

# 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

**The hurricane season officially begins in June; be hurricane ready!**

Even though rainfall totals are likely to be normal to below normal, there may still be some concern for flash flooding as the region enters into the wet/hurricane season.

Although drought is not expected to be a major concern throughout the region, there is still the possibility of drier than usual conditions that may at least merit closer monitoring of water resources in some parts of the Caribbean, including Tobago, Barbados, St. Kitts, northern and eastern Dominican Republic, and south-eastern Belize for short term drought by end August, and western Cuba and northern French Guiana for long term drought by the end of November.

## FEBRUARY IN REVIEW

Rainfall in the islands of the eastern Caribbean was predominantly normal to above. Trinidad was normal to moderately wet from north to south; Tobago, Grenada, and Dominica normal to slightly wet; Barbados, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Guadeloupe, Antigua, St. Kitts, Anguilla and St. Maarten normal; and Martinique moderate to very wet. Conditions in the Guianas ranged from normal in eastern French Guiana and north-central Guyana to very wet in southern Guyana and to exceptionally wet at the northern border of Suriname and French Guiana. Curacao was normal.

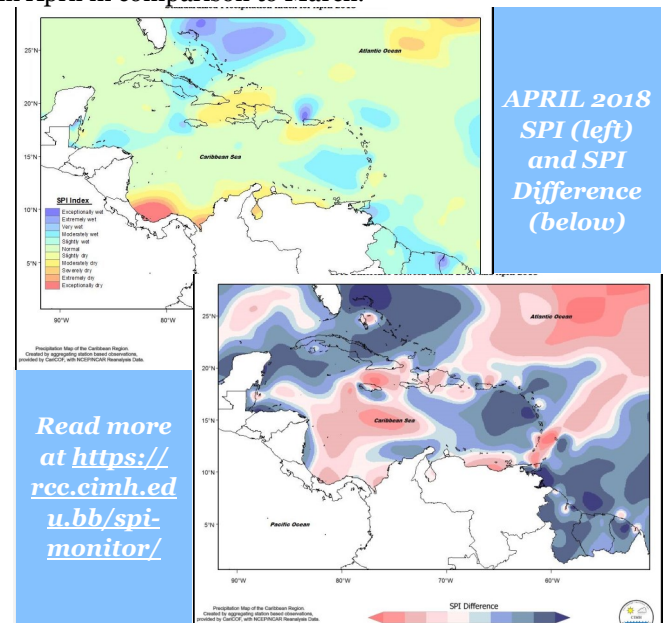
Puerto Rico ranged from exceptionally wet in the northeast to normal in the east, while conditions in Hispaniola ranged from slightly wet in the southeast to moderately dry in the north. Conditions in Jamaica ranged from moderately wet in the west to slightly dry in the east, but Grand Cayman was normal. Cuba ranged from very wet in east central areas to normal in the west and moderately dry in the east.

## 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](http://www.carisam.cimh.edu.bb)

Northern Bahamas ranged from slight to extremely wet, while Belize ranged from normal in central areas to extremely wet in the north and moderately wet in the south.

Increasing wetness has been observed over most of the region in April in comparison to March.



## AGRI-NEWS

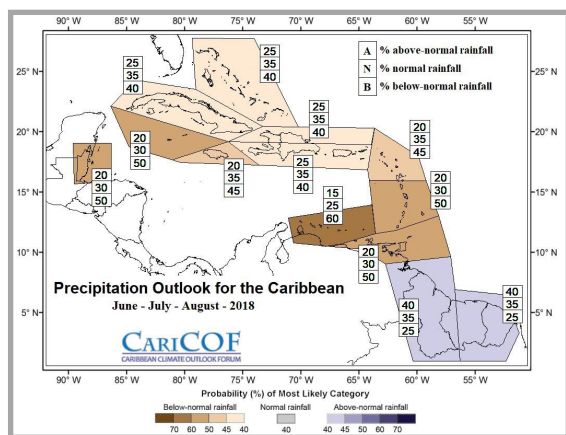
The president of the Caribbean Development Bank, Dr. Warren Smith believes that if the region is to build resilience in agriculture then substantial investments in changing agricultural practices and adapting to climate change are required. <https://caribbeannewsservice.com/now/grenada-cdb-president-caribbean-can-bounce-back-by-tackling-vulnerabilities-building-resilience/>.

## REGIONAL OUTLOOKS

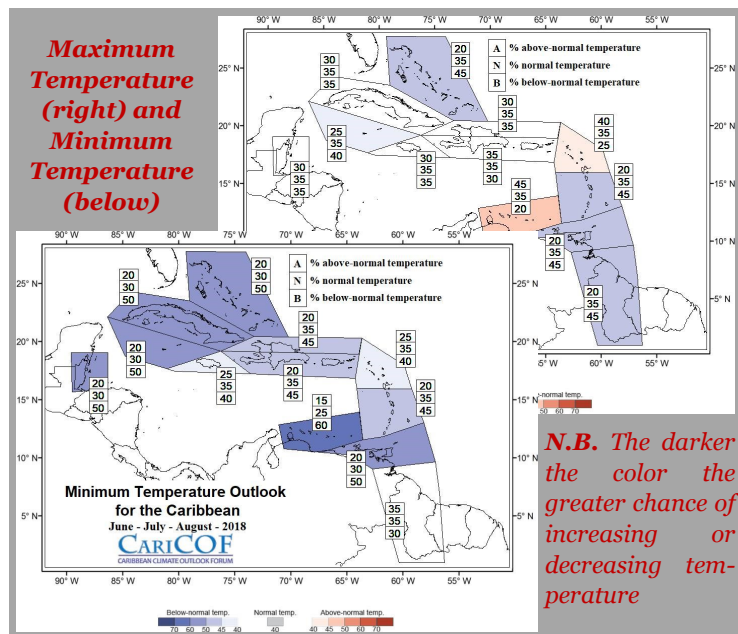
There is no concern for drought as the region enters into the wet/hurricane season with the exceptions of a short-term drought concern by the end of August for Tobago, Barbados, St. Kitts, northern and eastern Dominican Republic, and southeastern Belize. Also, there may be concerns for long-term drought by the end of the wet season for Cuba and the northern French Guiana. Visit <https://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/long-range-forecasts/caricof-climate-outlooks/>

### JUNE—JULY—AUGUST 2018

Rainfall totals are likely to be normal to below normal for most of the region with the exception of the Guianas. However, as the region enters the wet/hurricane season, the concern for flash flood increases.



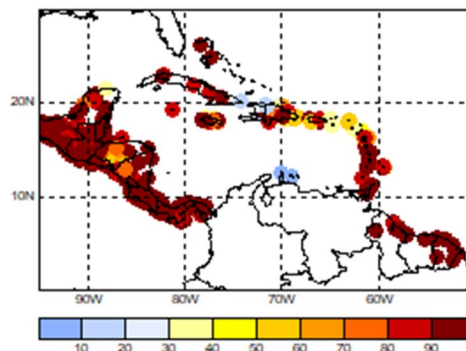
Nights are likely to be cooler than normal across the region. Similar conditions are likely during the day, with the exception of the ABC Islands and the Leeward Islands.



### Probability of Exceedence (Experimental)

There is additional useful information that can be produced for on-farm activity. For example, “variety x of sweet potato requires at least 200mm of water over the next 3 months, what are the chances?”

The result for variety x shows (below) that there is a high probability of receiving at least 200mm of rainfall for most of the region with the exception of the ABC Islands, Haiti, and the eastern tip of Cuba.



## CLIMATE-SMART ADVISORIES

June marks the official start of the hurricane season. Even though rainfall totals are likely to be normal to below normal over the next three months, water availability for agriculture is likely to increase as the wet/hurricane season begins. Continue to be mindful of the necessary procedures you need to take to avoid/minimize damage or loss in the event of flash floods.

The incidence of pests and diseases (e.g. bacterial leaf diseases and water mold) could be an issue as rainfall totals increase into the wet/hurricane season. Follow the guidelines from your local agricultural representatives to effectively control pests and diseases.

Cooler night-time temperatures may favour pollen viability and would also give rise to increased crop production. However, in regions where higher day-time temperatures could be a reality, this could give rise to heat stress for crops and livestock. Therefore the farmer should take necessary measures against heat stress.

*Should you find the information on exceedance useful please contact us with your views or for any further information.*

### 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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