

CARIBBEAN AGRO-CLIMATIC BULLETIN OF THE CARISAM



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A joint bulletin of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH).

KEY MESSAGES

North Atlantic temperatures should remain well above average, continuing to (1) fuel some tropical cyclone activity; and (2) increase shower intensity during the tail end of the Caribbean Wet Season, leading to a high potential for flooding and cascading hazards until the end of 2023.

Episodes of moderate heat stress may linger with high temperatures, humidity and heatwaves during the transition out of the 2023 Heat Season in November.

Drought concerns may continue in Barbados, Grand Cayman and parts of the Lesser Antilles.

A decrease in the frequency of wet spells may cause arising drought concerns in the Greater Antilles and, partly due to El Niño, in parts of the Guianas.

SEPTEMBER IN REVIEW

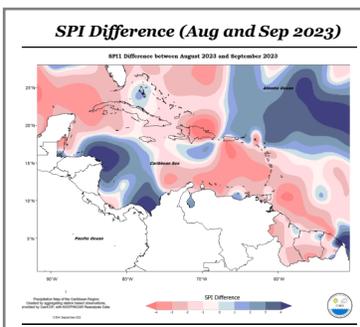
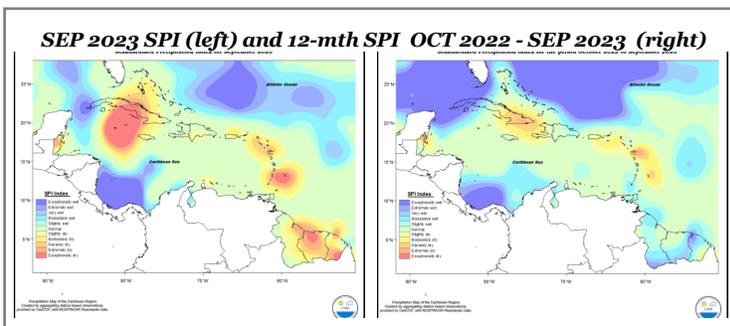
Normal to below normal conditions prevailed throughout the eastern Caribbean during the month of September. Trinidad was predominantly normal ranging to slightly dry in the northeast; Tobago slight to predominantly moderately dry; Grenada, St Maarten and Anguilla moderate to severely dry; Barbados exceptionally dry; St Vincent extremely dry; Saint Lucia extreme to moderately dry; Martinique normal; Dominica predominantly moderately dry ranging to slightly dry in the south and severely dry in the extreme north; Guadeloupe mostly severely dry ranging to extremely dry; Antigua and St Kitts severely dry; and St Croix and St Thomas slightly dry. In the Guianas, conditions ranged from exceptionally dry to slightly wet. Aruba and Curacao were slightly dry.

Puerto Rico was normal to moderately dry. The Dominican Republic ranged from slightly dry to normal from south to north and east. Jamaica ranged from extremely dry in the west to normal in the east. Grand Cayman was exceptionally dry. Cuba ranged from exceptionally dry in central areas to exceptionally wet in the west and to normal in the east. Northern Bahamas ranged from severely dry to normal and Belize ranged from extremely dry in west and central areas to normal in the south and moderately dry in the north.

ABOUT CarISAM

The Caribbean Society for Agricultural Meteorology (CarISAM) is an online platform that hosts forums, provided online weather and climate information for agro-meteorologists, and much more. Agricultural interests can register and access relevant information and be a part of future capacity building exercises, and more. Visit us at: www.carisam.cimh.edu.bb

Predominantly normal to extremely dry conditions prevailed across the Caribbean Islands during the 12-month period (October 2022 to September 2023) with the exception of the Guianas, Trinidad, Grenada, north western Cuba and The Bahamas, which were normal to extremely dry.



Predominantly drier conditions were observed across the region in the month of August than September.

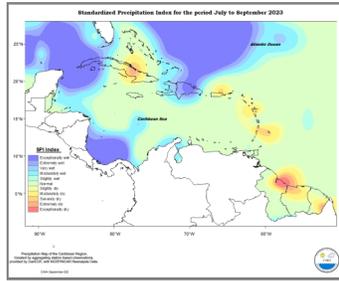
Read more at <https://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/spi-monitor/>

AGRI-NEWS

Guyana: Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha is encouraging individuals to practice water conservation during the ongoing prolonged dry spell, which is projected to continue until the end of November. Read more <https://agriculture.gov.gy/2023/10/11/guyana-has-adequate-water-supply-amid-dry-spell-min-mustapha/>

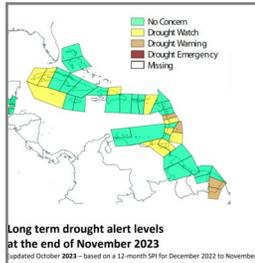
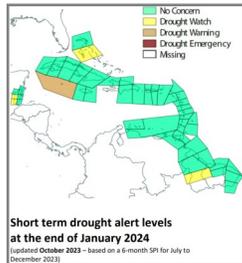
REGIONAL OUTLOOKS

DROUGHT



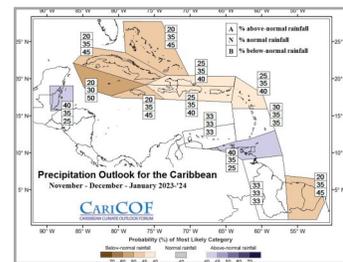
Severe (or worse) short-term drought has developed in Barbados, parts of Central Cuba, southeast French Guiana, northeast Guyana, southern Saint Lucia, and northwest Suriname. Severe (or worse) long-term drought has developed in parts of Barbados, northeast Belize, eastern Cuba, eastern Guadeloupe.

There is some concern over short-term drought that can impact small rivers, streams and ponds, across the region by the end of January across Grand Cayman and possibly across southwest Belize, The Bahamas, and southern Guyana. Interests in these territories should monitor their water resources.



November 2023 across Barbados, Dominica, and the interior of French Guiana and possibly across western Belize, Grand Cayman, Cuba, northern Dominican Republic, Martinique, Trinidad and Tobago, and the USVI. Interests in these countries should monitor their water resources.

RAINFALL, WET/DRY SPELLS, TEMPERATURE and HEATWAVE DAYS (NOVEMBER 2023—JANUARY 2024)



Rainfall totals from November through January are likely to be the usual or lower across Belize and Trinidad and Tobago. By contrast, the Bahamas, Greater Antilles and eastern part of the Guianas are likely to record the usual rainfall amounts or less.

High potential for long-term flooding, flash floods and related hazards exists across the Caribbean islands and Belize through December; moderate potential in the Guianas, increasing to high after November in coastal and northern areas in view of the likelihood of very wet spells and extreme wet spells. In the Guianas, a slow trend towards heavier showers from late-November may keep flood potential lower than usual.

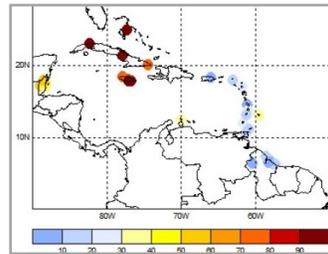
CONTACT US:

Adrian Trotman
 Agro-meteorologist/ Chief of Applied Meteorology and Climatology, CIMH
 Email: atrotman@cimh.edu.bb

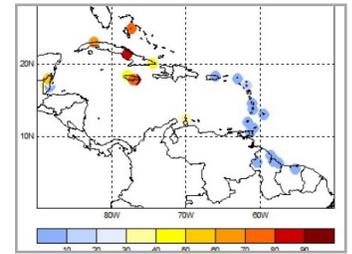
Shontelle Stoute
 Technical Officer, CIMH
 Email: [sstoute@cimh.edu.bb](mailto:ssoute@cimh.edu.bb)

Kistian Flemming
 Climate Change Development Specialist, CARDI
 Email: kflemming@cardi.org

Probability of at least THREE 7-day dry spells in NDI

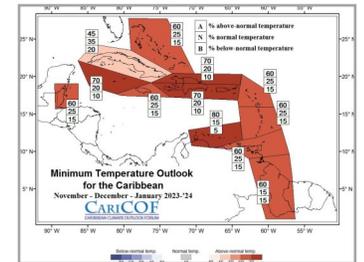
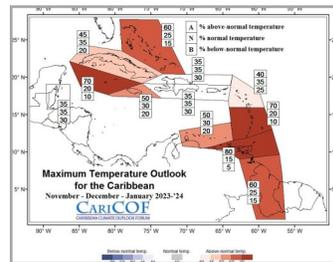


Probability of at least ONE 15-day dry spell in NDI



The occurrence of at least three 7-day dry spells, and at least one 15-day dry spell, is likely across Jamaica, Cuba and northern Bahamas.

Day-time (maximum) and night-time (minimum) temperatures, for November through January, are likely to be as high, or even higher, than usual in many areas, with the occasional heat wave remaining possible into November. However, heat stress should steadily decrease in November, going the cool season from December.



Visit <http://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/climate-outlooks/> to access the latest climate outlooks.

CLIMATE-SMART ADVISORIES

As the region approaches the 2023/24 Dry Season, farmers should review their drought management plans/techniques and be prepared in the event of the occurrence of short/long-term drought or significant dry spells.

In the event of dry spells:

- ◆ Ensure regular weeding to reduce competition and further stress to crops
- ◆ Schedule irrigation
- ◆ Utilize irrigation techniques to apply the right amount of water for the crop and to avoid runoff

Maintain proper records of inputs and the crop under cultivation and/or livestock being reared.

Continue to be hurricane prepared! Hurricane season ends in November.

Please also keep updated and take into consideration your local weather and climate advisories.

Disclaimer

The information contained herein is provided with the understanding that the CARDI, and the CIMH make no warranties, either expressed or implied concerning the accuracy, completeness, reliability or suitability of said information. This bulletin provides a broad overview of climate conditions up to 6 months in advance. It is recommended that stakeholders should use this information in combination with nearer term weather forecasts to guide operational decision making. The bulletin may be freely used by the public with appropriate acknowledgement of its source but shall not be modified in content and then presented as original material.