

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

Steady decrease of tropical cyclone activity and of excessively hot and humid days in November.

High rainfall intensity and shower frequency in the ABC Islands, Belize, the Lesser Antilles through November or December, resulting in high to extremely high potential for flooding, flash floods, cascading hazards and associated impacts.

Increasing dry spell frequency in The Bahamas and Greater Antilles.

Appearance of drought impacts by the end of January in locations already experiencing well below average rainfall for the wet season so far.

AUGUST IN REVIEW

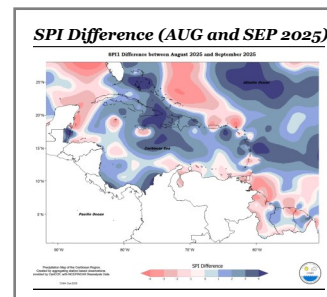
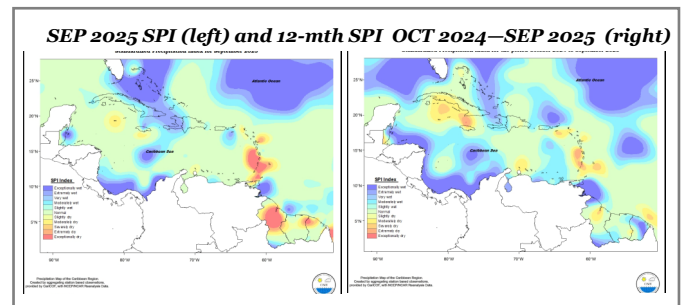
Predominantly below normal conditions were seen throughout the islands of the eastern Caribbean during the month of September. Trinidad was exceptionally wet to extremely dry southeast to northwest; Tobago and Guadeloupe extremely dry to normal; Grenada moderate to extremely dry; Barbados predominantly extreme to severely dry; St Vincent exceptionally dry; Saint Lucia exceptional to severely dry; Martinique moderately dry to mostly normal; Dominica extremely dry to slightly wet southwest to northeast; Antigua normal; St Kitts predominantly slightly dry to normal; St Maarten moderate to slightly dry; Anguilla moderately dry to normal; St Croix extreme to moderately wet and St Thomas slightly wet. In the Guianas, conditions ranged from extremely wet to exceptionally dry. Aruba was slightly dry and Curacao was normal.

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

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

During the 12-month period (October 2024 to September 2025), normal to severely dry conditions exist across much of the region. However notably, southern Trinidad was exceptionally wet.



The month of September was wetter than August across much of the Leeward Islands and the Greater Antilles but drier across much of the Guianas.

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

AGRI-NEWS

Jamaica: Hurricane Melissa deals another heavy blow to Jamaica's farmers and fishers. Read more <https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/hurricane-melissa-deals-heavy-blow-jamaicas-farmers-fishers-127103585>

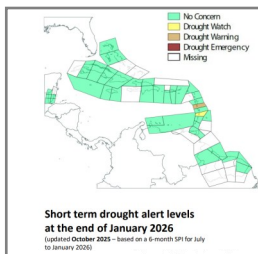
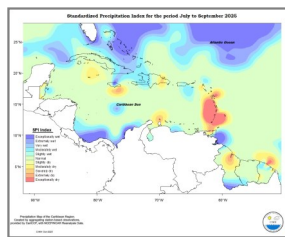
Jamaica: Farmers urged to prepare for post storm diseases that can affect their crops. Read more <https://www.moa.gov.jm/news-categories/news-articles>

Jamaica: Agriculture Minister Floyd Green says the Ministry is mobilising all efforts to restore livelihoods, production, and national food security as quickly and safely as possible in the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa. Read more <https://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/news/20251105/green-says-relief-support-mobilised-agriculture-sector-detailed-damage>

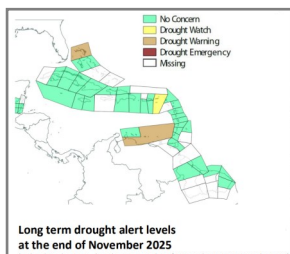
REGIONAL OUTLOOKS

DROUGHT

Severe (or worse) short-term drought has developed throughout the Windward Islands, as well as in Aruba, parts of the Dominican Republic, Guadeloupe and isolated areas of the coastal Guianas. Severe (or worse) long-term drought has developed in far southwest Belize, southwest Dominica, northern Jamaica, northwest Martinique, some locations in northern Guyana, St. Croix and St. Vincent.

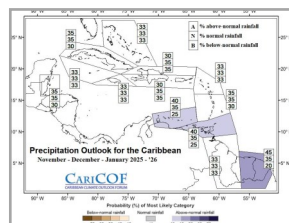


There may be some concern over short term drought that can impact small rivers, streams and ponds by the end of January 2026 across Dominica and possibly Saint Lucia.



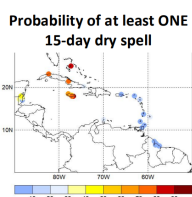
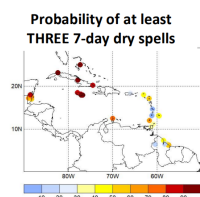
There is concern for long-term drought, that can impact large reservoirs, large rivers or groundwater, to present a challenge in farming by the end of November 2025 across northern Bahamas and possibly across the Virgin Islands. Interests in these territories should monitor their water resources.

RAINFALL, WET/DRY SPELLS, TEMPERATURE and HEATWAVE DAYS (NOVEMBER 2025 – JANUARY 2026)



Rainfall totals from November through January are likely to be the usual or higher in The ABC Islands, Trinidad and Tobago and eastern parts of the Guianas.

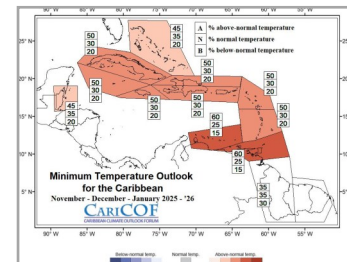
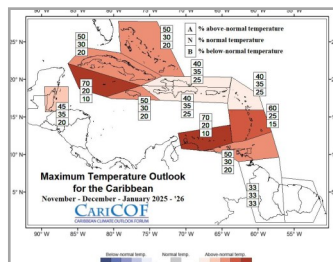
High potential for long-term flooding, flash floods and related hazards across the Caribbean Islands and Belize through December, then decreasing to moderate. High to extremely high potential across the Guianas. This could potentially cause rising water levels in rivers, large water reservoirs, and soils through December. Surface wetness makes environmental conditions more conducive to moisture-related pests and diseases.



Moderate to high potential for the occurrence of at least three 7-day dry spells across Aruba, Belize, Jamaica, Cuba and northwestern Bahamas during November to January.

Moderate potential of at least one 15-day dry spell during November to January across Jamaica, Cuba and northwestern Bahamas.

This period marks the transition into the Cool Season. Day-time (maximum) and night-time (minimum) temperatures will likely be the usual or higher throughout the islands and Belize. Comfortable temperatures should prevail from December onwards, though the Guianas may still experience recurrent heat discomfort in November.



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

CLIMATE-SMART ADVISORIES

Drought (Short- to Long-Term) and Dry Spells – Affecting the Windward Islands, Aruba, Dominican Republic, Guadeloupe, Guianas, Belize, Dominica, northern Jamaica, northwest Martinique, Guyana, and St. Vincent.

- ◆ Schedule irrigation during the cooler morning or evening hours to minimize evaporation.
- ◆ Adopt drip or micro-irrigation systems to deliver water efficiently to the root zone.
- ◆ Apply organic mulches (e.g. dry grass) to conserve soil moisture and regulate soil temperature.
- ◆ Avoid transplanting during extended dry periods to prevent transplant shock and yield loss.
- ◆ Provide adequate shade, ventilation, and clean water for livestock.

High rainfall and flood risk- Affecting the Guianas, Belize, Trinidad & Tobago, ABC Islands, Windward Islands, and parts of the Greater Antilles.

- ◆ Maintain drains before and during rains to prevent waterlogging.
- ◆ Construct raised beds or mounds for root and vegetable crops to improve drainage and prevent rot.
- ◆ Install contour drains, diversion ditches, or grassed waterways on slopes to safely channel runoff.
- ◆ Avoid fertilizer application before heavy rainfall and monitor crops for disease to enable early control.
- ◆ Keep livestock shelters, feed, and bedding elevated and dry.
- ◆ Relocate animals to higher ground in flood-prone areas and provide suitable protective structure.

Maintain records of inputs to aid post-disaster recovery

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.

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