

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

A transition from the dry season into the wet season, with many countries experiencing above normal rainfall in June, has reduced the concern for drought over most of the region. However, there is some concern for drought in Haiti with some possible impacts until September. Water resources, including available soil water, in the Bahamas and Tobago should be monitored.

JUNE IN REVIEW

Normal to above normal rainfall was experienced in the islands of the Eastern Caribbean. The Guianas had mixed conditions of moderately dry in northern Guyana to exceptionally wet in northwestern Suriname. Aruba and Curacao were normal and moderately wet respectively.

Across the Greater Antilles, Puerto Rico experienced normal to exceptionally wet conditions; Hispaniola was predominantly normal except for portions of the eastern and western tips which were drier; Jamaica was moderately dry in the west to extremely wet in the south; and Grand Cayman experienced normal conditions.

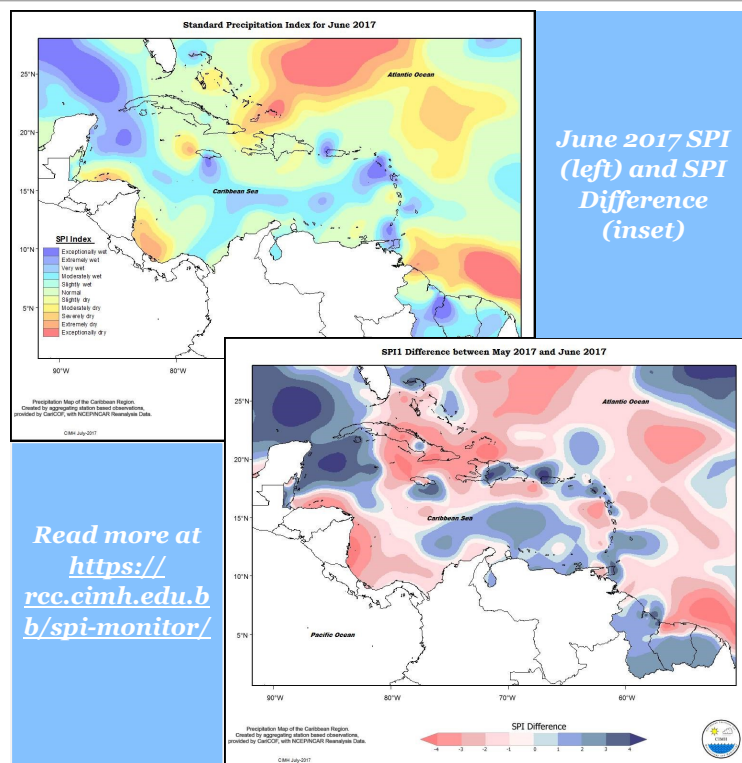
Cuba was predominantly normal but its eastern tip was drier than normal and its western tip wetter than normal. Belize also experienced mixed conditions from slightly to moderately wet.

How wet or dry was it compared to May?

A new product from the Caribbean Drought and Precipitation Monitoring Network, confirms that most of the region was relatively wetter for the month of June than May. There were some territories that were relatively drier.

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



JUNE HEADLINE IMPACTS and AGRI-NEWS

Dominica: Pests and disease issues affecting several crops. Cassava has been identified as a climate change resilient crop; work being done under projects led by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB).

Guyana: Flooding caused by exceedingly wet conditions impacted agricultural production in some regions.

REGIONAL OUTLOOKS

There are no concerns for drought across the region, except for Haiti and Tobago, where there may be some impacts until the end of September. Visit <https://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/long-range-forecasts/caricof-climate-outlooks/>

JULY—AUGUST—SEPTEMBER 2017

As perception would have it—wet season equates to adequate rainfall! Is this likely to occur? Climate models predict normal to above normal rainfall conditions across most of the region, enhancing the potential for flash flooding. However, it is likely that territories such as **Barbados, Belize, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Windwards** could receive normal to below normal rainfall.

Temperatures are likely to be warmer than usual during both day (maximum temperature) and night (minimum temperature).



CLIMATE-SMART ADVISORIES

As flash flood potential may be a concern in some territories, farmers are advised to:

- Maintain drains around crop beds and/or plant crops on raised beds
- House animals on high ground and/or on raised pens
- Store fertilizer away from moisture and water sources

The increasing incidences of pests and diseases could be a concern as moisture levels rise. Follow the guidelines from your local agricultural representatives to effectively control pests and diseases.

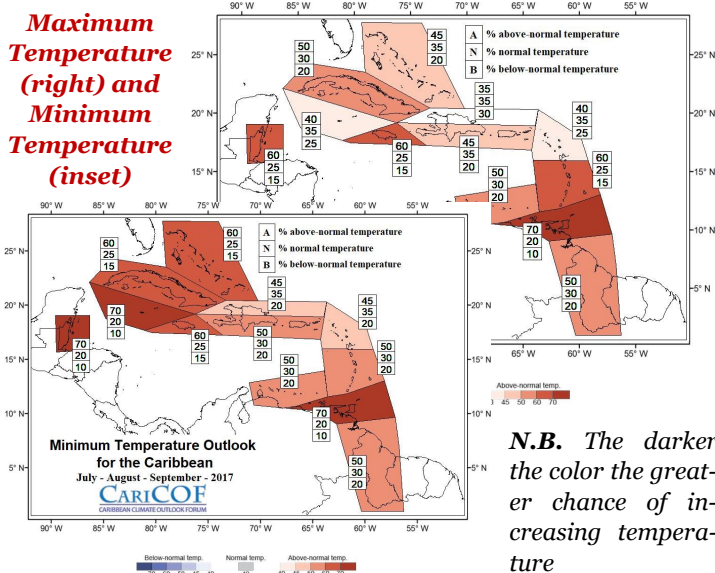
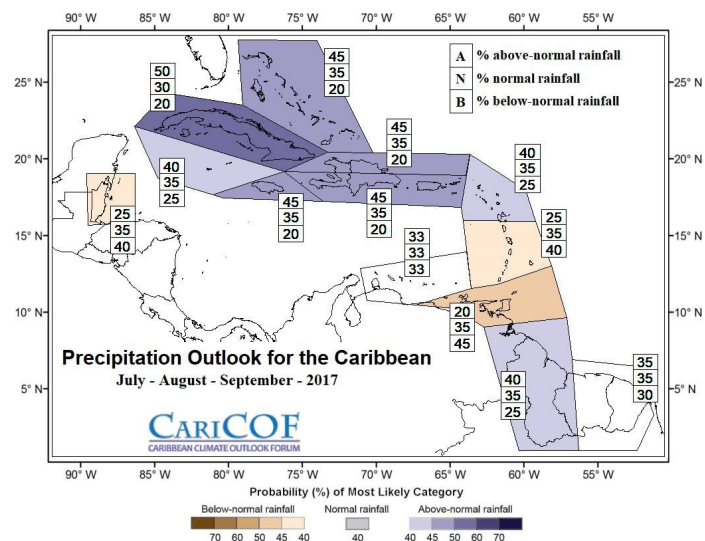
With the favourable chance of increased day and night-time temperatures, heat stress is a likely factor to consider from heat waves. Guard against heat stress for livestock and crops by:

- 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

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

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.



N.B. The darker the color the greater chance of increasing temperature

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