

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).

KEY MESSAGES

Drought conditions may continue to persist in areas currently being affected, especially the ABC Islands, Belize and parts of the Lesser Antilles. Farming community should continue to carry out measures to conserve water.

Even though wet spells are expected to increase as the wet season progresses (with the exception of the ABC Islands), their frequency may be fewer than normal. These spells may be of a flood concern.

Human health, as well as crop and livestock, may be impacted as peak heat stress is likely to be experienced between August and September.

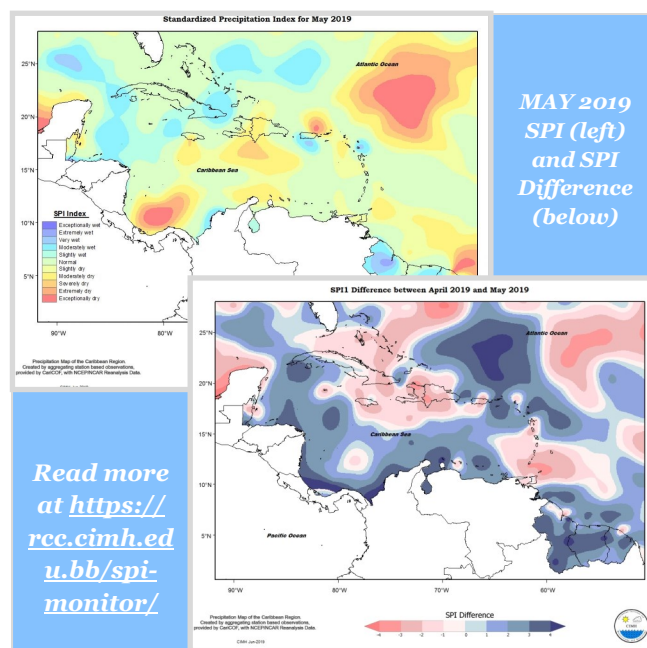
MAY IN REVIEW

Rainfall in the islands of the eastern Caribbean was normal to below normal for the month of May, with the exception of Antigua, which was moderate to very wet and Guadeloupe which was normal to slightly wet. Trinidad, Tobago, and Martinique were normal to slightly dry; Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia normal; Barbados and St. Maarten slightly dry; St. Kitts normal to moderately dry. Conditions in the Guianas were generally normal to above normal, ranging from extremely wet in north central areas of Guyana to slight to extremely dry in northern French Guiana. Curacao was slight to moderately dry.

Puerto Rico experienced normal to moderately wet conditions from northeastern to southwestern areas, with the exception of the extreme east which was slightly to severely dry. The Dominican Republic ranged from normal in the east to moderately dry in the west, whereas, Haiti, ranged from moderately dry in the east, to normal in north and south western areas. Jamaica was normal in the east, normal to slightly wet in the west, with central areas ranging from slightly to moderately dry from north to south; however, Grand Cayman was normal. Cuba was predominantly normal, with slight to moderately wet conditions in the western and eastern areas while Northern Bahamas was normal. The central and southern portions

of Belize experienced normal to extremely wet conditions whereas the northern and western areas were slightly to moderately dry.

The month of May produced more rainfall than April for most territories across the region, with the exception of Trinidad, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the greater portion of Hispaniola, and the U.S. Virgin islands.



AGRI-NEWS

In order to prevent the loss of millions of dollars and adapt to climate change, a five-day Train-the-Trainers Workshop on Climate-Smart Agriculture was undertaken in Belmopan, Belize. Read more <https://edition.channel5belize.com/archives/186643>

The Barbados Water Authority has announced measures to deal with drought. Read more <https://www.nationnews.com/nationnews/news/240069/bwa-announces-measures-deal-drought>

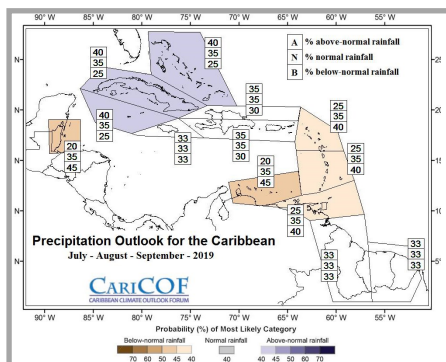
ABOUT CariSAM

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

REGIONAL OUTLOOKS

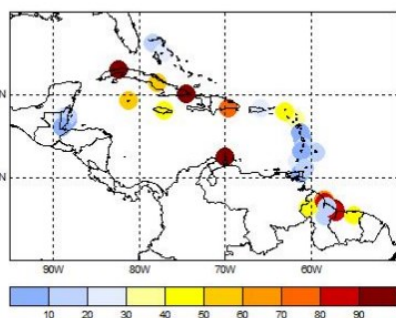
RAINFALL, WET/DRY SPELLS, TEMPERATURE and HEAT (JULY TO SEPTEMBER)

Belize, the ABC Islands and the Lesser Antilles are likely to receive normal to below normal rainfall totals. However, rainfall totals are likely to be normal to above normal across the Cayman Islands, Cuba and the Bahamas.



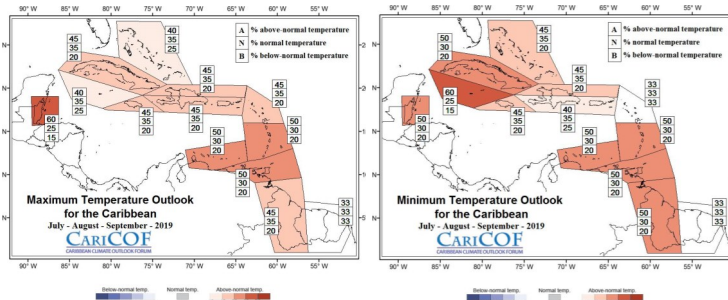
Flash flood potential is a concern in most islands in the event of extreme wet spells.

Probability of at least THREE 7-day dry spells



The occurrence of at least three 7-day dry spells is likely, except across central Guyana, the Eastern Caribbean, northern Bahamas, and Belize.

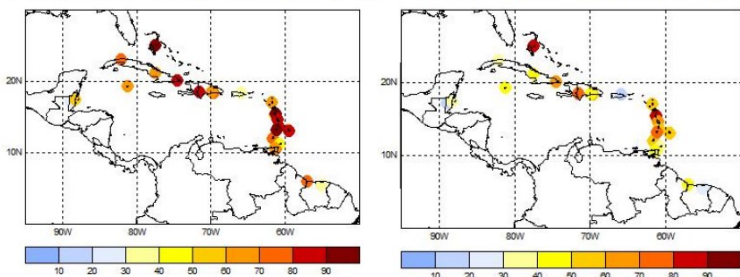
Day and night time temperatures are likely to be normal to above normal across the region.



Human health as well as crop and livestock may be impacted as peak heat stress will likely be experienced as heat stress builds up towards September.

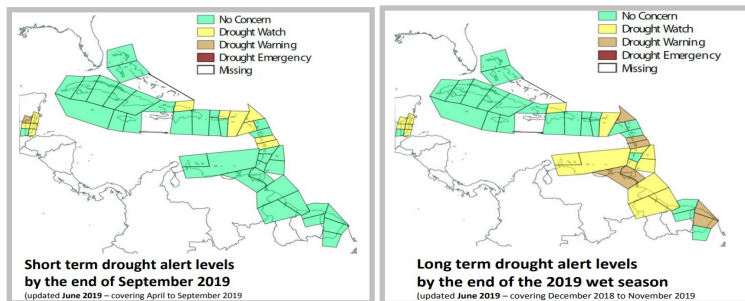
Episodes of Saharan dust incursion is also expected to affect the region.

Prob. at least 7 heatwave days between Jul & Sep 2019 Prob. at least 14 heatwave days between Jul & Sep 2019



DROUGHT

Current situation: Severe (or worse) drought has developed in northern Belize, eastern extremities of Cuba, coastal French Guiana, the northern Leeward Islands, western parts of Trinidad (shorter term), and in Barbados, southern Belize, southern-most Dominican Republic, French Guiana, southwestern Haiti, the northern Leeward Islands, Martinique, Trinidad (long term).



Shorter term drought is evolving in north-western Belize.

Long term drought is likely to evolve in Dominica, French Guiana, Martinique, Sint Maarten and Trinidad by the end of November, and possibly in the ABC Islands, Barbados, most of Belize, northern Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Saint Lucia, Tobago and the US Virgin Islands.

Visit <http://rec.cimh.edu.bb/climate-outlooks/> to access the latest climate outlooks.

CLIMATE-SMART ADVISORIES

Farming community should continue to carry out measures to conserve water, especially in areas where drought is a concern. Water conservation techniques (e.g. mulching) as well as water management practices (e.g. irrigation) may be employed in areas with low water availability.

With the prevailing dry conditions farmers may want to delay planting or re-consider the cropping area based on available irrigation water.

Ensure that adequate water and shade are provided for livestock.

Farmers should also protect themselves from heat exposure and be careful with dust incursions on health.

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.

Continue to be hurricane prepared!

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.

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