

CARIBBEAN AGRO-CLIMATIC BULLETIN OF THE CARISAM



JUNE 2019 • VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 1

A joint bulletin of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH).

KEY MESSAGES

WATER WOES!! Several territories are currently facing dry conditions as they enter the wet/hurricane season. These conditions, which are affecting agriculture may continue as a weak El Nino and below normal rainfall are expected to persist. Interests across the region should continue to monitor water resources.

Intermittent episodes of flash flooding may be of some concern with the expectation of increasing wet spells across the region (*except in the ABC Islands*).

Peak heat stress will most likely start in August with heatwaves in most countries. Episodes of Saharan dust incursion are expected.

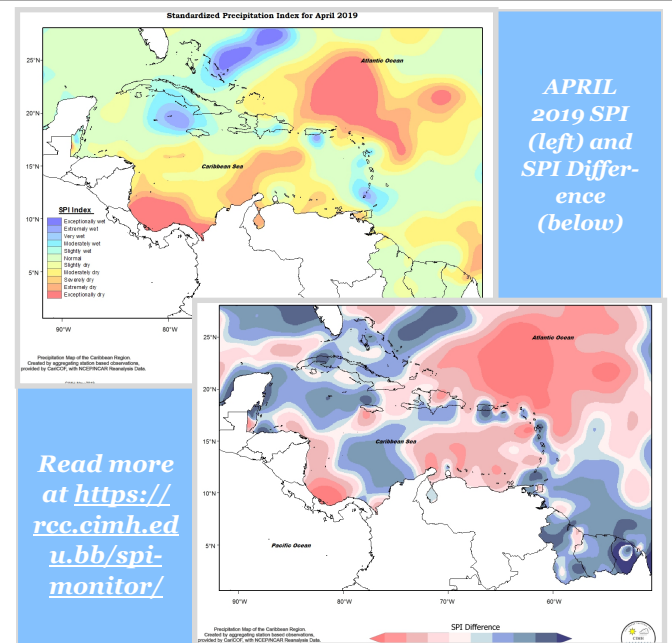
APRIL IN REVIEW

Mixed conditions were experienced in the islands of the eastern Caribbean for the month of April. Trinidad ranged from severely dry in the southwest to slightly wet in the northeast; Tobago moderately wet; Grenada very to extremely wet; Barbados, Saint Lucia and Martinique normal; St. Vincent and Guadeloupe slight to moderately wet; Dominica normal to slightly wet; Antigua normal to slightly dry; St. Kitts and St. Croix slight to moderately dry; and St. Maarten severely dry. Rainfall in the Guianas was predominantly normal, but some areas in northern Guyana and French Guiana, and along the south-central Guyana/Suriname border received below normal rainfall. Aruba was normal, but Curacao normal to slightly dry.

Conditions in Puerto Rico ranged from slightly dry in the northwest to very wet in the southeast, while Hispaniola ranged from moderately wet in southern Dominican Republic to moderately dry in the north and extreme east. Conditions in Jamaica ranged from slightly dry in the south to moderately wet in the west and slightly wet in the east, but Grand Cayman was moderate to very wet. Conditions in Cuba ranged from moderately wet in the south to slightly dry in the extreme west and normal to the east; but Northern Bahamas was normal. Belize ranged from extremely dry in the west to very wet in central areas.

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

'Things Brown'. In the coming weeks, Barbadians may find themselves having to pay a lot more for local vegetables. Read more <https://barbadostoday.bb/2019/05/27/things-brown/>

Dominicans are encouraged to practice water conservation methods in light of current drought conditions. Read more <https://www.dominicavibes.dm/news-258093/>

State of emergency needed for drought-ridden rural communities in Jamaica as rural life and agriculture are being affected. Read more http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/opinion/state-of-emergency-needed-for-drought-ridden-rural-communities_165396?profile=1096 and <http://jamaica-star.com/article/news/20190521/amid-crippling-drought-national-water-commission-imposes-restrictions>

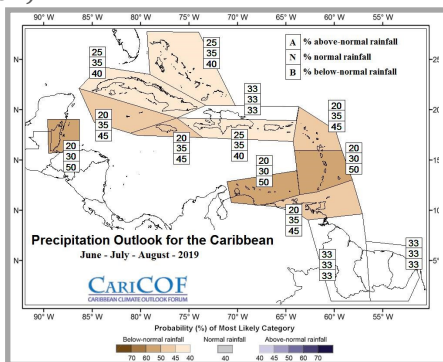
REGIONAL OUTLOOKS

RAINFALL, WET/DRY SPELLS, TEMPERATURE and HEAT (JUNE TO AUGUST)

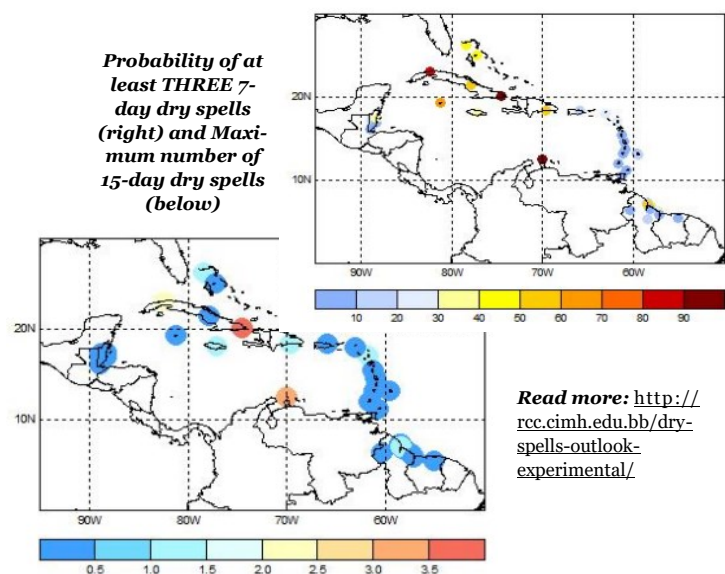
With the already reduced rainfall totals during the recently concluded dry season, normal to below normal rainfall totals are likely across most of the region. This could mean less reliable rains for agriculture.

In the event of extreme wet spells there is a concern for

There is a favourable chance of the northern territories (except Puerto Rico) and the ABC Islands receiving at least three 7-day dry spells. Territories such as the ABC Islands, and portions of Cuba could experience up to three 15-day dry spells.



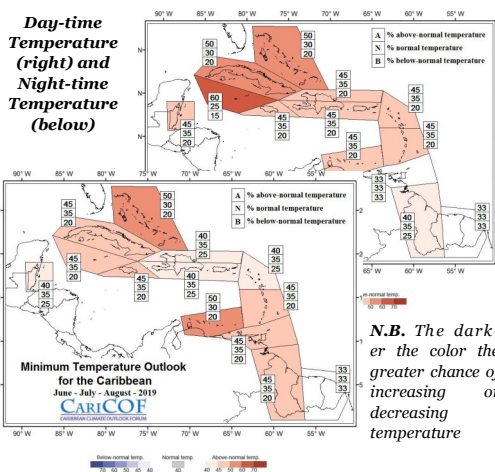
Probability of at least THREE 7-day dry spells (right) and Maximum number of 15-day dry spells (below)



Read more: <http://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/dry-spells-outlook-experimental/>

Day and night time temperatures are likely to be normal to above normal across the region.

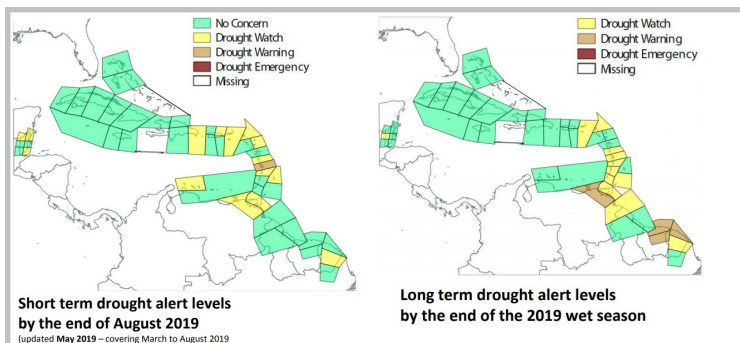
Heat stress can be a concern across The Bahamas and the Greater Antilles (July to September); The Lesser Antilles (August to October); and The Guianas (September to November).



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

DROUGHT

Shorter term drought (by end of August) is evolving in Martinique and could possibly develop in The ABC Islands, Antigua, Barbados, Belize, western Dominican Republic, parts of Puerto Rico and Trinidad.



Long term drought is evolving in northern Suriname, French Guiana and southern Trinidad. Long term drought could possibly develop in Dominica, Grenada, Martinique, central Guiana, northern Guyana, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Trinidad and Tobago, and the US Virgin Islands.

Visit <https://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/long-range-forecasts/caricof-climate-outlooks/>.

CLIMATE-SMART ADVISORIES

The hurricane season is about to begin—be hurricane ready!

During this season to enhance food security in the event of a tropical cyclone, farmers may want to consider planting more resilient crops (e.g. root crops).

Water conservation techniques (e.g. mulching) as well as water management practices (e.g. irrigation) may need to be employed in areas with low water availability. Also, farmers may want to consider planting smaller areas.

Ensure that adequate water and shade are provided for livestock.

Farmers should also protect themselves from heat exposure as day-time temperatures are likely to be higher.

In places where flash flooding might be likely, 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; and store fertilizer away from moisture and water sources.

Please also take into consideration your local weather and climate advisories.

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.

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](mailto:ssstoute@cimh.edu.bb)

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