

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). As of May 2017, the previous monthly CAMI bulletin transitions into the Caribbean Agro-Climatic Bulletin of the CariSAM.

KEY MESSAGES

As we transition into the wet season, it is expected that drought conditions are likely to improve in the Cayman Islands. However, interests in northern Bahamas, Barbados, the northwestern half of Belize, western and central Cuba, The Leeward Islands, southern Puerto Rico, and The Windward Islands (except Dominica and Martinique) should continue to monitor water resources.

ENSO conditions are expected to be neutral during the next 3 months, but there is some chance that this can change as the latter part of 2017 approaches, to be replaced by El Niño conditions. This situation will be closely monitored and updates provided.

Above normal temperatures likely in western and northwestern territories as well as the south of the island chain and the Guianas.

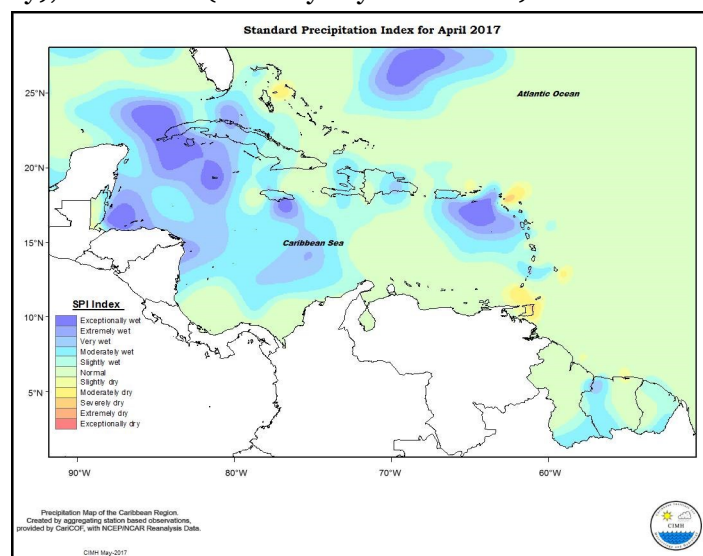
APRIL IN REVIEW

Most of the region experienced normal to exceptionally wet conditions. Eastern Belize was very wet and Grand Cayman exceptionally wet. Jamaica ranged from normal in the west to very wet in the east while Cuba was normal to extremely wet. The Dominican Republic experienced normal to very wet conditions and St. Vincent moderate to very wet.

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

Pockets of dry conditions were observed across Trinidad (predominantly moderately dry with severely dry conditions in the northeast), Grenada (slight to moderately dry), and Belize (severely dry in the west).



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

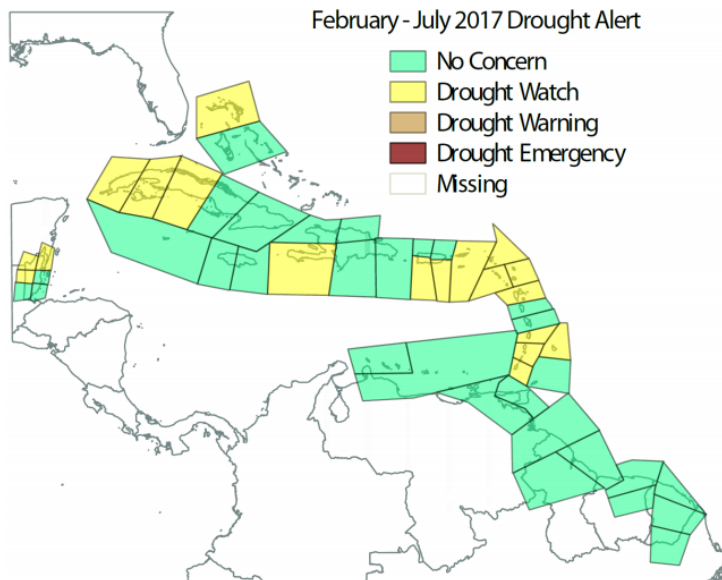
HEADLINE IMPACTS

Dominica: some farmers reported that increased rainfall activity resulted in the loss of flowers, especially from fruit crops.

Grenada: driest April on record at Point Salines station. However, other stations received adequate rainfall which favoured ground provisions and citrus crops.

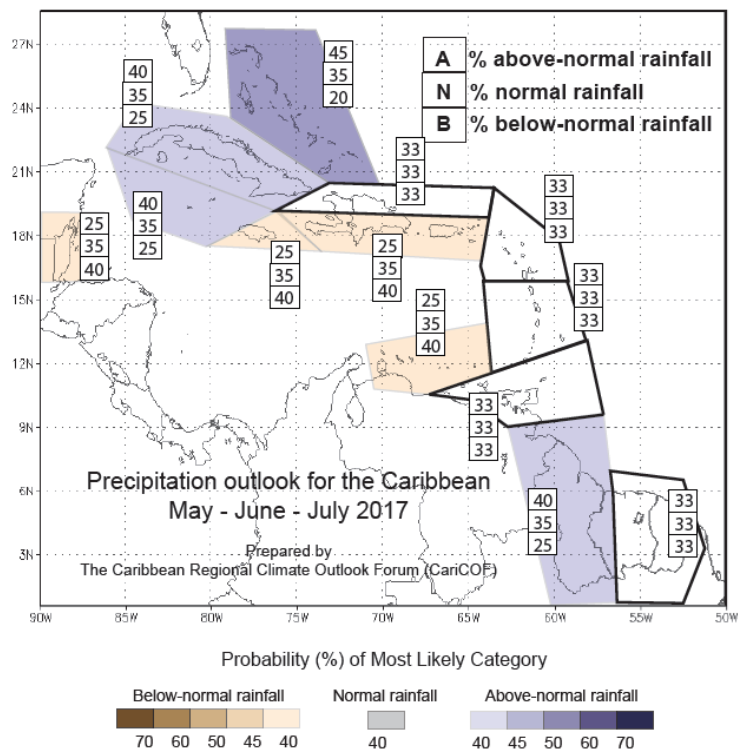
REGIONAL OUTLOOKS

By the end of July 2017, there is likely to be a drought watch across several territories (*highlighted yellow in the map below*)



Read more on regional drought from the Caribbean Regional Climate Centre at <https://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/caricof-climate-outlooks/drought-outlook/>

MAY—JUNE—JULY 2017



Normal to above normal rainfall expected across Guyana, Cayman Islands, Cuba and the Bahamas. No clear rainfall signal elsewhere.

Daytime temperatures are expected to be normal to above normal across the region (except the Leeward Islands). Greater confidence of above normal nighttime temperatures region-wide. *Read more at <http://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/caricof-climate-outlooks/>*

CLIMATE-SMART ADVISORIES

Water availability for agriculture is likely to increase as the region transitions into the wet season. Moreover, flash flood potential may be a concern in some territories.

As the dry season winds down and the hurricane season approaches continue to be mindful of the necessary procedures you need to take to avoid/minimize damage or loss.

Increase in day and night time temperature may occur over the next few months; guard against heat stress for livestock and crops by:

- Ensuring livestock are kept cool by establishing/locating shading for livestock such as: cows, sheep, goat
- Ensuring cooling systems such as fans are in place and good ventilation available for poultry houses
- Keeping irrigation equipment ready to apply water as necessary to cropping systems

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.

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