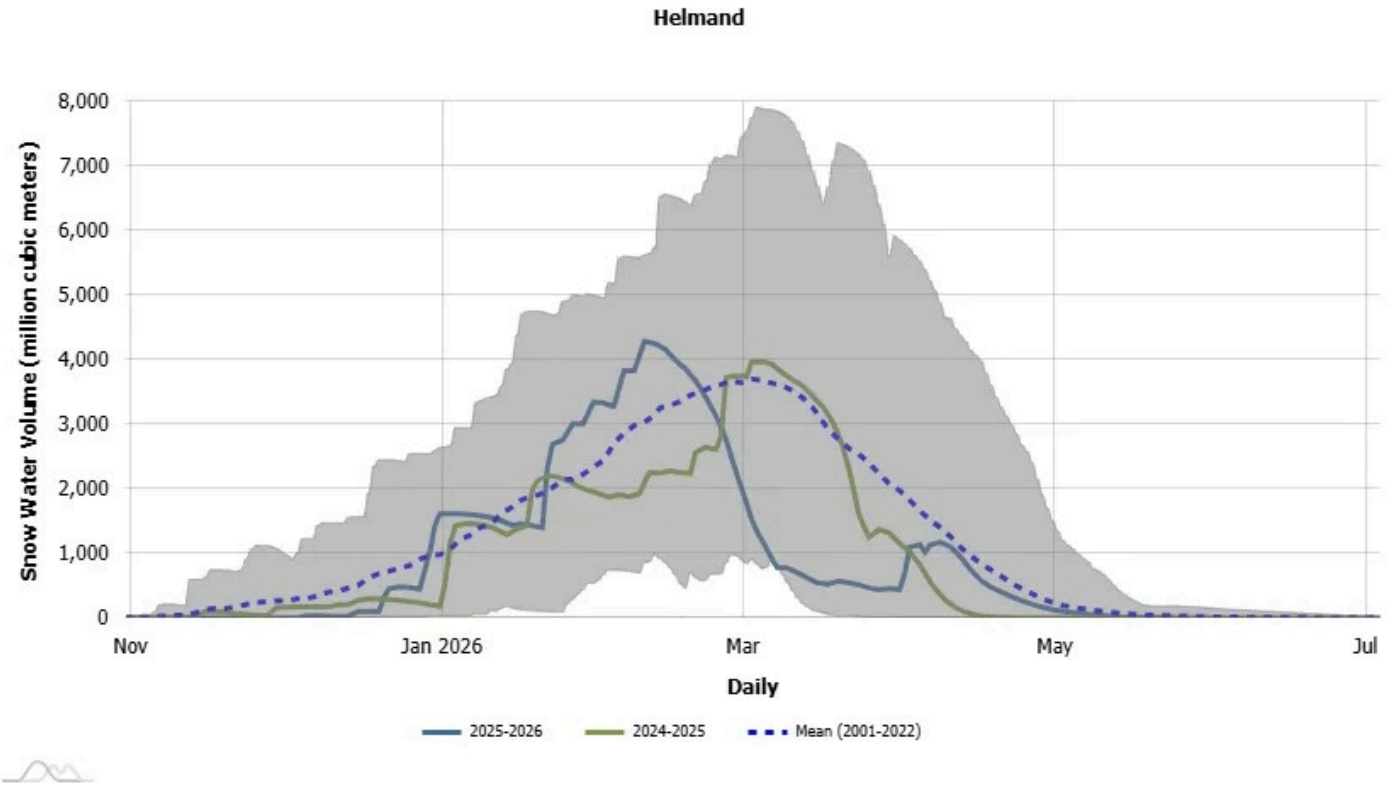
Source: USGS/NASA

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 May 25, 2026



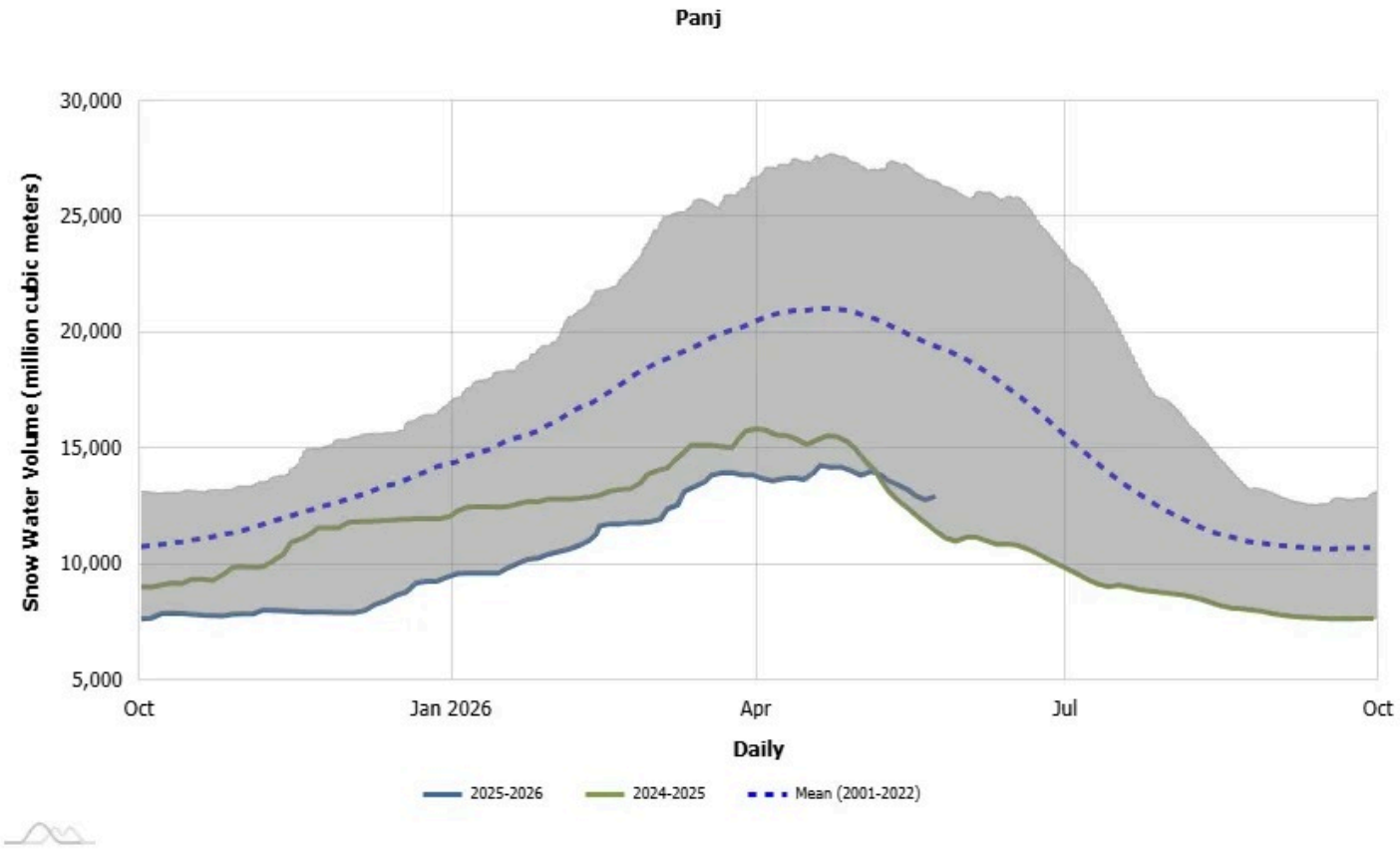
Source: USGS/NASA

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 May 25, 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 May 25, 2026



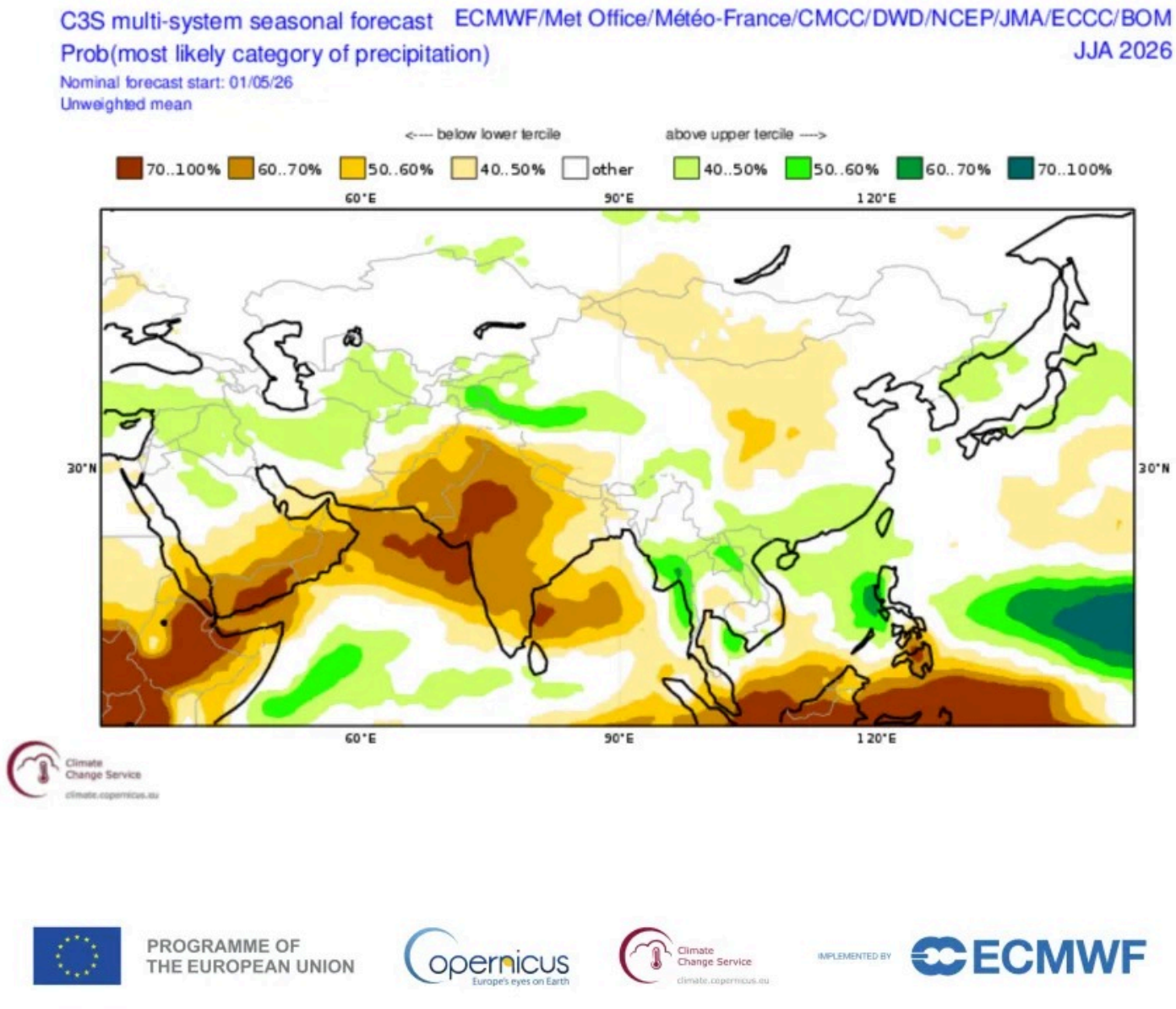
Source: USGS/NASA

Forecast

Precipitation

The Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) forecast for June–August 2026, issued in May 2026, covering summer crop cultivation, indicates no tilt in odds towards above- or below-average precipitation across most of the country. Exceptions include a higher likelihood of below-average precipitation in southern areas bordering Pakistan and above-average precipitation in isolated northern locations (**Figure 4**).

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



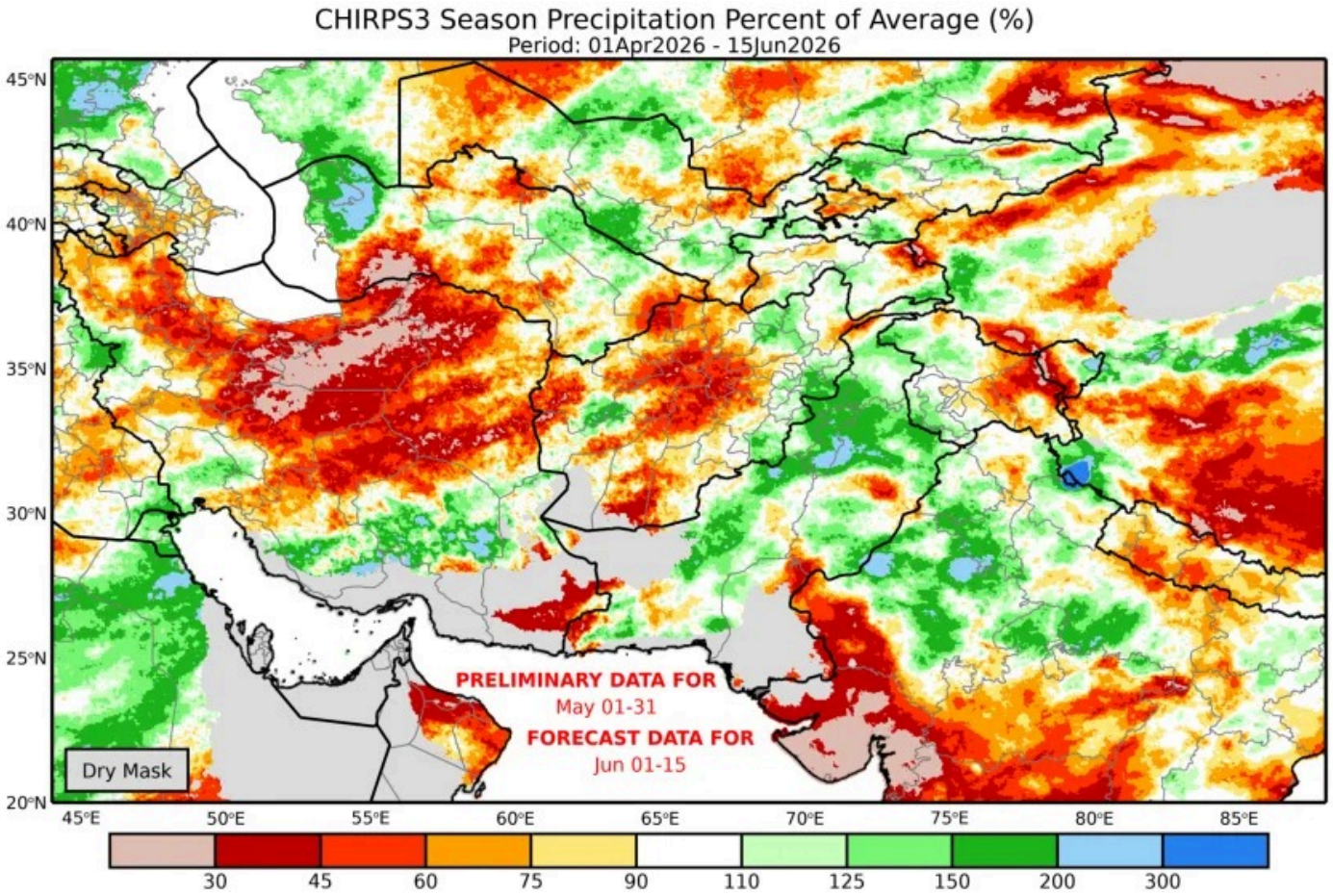
Light yellow to red colors show likelihood of below normal precipitation in the lower tercile, and light to dark green colors show the likelihood of above normal precipitation in upper tercile

Source: Copernicus Climate Change Service

The **CHIRPS-GEFS** cumulative precipitation (April1 – June 15, 2026) forecast indicates below average cumulative precipitation conditions (45-70 percent of average) in western, central, northern and southern parts of the country while average to above average cumulative precipitation conditions may be found elsewhere **(Figure 5).** The **ECMWF** weekly precipitation forecasts between June 1 - 8, 2026 indicates predominantly dry weather with most regions experiencing below average precipitation except for above average precipitation (up to 10 mm) occurring in some isolated locations in the northeast. During the subsequent week of June 8 to June 15, 2026, below average

precipitation becomes more widespread nationwide although some isolated locations in the northeast may receive average precipitation (**Figure 6**). The anticipated precipitation is likely to benefit the land preparation for summer crop cultivation.

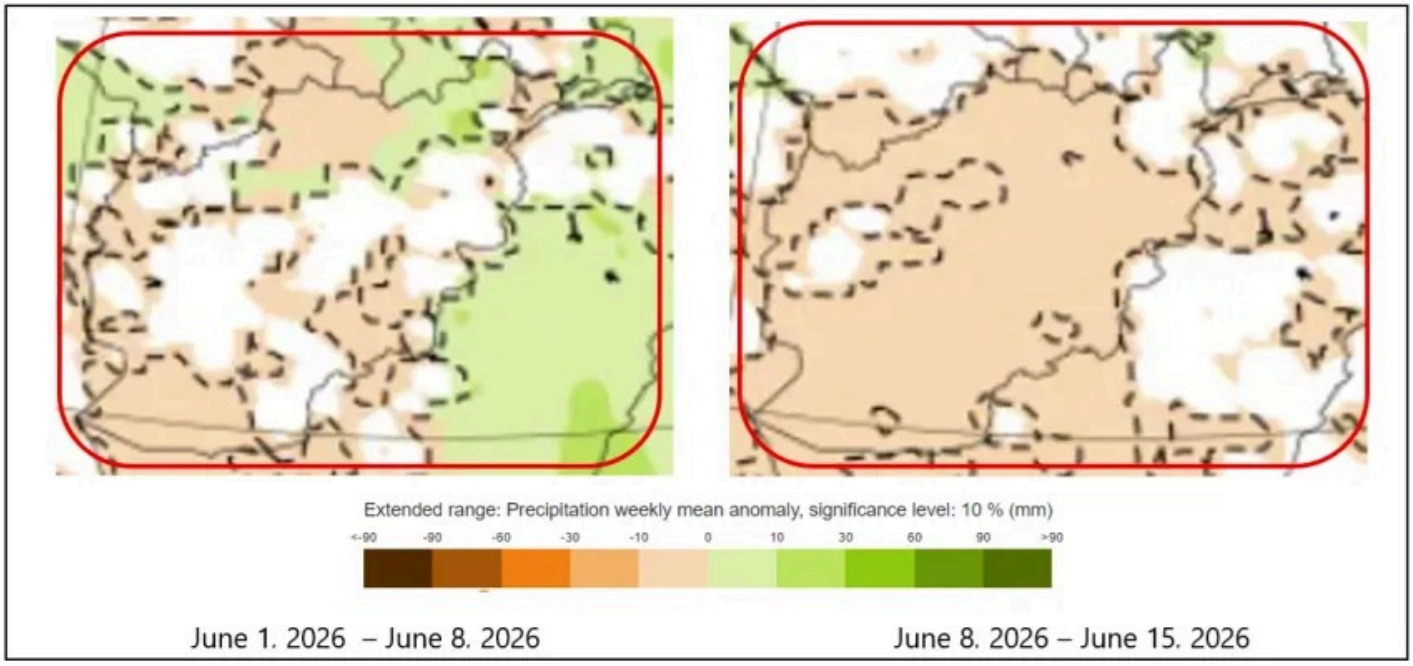
Figure 5. CHIRPS forecasted seasonal precipitation percent of average (%), April 1, 2025 – June 15, 2026



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

Source: UCSB/CHC

Figure 6. ECMWF weekly mean precipitation forecasts for June 1, 2026 – June 8, 2026, and June 8, 2026 – June 15, 2026, as of June 1, 2026



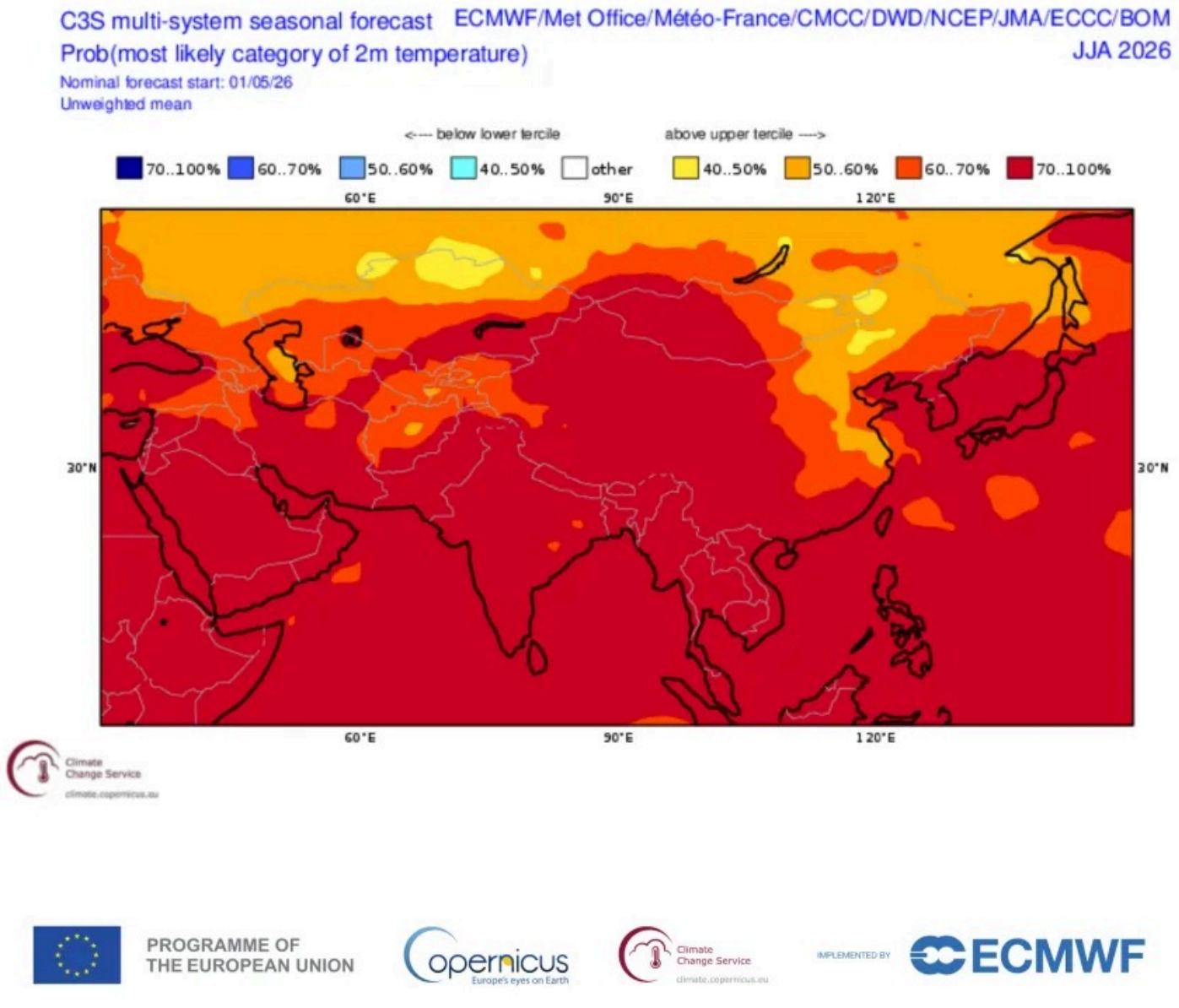
Light to dark green colors show cumulative precipitation anomalies in millimeters above-mean, while light brown to dark red colors show anomalies in percent below-mean.

Source: ECMWF Forecast System

Temperature

Long-term forecasts for June–August 2026 indicate a 50–70 percent chance of above-average temperatures during the summer following the 2025/26 agricultural season (**Figure 7**).

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

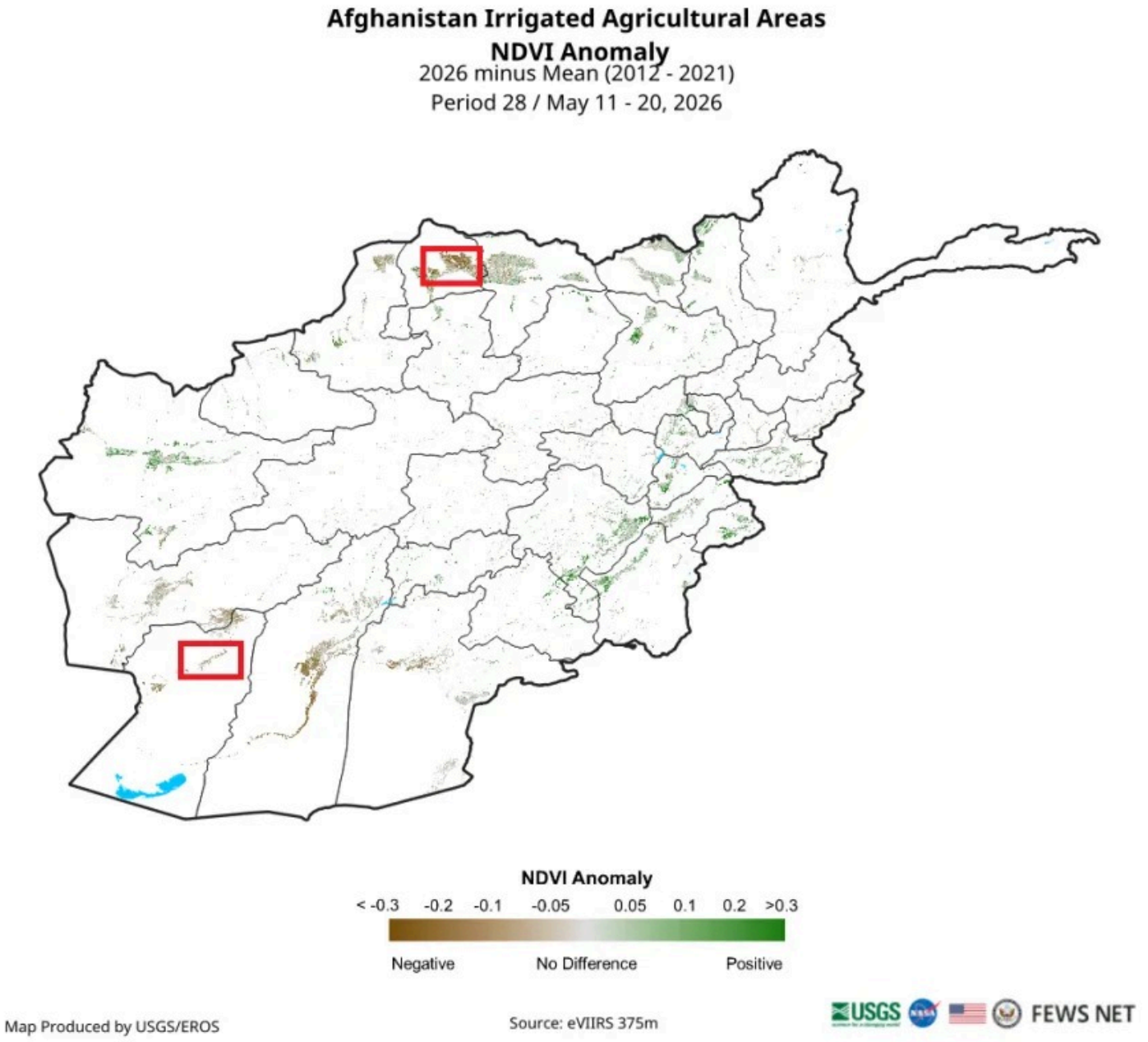
Source: Copernicus Climate Change Service

Crops, orchards, pastures and rangelands

Field reports indicate that extensive rainfall during late March and early April had improved soil moisture levels across various parts of the country, which in turn improved the irrigated and rainfed crops, and that of rangeland vegetation as reflected by corresponding NDVI profiles. However, isolated below-normal irrigated crop conditions in Jawzjan and Nimroz, and below-normal rainfed crop conditions in Kunduz are highlighted by below-average NDVI as of May 20 (indicated by red colored polygons in **Figure 8 and 9**). Above average NDVI values in other irrigated and rainfed areas are indicative of the average to above average wheat production outlook for the 2025/26 main

agricultural season. There are no adverse reports of widespread attacks of pests and disease, or locust threats despite very localized infestation of yellow rust. These incidents are not expected to have any significant impact on wheat yields at the national level.

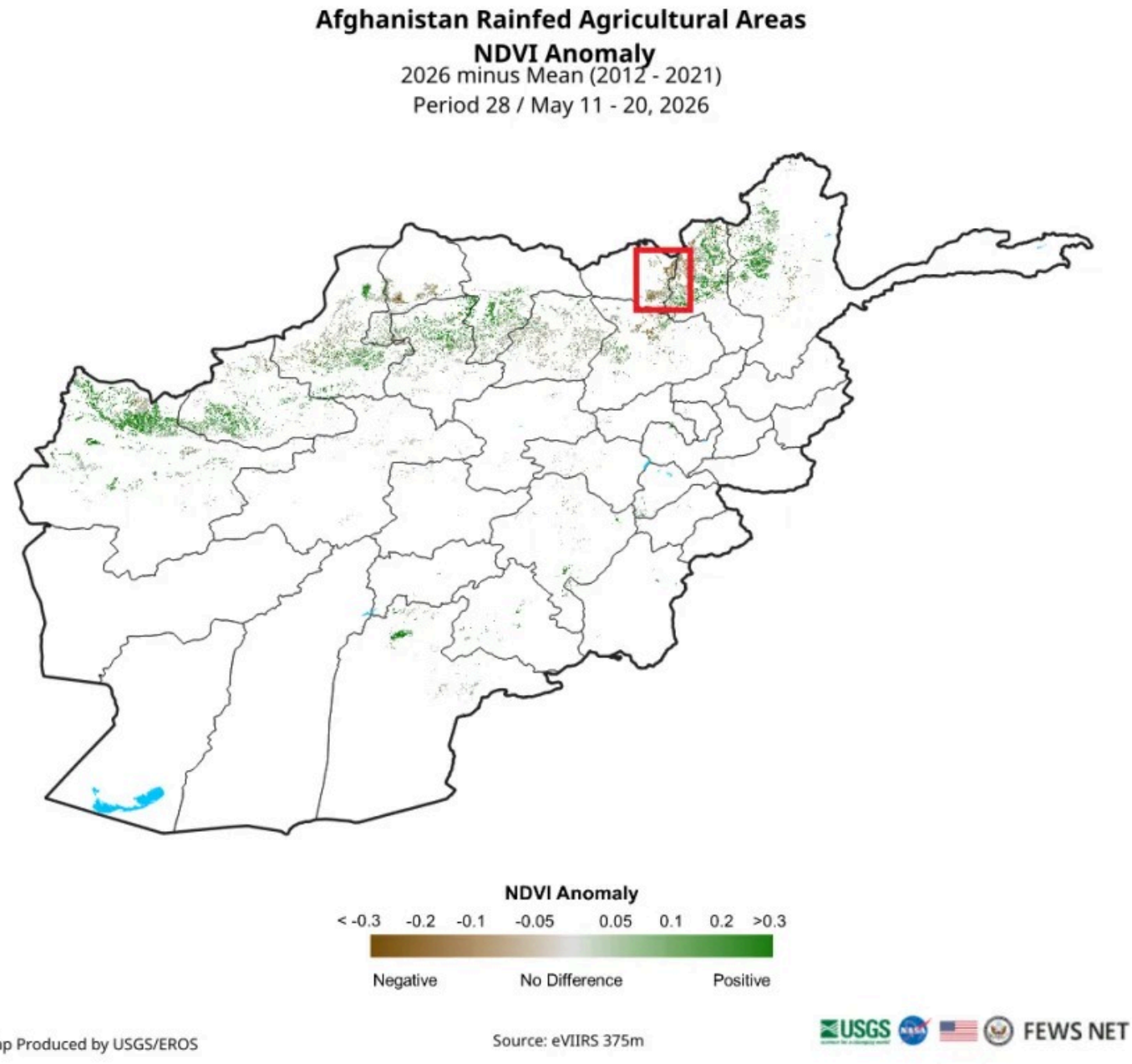
Figure 8. eVIIRS NDVI anomaly in irrigated agricultural areas, May 11 – 20, 2026



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

Figure 9. eVIIRS NDVI anomaly in rainfed agricultural areas, May 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

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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**.