

CARIBBEAN AGRO-CLIMATIC BULLETIN OF THE CARISAM



DECEMBER 2017 • VOLUME 1 • ISSUE 7

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

Even though most of the region is entering into its dry season, there is the possibility for normal to above normal rainfall as well as flash flooding in some territories. However, there are few concerns for short-term drought and interests in Antigua, The Bahamas, central-west Belize, western Cuba, western Jamaica, and Haiti should monitor water reserves.

A long-term drought situation continues for the central parts of The Bahamas, and is now likely for Haiti. Interests in The Bahamas should also watch for a long-term drought situation over the northern part of the island.

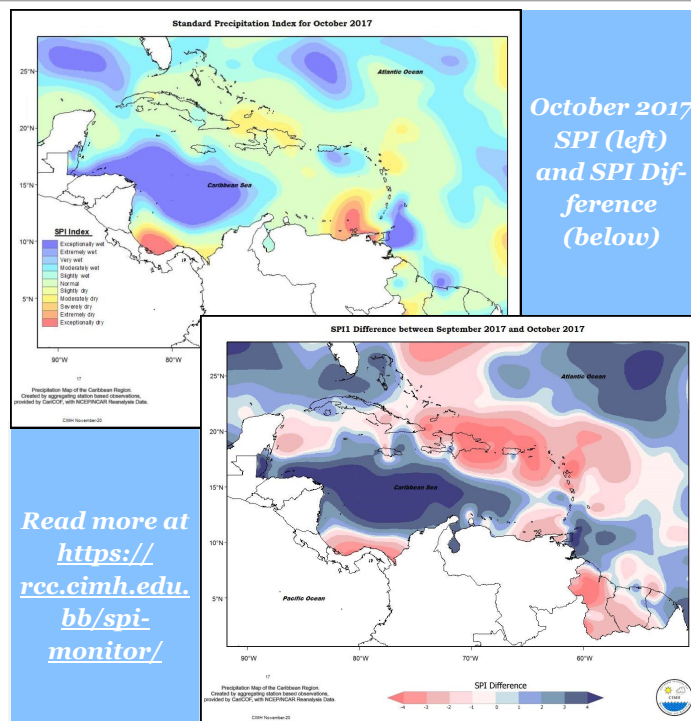
OCTOBER IN REVIEW

Mixed rainfall was observed across the Eastern Caribbean. Rainfall totals for Trinidad ranged from normal in the west to exceptionally wet in the east. Tobago was slightly wet in the west to exceptionally wet in the east; Grenada moderately wet; Barbados moderate to extremely wet; St. Vincent normal to slightly wet; St. Lucia, Dominica and St. Kitts normal; Martinique normal to slightly dry; Guadeloupe normal in the west to moderately dry in the east; and Antigua slight to moderately dry. Apart from southwestern and northern extremes of Guyana, the Guianas generally experienced normal to moderately wet conditions. Aruba was slightly dry while Curacao was normal.

Puerto Rico ranged from normal in the north to extremely wet in the south east. Conditions in Hispaniola ranged from normal in the southwest to moderately dry in the north and east. Jamaica ranged from normal in the west to moderately wet in the east, while Grand Cayman was moderately wet. Conditions in Cuba ranged from moderately dry to moderately wet, but northern Bahamas was normal to moderately wet. Belize ranged from slightly dry in western areas to exceptionally wet to the north and south.

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



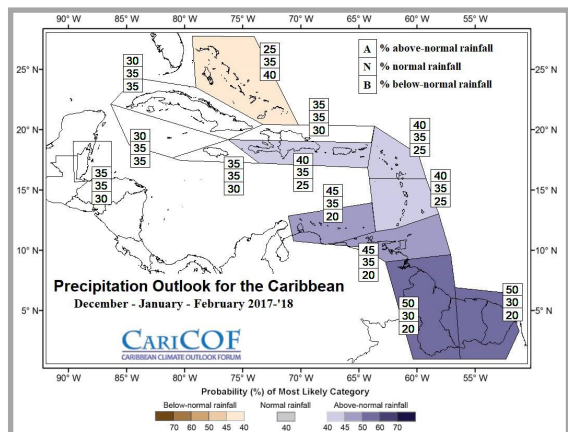
AGRI-NEWS

Agriculture revitalization has begun in Dominica following the passage of hurricane Maria. A seedlings project coordinated by the OECS Commission, FAO, CARDI, and an agriculture consultant has been undertaken to ensure the self-sufficiency of the country. Over 100,000 fast growing seeds were recently planted and the first harvest is expected in four weeks. Read more at <http://wp.caribbeannewsnow.com/2017/10/13/agriculture-revitalization-underway-dominica-following-hurricane-maria/>

REGIONAL OUTLOOKS

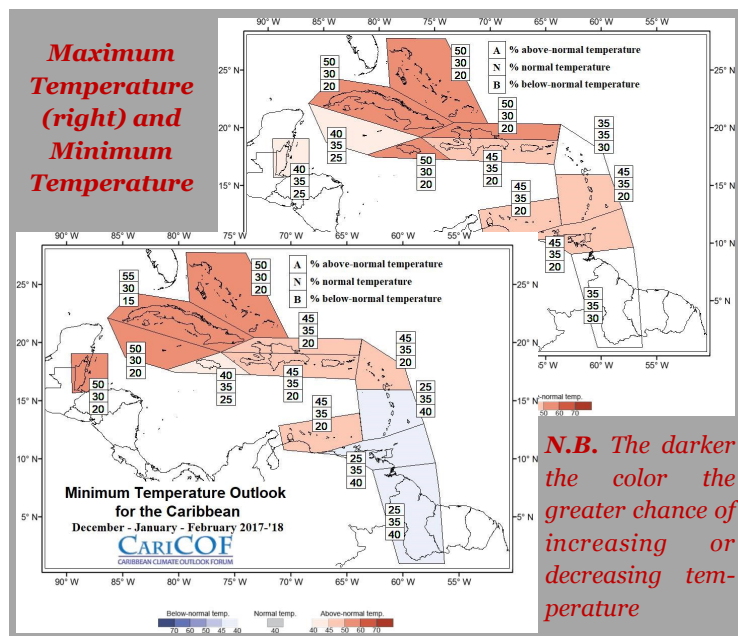
DECEMBER 2017—JANUARY—FEBRUARY 2018

For the period of December, 2017 to February 2018, **rainfall totals could meet or even exceed the normal amounts** across Puerto Rico and southern half of Hispaniola, the eastern Caribbean, Trinidad and Tobago, the ABC Islands and more so across the Guianas. Normal to below normal conditions are possible across The Bahamas.



There is also the chance of increasing wet spells during December in Belize, the Greater and Lesser Antilles, and during December and January in the ABC Islands and the coastal Guianas (with the potential for flash flooding).

Night-time temperatures during the first half of the dry season should be comfortable, though probably warmer than normal in the northwest.



There are no concerns for short-term drought across the region, except for Antigua, The Bahamas, central-west Belize, western Cuba, western Jamaica, and southern Haiti. A long-term drought situation continues for the central parts of The Bahamas, and is now of concern for southern Haiti. Interests in the northern part of The Bahamas as well as Cuba and southern Puerto Rico should also watch for a long-term drought situation. Visit <https://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/long-range-forecasts/caricof-climate-outlooks/>

CLIMATE-SMART ADVISORIES



The chance of greater amounts of rainfall in the upcoming season could see bumper crop yields (e.g. avocado and mangoes) in some territories, while taking note that above normal rainfall in the dry season does not necessarily mean water requirements would be fully met without irrigation. The lower night-time temperatures favour pollen viability and would also give rise to increased crop production.

On the contrary, the incidence of pests and diseases (e.g. bacterial leaf diseases and water moles) could be an issue. Follow the guidelines from your local agricultural representatives to effectively control pests and diseases. Some citrus crops may also be impacted due to increased rains but should thrive with favourable dry-spells.

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, particularly in the central and northern portions of the region
- House animals on high ground and/or on raised pens
Store fertilizer away from moisture and water sources

In regions where rainfall amounts are likely to be reduced, techniques such as mulching could be employed so as to conserve soil moisture.

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

CONTACT US:

Adrian Trotman
Agro-meteorologist/ Chief of Applied Meteorology and Climatology, CIMH
Email: atrotman@cimh.edu.bb

Shontelle Stoute
Technical Officer, CIMH
Email: sstoute@cimh.edu.bb

Rasheeda Hall-Hanson
CARDI
Email: rhanson@cardi.org