

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Number: PL2020-0021

Report Name: May Rains Aid Polish Farmers But 2020 Drought Concerns Persist

Country: Poland

Post: Warsaw

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Agriculture in the Economy, National Plan, Policy and Program Announcements, Grain and Feed, Planting Seeds

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Report Highlights:

Poland entered a meteorological drought around March 10. Despite recent rainfall during the first week of May, some Polish weather experts predict that the situation will worsen and that Poland could face a third-straight year of drought. Although current cropping conditions improved considerably following recent early May precipitation, weather conditions in May and June will be critical for Poland's the 2020 harvest.

General Information:

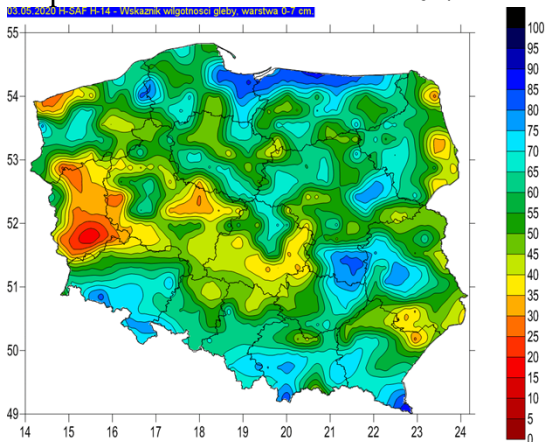
According to Polish media reports, Polish farmers are once again facing the prospects of a drought in 2020. Poland has faced consistently dry weather conditions since 2018, which have adversely affected surface and groundwater levels. Another drought in 2020 would mark Poland's third consecutive year of drought.

According to the Polish Institute of Meteorology and Water Management (IMWM), January 2020 was dry, although February rainfall levels were about double the long-term index for that month. Soil moisture levels and river levels were roughly average. In April 2020, ground water levels appeared to decline to below average. According to experts from the Institute of Crops, Fertilization, and Soil Sciences in Pulawy (CFSS), to date, it is still too early to forecast drought-related yield losses, particularly after widespread rainfall during the first week of May. According to farmers, initial prospects for the 2020 crops be more apparent as of early June.

According to the Polish Central Statistical Office (CSO), marketing year 2020/21 winter crops benefitted from mild winter conditions with no damaging frosts and no severe cases of winterkill. The 2019/20 winter was so mild that plants in some areas did not fully enter into states of winter dormancy. In most of Poland, vegetation began to emerge from dormancy during the third week of February 2020, 3-4 weeks earlier than average. Dry and chilly weather in early April made weed control difficult for winter cereal crops and reduced soil moisture during this period made it difficult for plants to absorb nutrients. Despite these challenges, Polish winter crops are generally healthy and were buoyed by recent May rains. Winter grains account for 70 percent of total Polish grain production. Poland's current winter wheat crop looks to be in good condition.

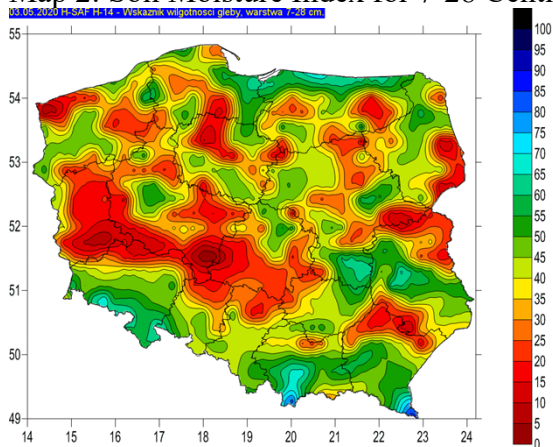
Polish farmers began the spring 2020 planting season early. In western Poland, the spring wheat, spring barley, and sugar beet planting began 2-3 weeks earlier than usual. Despite dry weather during spring planting, Poland received widespread rain during the first week of May, which improved surface soil moisture and created favorable germinations conditions. The early May rains were gentle and allowed for gradual absorption. Despite these rains, soil conditions below 7 centimeters remain dry. Poland's upcoming weather forecast looks favorable, with sporadic showers and chilly, moist conditions, which should help to prevent rapid evaporation. CFSS will publish its next drought report in early June 2020.

Map 1: Soil Moisture Index for 0-7 Centimeters, May 3, 2020



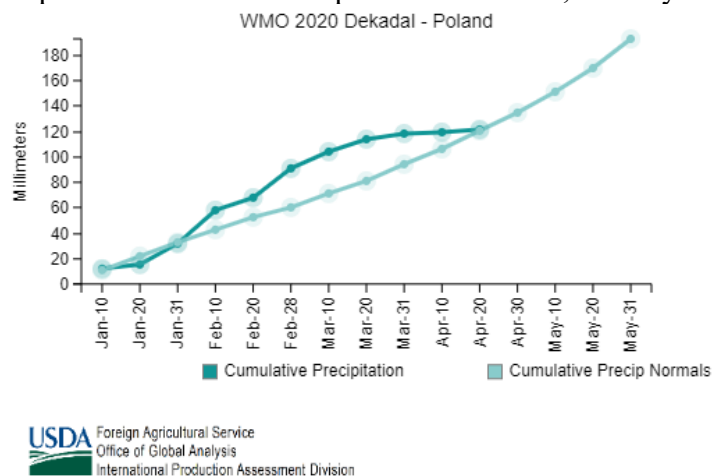
Source: IMWM

Map 2: Soil Moisture Index for 7-28 Centimeters, May 3, 2020

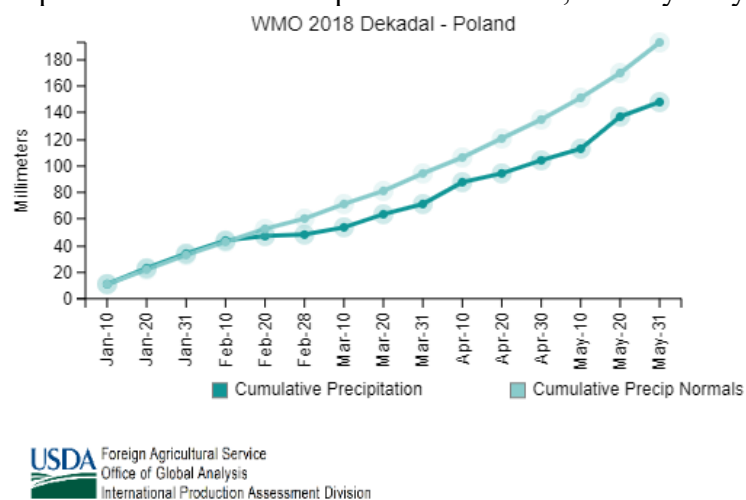


Source: IMWM

Graph 1: Cumulative Precipitation in Poland, January-May 2020



Graph 2: Cumulative Precipitation in Poland, January-May 201



Attachments:

No Attachments.