

# CARIBBEAN AGRO-CLIMATIC BULLETIN OF THE CARISAM



OCTOBER 2020 • VOLUME 4 • ISSUE 5

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

## KEY MESSAGES

**High flooding, flash flood and landslide potential across Belize and the Caribbean Islands (and, from late-November, in the coastal Guianas) despite transitioning from the wet season into the typical dry season.**

**In October, heat stress will likely remain high due to high humidity and temperatures south and southeastwards of Guadeloupe.**

**Copious rains should ease drought concerns by the end of this period for most.**

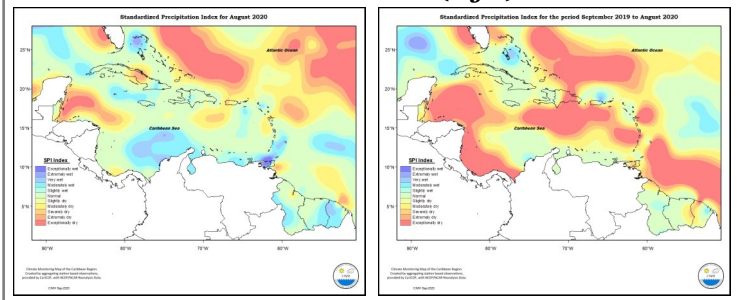
## AUGUST IN REVIEW

Mixed conditions prevailed throughout the islands of the eastern Caribbean during the month of August. Trinidad ranged from moderately dry in the southeast to exceptionally wet in the northwest; Tobago very to moderately wet; Grenada, Saint Lucia, Martinique, Antigua, St Maarten, Anguilla, normal; Barbados slight to moderately wet; St Vincent moderately dry in the south to normal in the north; Dominica slightly dry to normal; Guadeloupe normal to moderately dry; St Kitts normal to slightly wet; St Croix slightly wet; St Thomas normal to slightly dry. In the Guiana's, conditions ranged from severely dry in north-eastern French Guiana to very wet on the western border of Guyana and northern border of Suriname and French Guiana. Aruba slightly wet and Curacao normal.

Puerto Rico ranged from severely dry in the west to normal on the south-eastern border. Hispaniola was predominantly normal ranging from slightly wet on the central and southern border to slightly dry in southeast central Dominican Republic. Jamaica ranged from moderately wet in the northwest and slightly wet in the east to normal in central areas. Grand Cayman was moderately wet. Cuba ranged from moderately wet in the extreme west and east central to normal in the east and to extremely dry in east central areas. Northern Bahamas ranged from normal to extremely wet and Belize ranged from extremely dry in the southeast to slightly wet in the northwest.

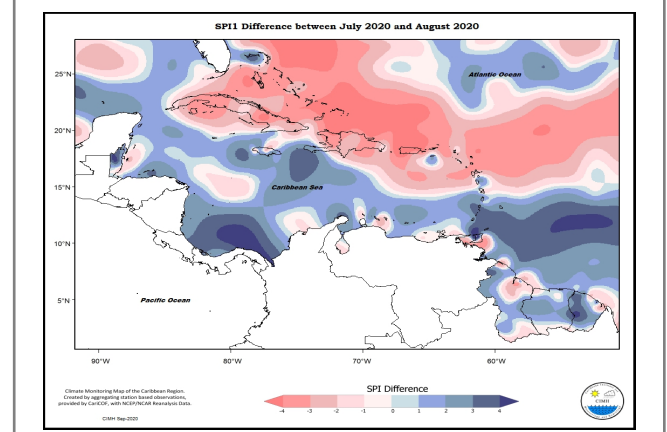
A 12-month review of rainfall across the region shows severely to exceptionally dry conditions continue to persist across some territories.

### AUGUST 2020 SPI (left) and 12-month SPI SEPTEMBER 2019 TO AUGUST 2020 (right)



The month of August was predominantly relatively drier than July across the Greater Antilles, The Bahamas and the Leeward Islands.

### SPI Difference (July and August 2020)



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

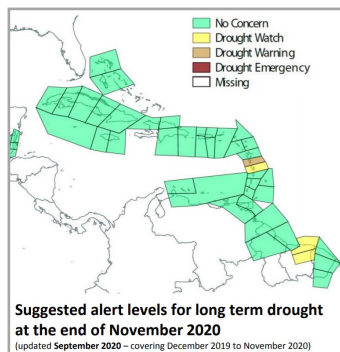
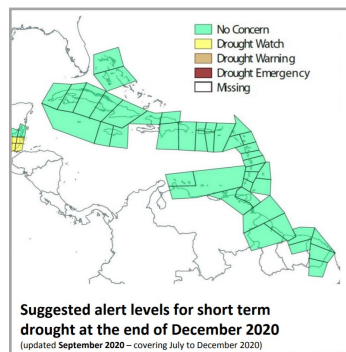
## ABOUT CariSAM

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)

**REGIONAL OUTLOOKS**

**DROUGHT**

As at the end of August 2020, severe (or worse) shorter term drought has developed in coastal Belize and far eastern Guadeloupe, and continues in southwestern Dominica, northwestern Martinique and northern Saint Lucia. Severe (or worse) long term drought has developed in the northernmost and south-easternmost Bahamas, southeastern Barbados, eastern Belize, Grand Cayman, central Dominican Republic, eastern Guadeloupe, northwest French Guiana, far northern Guyana, southwestern Puerto Rico, St. Croix, eastern Suriname, western Trinidad, Turks and Caicos Islands, the Windward Islands (except Dominica and Grenada).



By the end of December 2020, there is likely to be no concern regarding surface soil wetness, and stream and river flow (though there is some chance over southern Belize).

However, concerns for long-term drought (by end of November 2020) could present a challenge in farming, especially where water supply is sourced from larger reservoirs, large rivers or groundwater, across Dominica and possibly southwest Belize, Martinique and Suriname.

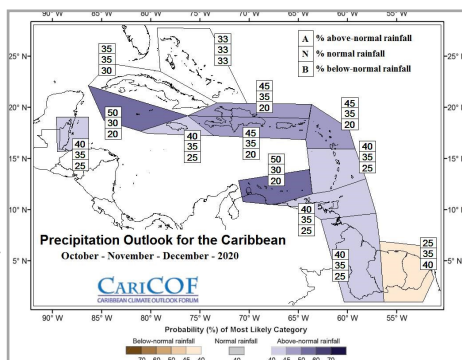
**Interests across the region should continue to monitor their water status.**

**RAINFALL, WET/DRY SPELLS, TEMPERATURE and HEATWAVE DAYS (SEPTEMBER–NOVEMBER 2020)**

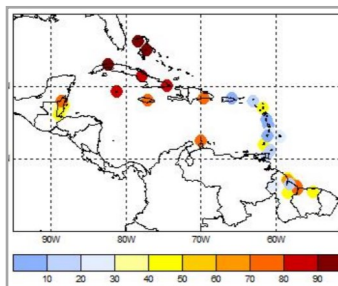
Rainfall totals from October to December are likely to be at least as high as usual in the western parts of the Guianas, as well as, in much of the Antilles but the usual or drier in the eastern parts of the Guianas.

Flash flood and long-term flooding potential, as well as, land slide and soil erosion could be a significant concern in Belize, the Islands and the coastal Guianas due to recurrent very wet and some extreme wet spells.

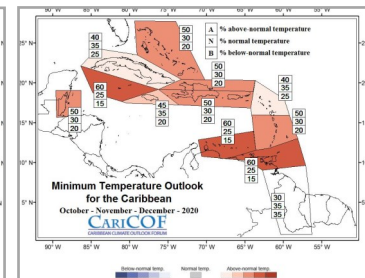
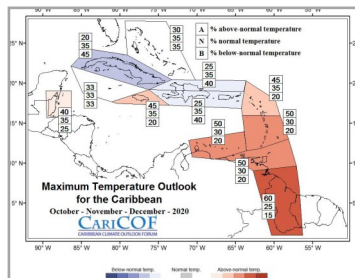
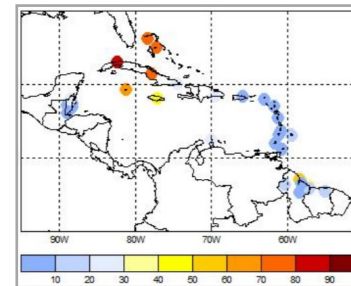
The occurrence of at least three 7-day dry spells remain favourable across the Greater Antilles, northwestern Bahamas, northern Belize, the ABC Islands and portions of the Guianas.



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



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



Night-time (minimum) and day-time (maximum) temperatures are likely to be at least as warm as usual across most of the Caribbean with the possible exception of Cuba, Hispaniola and the US Territories. Heat discomfort is still expected in October in the southern Caribbean.

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

**CLIMATE-SMART ADVISORIES**

- ◆ Continue to be hurricane prepared.
- ◆ Farmers in the southern Caribbean should continue to 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:
  - ⇒ 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
- ◆ Agricultural pest and diseases may increase after excess periods of precipitation. Monitor and employ recommended treatment as necessary.

**Please also keep updated and 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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