CARIBBEAN AGRO-CLIMATIC BULLETIN OF THE CARISAM

JUNE 2026 • VOLUME 10 • ISSUE 1

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

KEY MESSAGES

The Caribbean Heat Season is gradually ramping up, and by the end of the period April-May-June 2026, heatwave event would likely match that of April-May-June 2024 in the northwest of the region.

High evaporation rates, frequent short dry spells and buildup of any ongoing drought, would likely increase wildfire potential through May or longer.

Except for the ABC Islands, rainfall intensity should rise towards June, resulting in high to extremely high potential for flooding, flash floods, cascading hazards and associated impacts.

Episodes of Saharan dust intrusion will likely be frequent; if combined with El Niño, this means more build up of dryness and heat, as well as more erratic occurrence of severe weather.

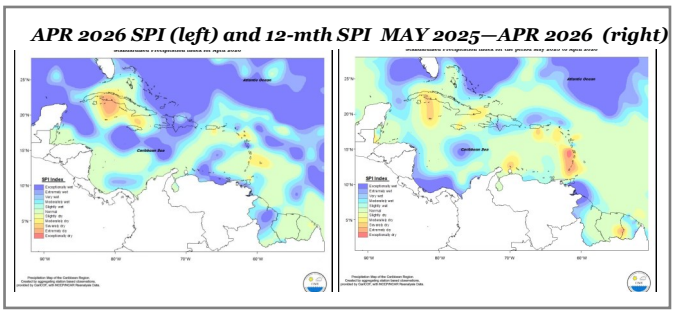
APRIL IN REVIEW

Mixed conditions were experienced across the eastern Caribbean in the month of April. Trinidad was extremely wet to moderately dry southwest to northeast; Tobago moderately dry to moderately wet; Grenada normal; Barbados predominantly moderate to severely dry; St Vincent predominantly slight to moderately dry; Saint Lucia and St Kitts moderately dry to normal; Martinique slightly dry to normal; Dominica moderate to exceptionally wet; Guadeloupe exceptionally wet to normal; Antigua moderately dry; St Maarten and Anguilla moderate to very wet; St Croix normal to slightly wet and St. Thomas normal to predominantly slightly wet. In the Guianas, conditions varied from exceptionally wet in northcentral Guyana to slightly dry in northeastern French Guiana. Aruba was normal.

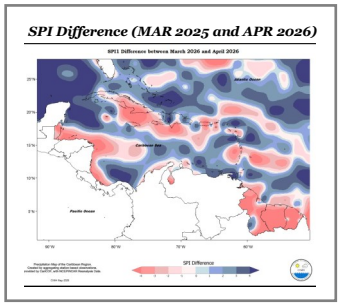
Puerto Rico ranged from moderately dry in the southeast to moderately wet in the northwest. The Dominican Republic was mostly exceptional to moderately wet. Jamaica was exceptionally wet in southwestern areas ranging to moderately dry on the northern coastline. Grand Cayman was moderately dry. Cuba ranged from severely dry in west central areas to extremely wet in the extreme west and east. Northern Bahamas was normal to exceptionally wet and Belize was predominantly normal ranging to moderately wet in the north.

During the 12-month period (April 2025 to March 2026), extremely dry conditions prevailed across much of the eastern Caribbean.

APR 2026 SPI (left) and 12-mth SPI MAY 2025—APR 2026 (right)



SPI Difference (MAR 2025 and APR 2026)



The month of April was relatively drier than March across the Guianas, Cuba, Belize, most of Jamaica, Puerto Rico, and the eastern Caribbean territories.

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

AGRI-NEWS

St. Vincent: Water rationing announced as drought conditions intensify. Read more *https://www.caribbeannationalweekly.com/posts/water-rationing-announced-across-st-vincent-as-drought-conditions-intensify*

Saint Lucia: WASCO Intensifies Action to Safeguard Saint Lucia's Limited Water Supply Amid Prolonged Dry Season. Read more *https://stlucianewsnow.net/wasco-intensifies-action-to-safeguard-saint-lucias-limited-water-supply-amid-prolonged-dry-season/*

We apologize for the absence of the May 2026 issue of the CariSAM Bulletin. This was due the sudden discontinuation of the global dataset used to develop the drought products used in the bulletins. An alternative has now been accessed to continue these products.

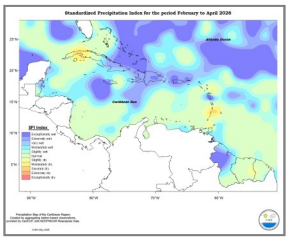
ABOUT CariSAM

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*

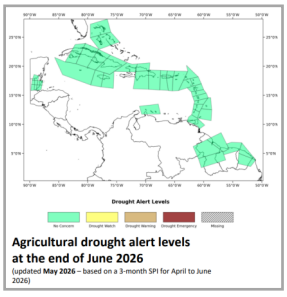
REGIONAL OUTLOOKS

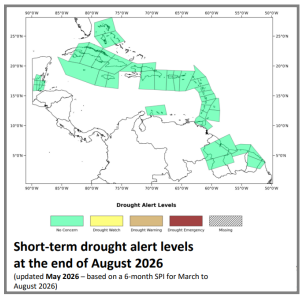
DROUGHT

Severe (or worse) short-term drought has developed in parts of western Cuba, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent. Severe (or worse) long-term drought has developed in Aruba, Grand Cayman, parts of Western Cuba, Grenada, Martinique, southeast Puerto Rico, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent, and southeast Suriname.



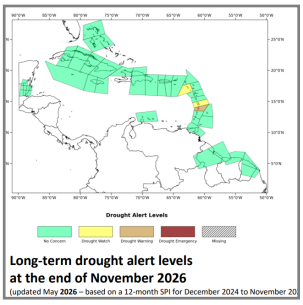
There is no widespread concern for agricultural drought that can impact soil moisture availability by the end of June 2026.



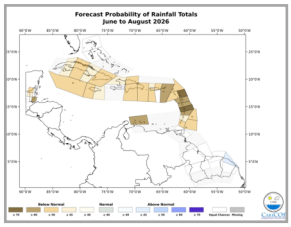


There is also no widespread concern over short term drought that can impact small rivers, streams and ponds by the end of August.

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 2026 in Saint Lucia and possibly in Martinique and St. Kitts. Areas ending up in long-term drought by the end of November are likely to experience lower than usual water levels in large reservoirs, large rivers and groundwater in the ensuing dry season. Interests in these territories should monitor their water resources.

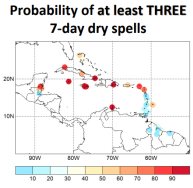


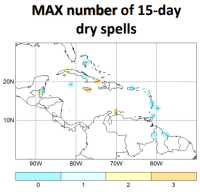
RAINFALL, WET/DRY SPELLS, TEMPERATURE and HEATWAVE DAYS (JUNE — AUGUST 2026)



Rainfall totals from June to August are likely to be the usual or less across much of the region.

High to extremely high potential for flooding, flash floods and related impacts and compounding or cascading hazards due to excessive rains, in most areas except the ABC Islands, easternmost Cuba, drier valleys of Hispaniola, and St. Martin. Water recharge rates in surface reservoirs and rivers will likely accelerate slower than usual in Belize and the Antilles. A slower than usual increase in wet days into August dampens the increase in rainfall disruptions of outdoor activities, slowly builds up soil moisture and reduces wildfire potential.

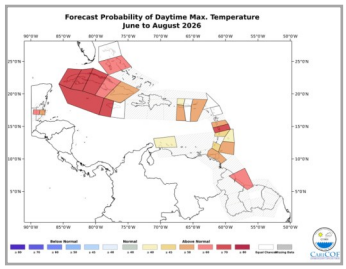


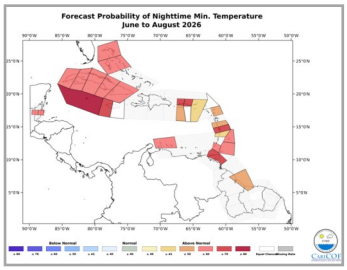


High to extremely high potential for the occurrence of at least three 7-day dry spells across the Greater Antilles, Leeward Islands, the ABC Islands and northern Belize from June to August.

At least two or three 15-day dry spells may be observed across Jamaica, the ABC Islands, and eastern Cuba.

Day-time temperatures (maximum) as well as humidity, will likely be at least as warm as usual, with heat becoming particularly intense and recurrent episodes of excessive humid heat, causing heat stress. The risk of extreme heat exposure is highest in the northern Caribbean, where cooling strategies are paramount.





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

CLIMATE-SMART ADVISORIES

Drought (short- and long-term) affecting Aruba, Grand Cayman, western Cuba, Grenada, Martinique, southeast Puerto Rico, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent, and southeast Suriname

- Apply locally available organic mulches such as grass clippings, coconut husks, or crop residues to conserve soil moisture.
- Irrigate during the early morning or late afternoon to minimize water loss through evaporation.
- Use drip irrigation or micro-sprinkler systems and apply smaller amounts of water more frequently rather than heavy, infrequent watering.
- Ensure animals have continuous access to clean drinking water and adequate shade.
- Introduce drought-tolerant forage species, such as Mulato grass, to improve feed availability during dry periods.
- Where irrigation sources are limited, consider delaying planting or reduce the planting area or introduce drought-tolerant crops.

Heavy rainfall, flooding, and flash floods

- Clear and maintain drains, ditches, and waterways to improve water movement and reduce flooding.
- Install contour drains, grassed waterways, or vetiver strips on slopes to reduce runoff and soil erosion.
- Use raised beds in flood-prone areas to minimize waterlogging and root damage.
- Maintain proper plant spacing and prune crops where appropriate to improve airflow and reduce disease pressure.
- Monitor crops closely for early signs of disease and implement timely control measures.
- Relocate livestock to higher ground and provide secure shelters during periods of heavy rainfall and flooding.
- Ensure livestock facilities have adequate drainage to reduce mud, standing water, and disease risks

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

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