

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

By the end of October 2017, a short-term drought situation could evolve over Haiti, due to rainfall deficits in May and June, and a long-term drought situation is possible, by the end of November in central Bahamas.

There could possibly be elevated heat stress during August to October, which would in turn affect plants, and small livestock.

JULY IN REVIEW

Predominantly dry to normal conditions across the Eastern Caribbean. However, conditions in Trinidad ranged from slightly wet in the north to extremely dry in the south; and Tobago from severely dry in the west to normal in the east. The Guianas ranged from exceptionally dry to exceptionally wet. Aruba was slightly wet while Curacao was normal.

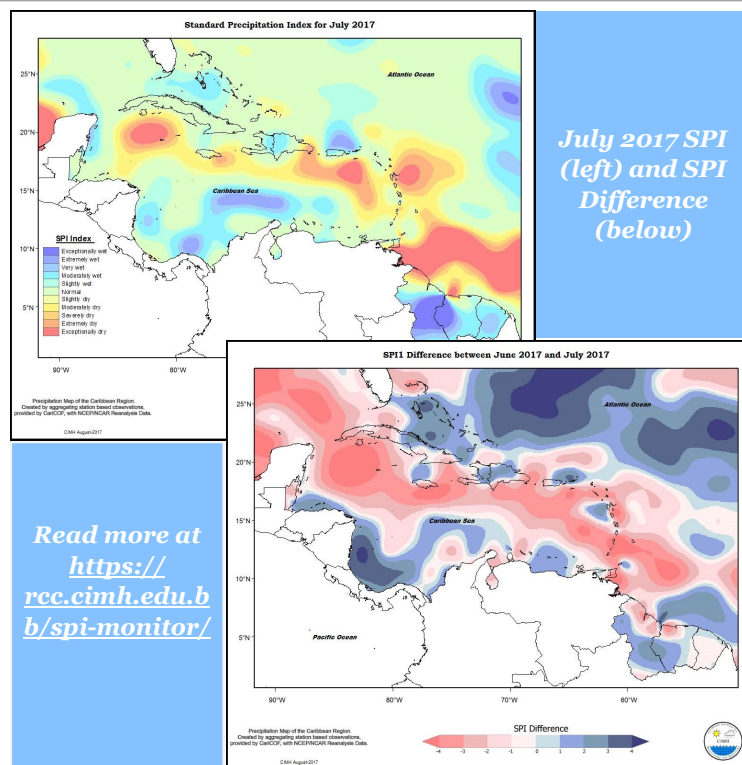
Across the Greater Antilles, Puerto Rico experienced normal conditions in the south to moderately wet in the north. Hispaniola ranged from moderately wet in the regions around the Haiti-Dominican Republic border, to extremely dry in the east and normal to slightly dry in the west. In Jamaica conditions ranged from normal in the west to severely dry in the east, while Cuba was predominantly normal. Conditions in Belize ranged from slightly dry to slightly wet.

How wet or dry was it compared to June?

The month of July was drier than June particularly in the Eastern Caribbean. Conditions across the larger territories were more varied.

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



JULY AGRI-NEWS

The Caribbean Development Bank (CBD) has approved a grant to support the Government of Guyana to develop a framework, which will guide the development implementation of measures to adapt to the impact of climate change on the agriculture sector in that country. This 16-month technical assistance project, will allow the government to identify areas that are most vulnerable to climate change and adopt new climate-smart agricultural practices.

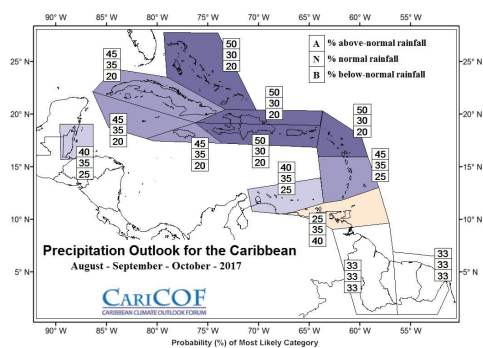
REGIONAL OUTLOOKS

There are no concerns for drought across the region, except for Haiti (until the end of October in the case of short-term drought) and central Bahamas (until the end of November in the case of long-term drought). Visit <https://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/long-range-forecasts/>

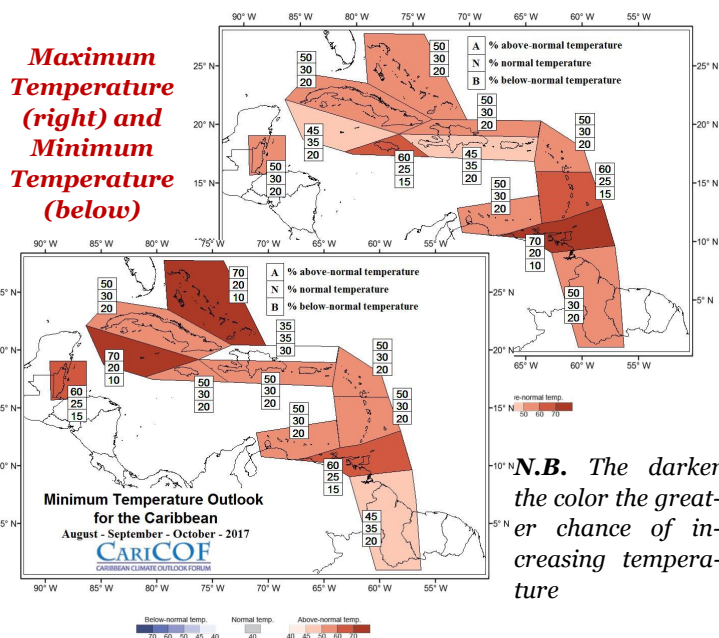
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As the region is in its wet/hurricane season, flooding potential is always high (apart from in Guyana that would be in its dry season). Moreover, flooding potential would be greater in most of the Caribbean with above normal rainfall likely. However, it is likely that **Trinidad and Tobago, could receive normal to below normal rainfall** and with fewer wet days, may result in occasional dry spells that can limit available water such that irrigation may be necessary during those periods.

Not much could be said about rainfall across the Guianas at this time.



With what seems to be the “new normal”, day and night-time temperatures could be warmer than usual during the next three months.



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

These warmer temperatures could possibly elevate heat stress in livestock and poultry, crops and even farmers themselves during August to October. Note that August and September are already the hottest months of the year across the region.

There is a high possibility of territories experiencing at least 14 heatwave days between August and November, except Belize, Cayman Islands, and parts of Cuba.

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

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, crops and yourselves 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
- Keeping hydrated, taking frequent breaks, and resting in the shade.

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.

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