

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

Surface, soil wetness and river flow is expected to decrease into the dry season, especially across The Cayman Islands, Western Cuba and central-northern portion of The Bahamas.

Barbados, much of Belize and The Cayman Islands, could potentially face growing water challenges (larger reservoirs, large rivers and groundwater) by the end of the 2020 dry season.

The occurrence of 7-day dry spells could enhance dry conditions across Jamaica, Belize, Cuba and northern Bahamas.

Flooding and flash flooding still remains a concern.

OCTOBER IN REVIEW

The islands of the eastern Caribbean were predominantly normal to below normal for the month of October. Trinidad, St. Lucia and Guadeloupe ranged from normal to moderately dry; Tobago, Dominica and Anguilla normal to slightly wet; Grenada and St. Thomas slightly dry; Barbados moderate to severely dry; St Vincent and Antigua normal to slightly dry; Martinique slightly wet in the south to moderately dry in the north; St Kitts severely dry; St Maarten normal; and St Croix moderately dry. In the Guianas, conditions were mainly normal to extremely wet, with the exception of the northern part of Guyana which was slight to severely dry, the west and south west of Guyana that ranged from slight to exceptionally dry, and north east French Guiana which was slight to moderately dry. Curacao was slightly dry.

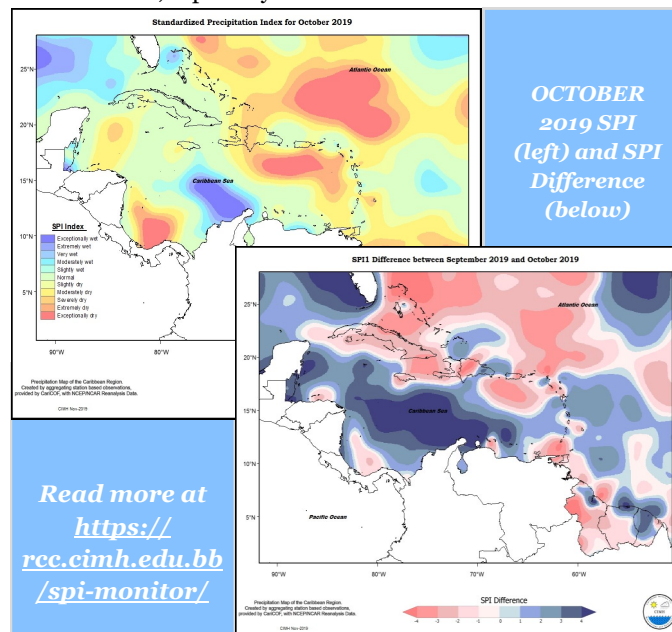
Conditions in Puerto Rico ranged from normal in the west to severely dry in the extreme south east. Conditions in Hispaniola ranged from normal in the east and extreme west to severely dry around the Haiti/Dominican Republic border. Jamaica was normal to slightly dry from east to west, while Grand Cayman was normal. Cuba was predominantly normal with the exception of slightly dry conditions in the west central areas, and in the extreme west which was slight to moderately wet. Northern Bahamas ranged from slightly dry to extremely wet.

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

Belize ranged from normal in central areas to moderately wet in the north and to exceptionally wet in the south.

The month of October produced more rainfall than September for some territories, especially Belize.



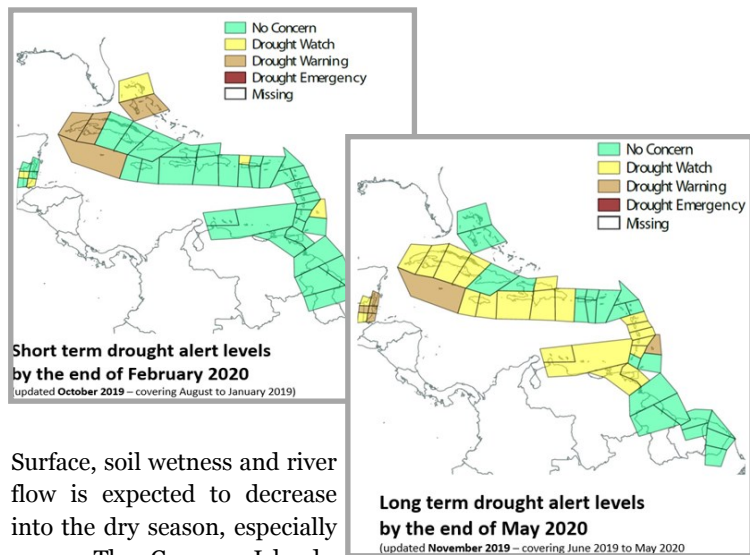
AGRI-NEWS

Barbados: Some reservoirs 'bone dry'. Minister of Energy and Water Resource, Wilfred Abrahams warns that Barbados' water supply is running 'very low' as the country continues to experience drought conditions. Read more <https://www.nationnews.com/nationnews/news/242899/reservoirs-bone-dry>

Jamaica: The drought is over. This is welcomed news to Jamaica's farming communities which have lamented the parched fields and withering crops amid less-than-normal rainfall this year. Read more <http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/lead-stories/20191102/drought-over-fair-rainfall-projected-2020>

REGIONAL OUTLOOKS

DROUGHT

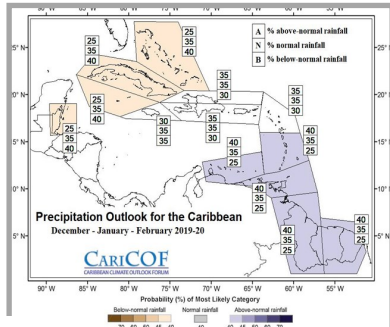


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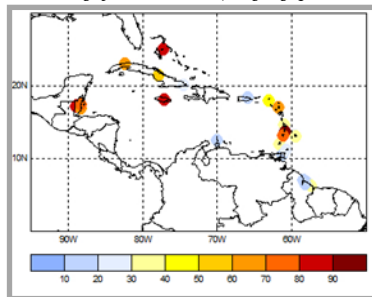
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RAINFALL, WET/DRY SPELLS and TEMPERATURE (DECEMBER 2019—FEBRUARY 2020)

Normal to below normal rainfall along with the occurrence of at least three 7-day dry spells are possible across Belize, The Cayman Islands, Cuba and The Bahamas in the first half of the dry season, which could impact available water for planting.



Probability of at least THREE 7-day dry spells in DJF

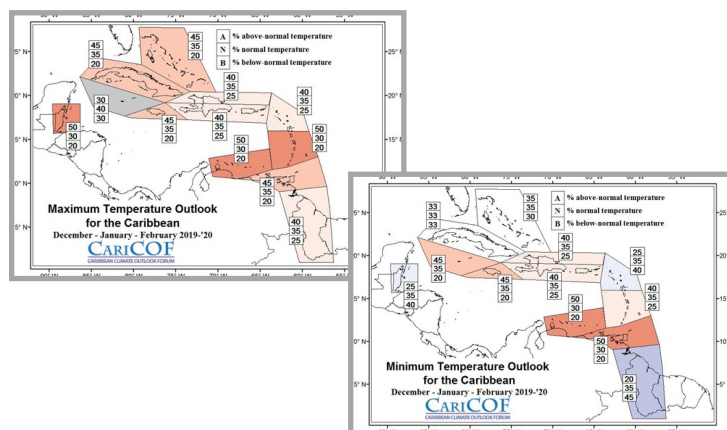


The Windward Islands, The ABC Islands and the Guianas could experience greater soil and surface wetness than is normal during the first half of the dry season as rainfall is likely to be normal to above normal. Additionally, there could be a

favourable chance of the occurrence of at least three 7-day dry spells across The Windward Islands.

The concern still exists for flooding and flash flooding especially across The ABC Islands and the Guianas.

Day (maximum) and night (minimum) time temperatures even though they could be warmer than usual, would be comfortable for this season. The chance of the occurrence of heat wave remain favourable across the Guianas for October.



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

CLIMATE-SMART ADVISORIES

- ◆ With decreasing rainfall totals after a drier than usual wet season for some territories, farmers may need alternate water sources for on-farm activities. Continue to carry out measures to conserve water, especially in areas where water reservoirs may be severely impacted. Water conservation techniques (e.g. mulching) as well as water management practices (e.g. irrigation) may be employed.
- ◆ In preparation for planting, farmers should consider planting based on the area their limited water resources would irrigate/satisfy.
- ◆ Irrigate in the early morning preferably. There is less chance of wind and lower evaporation rates.
- ◆ To minimize the effects of flash flooding 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.
- ◆ Agricultural pest and diseases may increase after excess periods of precipitation. Monitor and employ recommended treatment as necessary.

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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