

# 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

With an early start to the 2020 hurricane season and an expected active one, farmers should pay special attention to securing their assets.

It is expected that any short term drought impacts in the region will be relieved by the end of August, with likely exception being , north-western and central Belize. By the end of the 2020 wet season long term drought may be of a concern for west-central Belize, northern French Guiana, Martinique, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad.

With the advancement of the wet season, flash flood potential is expected to increase, particularly during the second half of the season.

The 2020 heat season (June to November) is expected to produce more heatwave days than normal, especially across the Eastern Caribbean.

Day and night time temperatures are expected to be higher than normal.

## APRIL IN REVIEW

Normal to below normal conditions mainly prevailed throughout the islands of the eastern Caribbean, during the month of April. Trinidad ranged from normal in the east to severely dry in the southwest and exceptionally dry in the extreme northwest; Tobago slightly wet to moderately dry; Grenada normal; St Vincent, St Maarten and Anguilla normal to slightly dry; Barbados, St Kitts, St Croix and St Thomas slightly dry; Saint Lucia moderate to severely dry; Martinique severe to extremely dry; Dominica normal to moderately dry; Guadeloupe normal to severely dry and Antigua severely dry. Conditions in the Guianas ranged from normal in most of Suriname, parts of eastern Guyana and western French Guiana to exceptionally dry in northern Guyana and to extremely wet in northeast French Guiana. Curacao was normal.

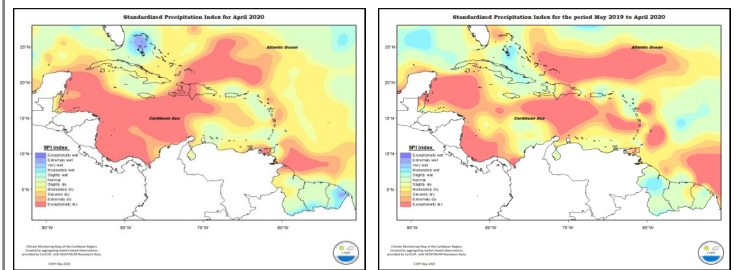
Puerto Rico ranged from slightly dry to normal. Hispaniola ranged from exceptionally dry for most of Haiti and western Dominican Republic to slightly dry in east central Dominican Republic. Jamaica ranged from extremely dry in the south east to normal in the north and north western areas. Grand Cayman was moderately dry. In Cuba, conditions ranged from normal in the north and southeast to severely dry in parts of the northeast and to extremely dry in the west.

## 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)

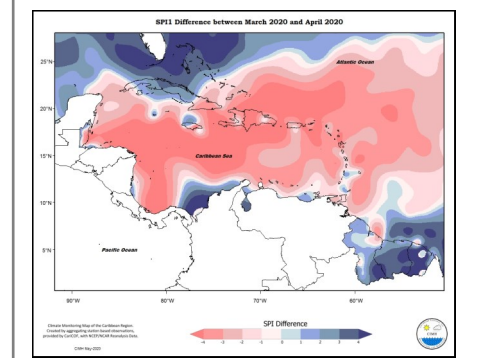
Northern Bahamas ranged from normal to extremely wet. Belize ranged from normal in the extreme southwest to extremely dry in the east and north.

### APRIL 2020 SPI (left) and 12-month SPI MAY 2019 TO APRIL 2020 (right)



A 12-month review of rainfall across the region shows severely to exceptionally dry conditions across Barbados, Saint Lucia, Martinique, east-central Dominican Republic, southern portion of The Bahamas, and northern Belize.

### SPI Difference (March and April 2020)



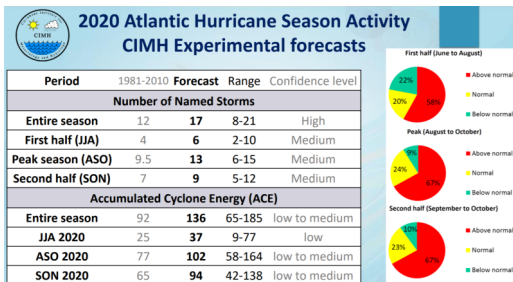
Relatively drier conditions prevailed over the month of April than in March across the region with the exceptions of portions of Jamaica, Cuba, The Bahamas and much of the Guianas.

Read more at <https://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/spi-monitor/>

## REGIONAL OUTLOOKS

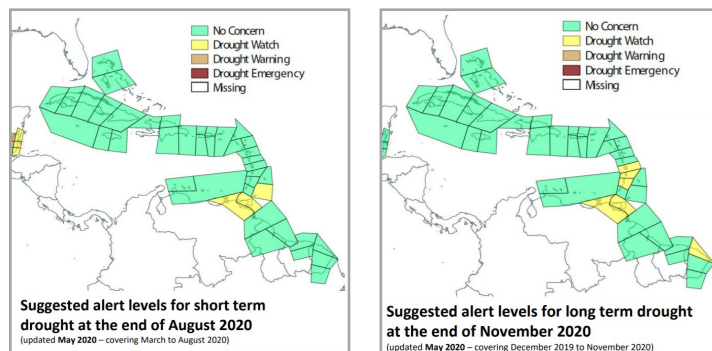
### ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON ACTIVITY \*Experimental Product\*

The 2020 Hurricane Season is expected to be one of above normal tropical storm activity. **Read more at** <https://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/atlantic-hurricane-season-outlook-june-to-november-2020/>



### DROUGHT

As at the end of April 2020, severe (or worse) shorter term drought has developed in the central and southeastern portion of The Bahamas, northern Belize, the Cayman Islands, much of Cuba, northern and western Guyana, Hispaniola, Martinique, southern portion of Saint Lucia, southeastern Suriname, and western Trinidad. Severe (or worse) long term drought has developed in Aruba, northern and southern portion of The Bahamas, Barbados, much of Belize, Grand Cayman, northern Cuba, southern and central Dominican Republic, northern French Guiana, Martinique, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad, and St. Croix.

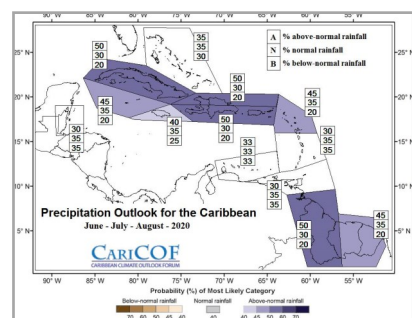


By the end of August 2020, surface soil wetness, and stream and river flow is likely to be less than normal for this time of year in northwestern and west-central Belize. These conditions could also possibly develop (or continue) in eastern Belize, and Trinidad and Tobago.

By the end of the 2020 dry season concerns for long-term drought could present a challenge in farming, especially where water supply is sourced from larger reservoirs, large rivers or groundwater, across west-central Belize, northern French Guiana, Martinique, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad.

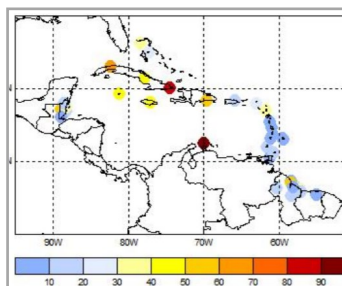
**Interests across the region should continue to monitor their water status.**

### RAINFALL, WET/DRY SPELLS, TEMPERATURE and HEATWAVE DAYS (JUNE—AUGUST 2020)

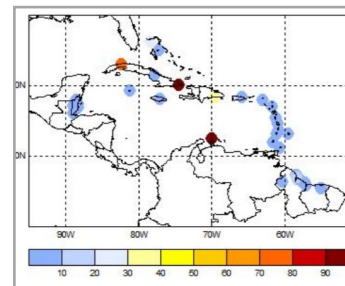


Rainfall totals from June to August are likely to be at least as wet as usual across most of the region. Moreover, flash flood potential is of a growing concern especially onwards from the month of August.

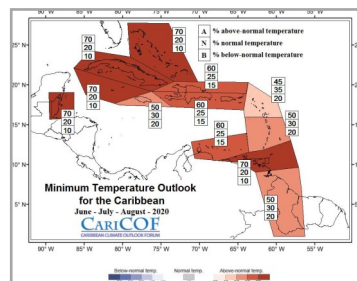
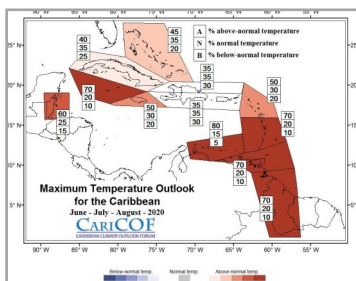
Probability of at least THREE 7-day dry spells in JJA



Probability of at least ONE 15-day dry spell in JJA



The occurrence of at least three 7-day dry spells remains favourable across Cuba, Dominican Republic, and the ABC Islands. The occurrence of at least one 15-day dry spell remains favourable across eastern and western Cuba and the ABC Islands.



Day (maximum) and night (minimum) time temperatures are likely to be as warm as usual across the region and, at times, are likely to be uncomfortably hot, especially during heat waves. Heatwave days are expected to exceed the expected totals during the June to November season, particularly across the territories of the eastern Caribbean.

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

### CLIMATE-SMART ADVISORIES

- ◆ **Hurricane preparations should be ongoing or completed. This is predicted to be an active season for tropical cyclone activity.**
- ◆ Provide shade and ample water for livestock during periods of heat-waves. Farmers should also pay attention to their health and protect from heat-stroke—consume lots of water; wear appropriate clothing; adjust times of field activities where necessary.
- ◆ With the possibility of flood producing rains, particularly from the month of August:
  - ⇒ Maintain drains around crop beds and/or plant crops on raised beds
  - ⇒ House animals on high ground and/or on raised pens
  - ⇒ 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.

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