

CARIBBEAN AGRO-CLIMATIC BULLETIN OF THE CARISAM



JUNE 2017 • VOLUME 2 • ISSUE 1

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

With the expectation of increasing rainfall frequency there is currently no short term concern for drought across the region.

The region has officially entered its hurricane season. Be prepared for the usual intense rainfall activity associated with tropical cyclones and other severe weather systems.

MAY IN REVIEW

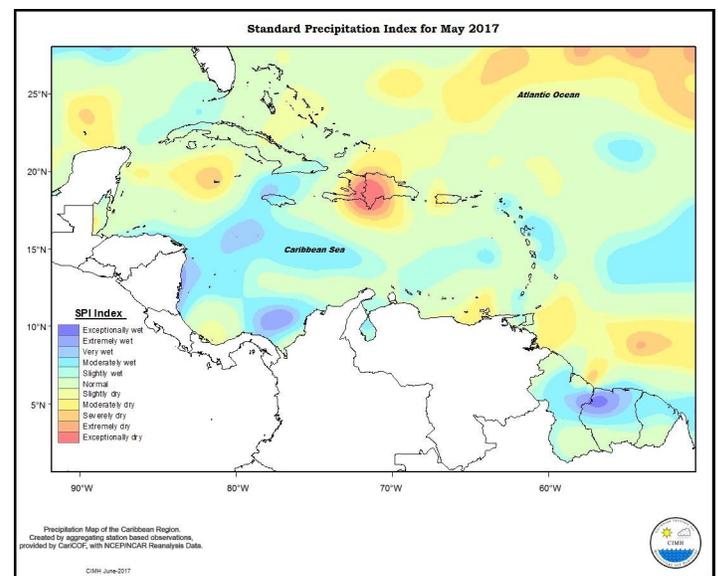
The month of May saw mixed weather conditions across the region. Conditions in the Guianas ranged from normal to exceptionally wet. However, some coastal portions observed dry conditions. The Eastern Caribbean territories from as far south as Trinidad and Tobago, as well as the ABC Islands, observed conditions predominantly normal conditions with a few being slightly to moderately wet.

Puerto Rico was normal (east) to moderately dry (west) whereas Hispaniola observed largely slightly to exceptionally dry. The Cayman Islands was severely dry but Jamaica's experience was different as they observed slight to very wet. Central Cuba was slightly wet on its western and eastern tips but normal to slightly dry elsewhere. The Bahamas observed normal to slightly dry conditions.

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

Belize observed moderately dry conditions in the south-west which transitioned to slightly wet in the north.



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

HEADLINE IMPACTS—MAY 2017

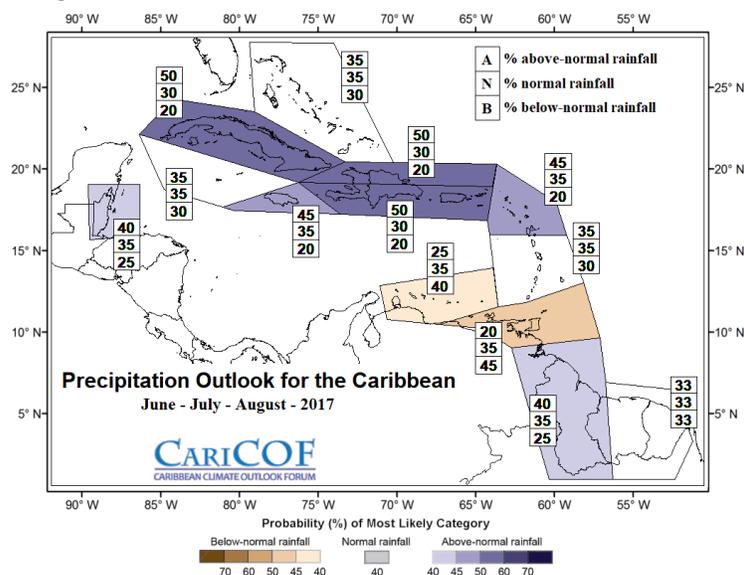
Jamaica: Heavy rains across the island resulted in extensive losses to crops, livestock and agricultural infrastructure. There were two main episodes of torrential rains, the first of which caused over \$JMD 100 million damage to the sector.

REGIONAL OUTLOOKS

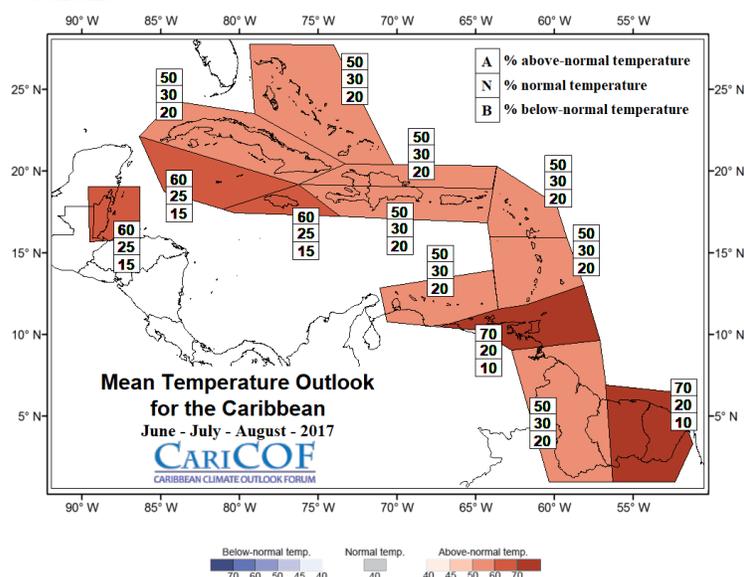
There are **currently no short-term drought concerns across the region**. You can view this month's drought outlook from the Caribbean Regional Climate Centre at <https://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/caricof-climate-outlooks/>

JUNE—JULY-AUGUST 2017

Guyana, Belize, the northern Caribbean and the Leeward Islands could expect to see normal to above normal rainfall over the period June-July-August. Normal to below normal rainfall could affect Trinidad and Tobago as well as the ABC Islands.



Mean temperatures are expected to be normal to above normal throughout the entire region. Greatest confidence for Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname and French Guiana.



There is greater confidence of increasing nighttime temperatures across the region. However Trinidad and Tobago and the ABC Islands show greater confidence for increasing daytime temperature over nighttime temperatures.

There is also a high chance of receiving up to 30 heat-wave days across the region between June and November, with the majority of these most likely to occur between August and October in many parts of the region.

Read more at <https://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/caricof-climate-outlooks/caribbean-climate-outlook->

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 hurricane season takes effect continue to be mindful of the necessary procedures you need to take to avoid/minimize damage or loss.

High temperatures are common during the wet season. However, with the favourable chance of increased temperatures (both day and night) heat stress is a likely factor to consider from heat waves. Guard against heat stress for livestock and crops by:

- Ensuring livestock are kept cool by providing cool and clean drinking water; 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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