

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

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

Drought is expected to continue into the early wet season in those areas currently affected. However, as the frequency of wet spells increases across the region (except in the ABC Islands), some drought relief is expected. Moreover, these wet spells may also bring some concern for flooding.

Heat sensation will increase. Thus, heatwaves may occur from May in Belize and Trinidad & Tobago, and elsewhere from July onwards. Recurrent dry spells are forecasted, except for the Windward Islands and the Guianas.

MARCH IN REVIEW

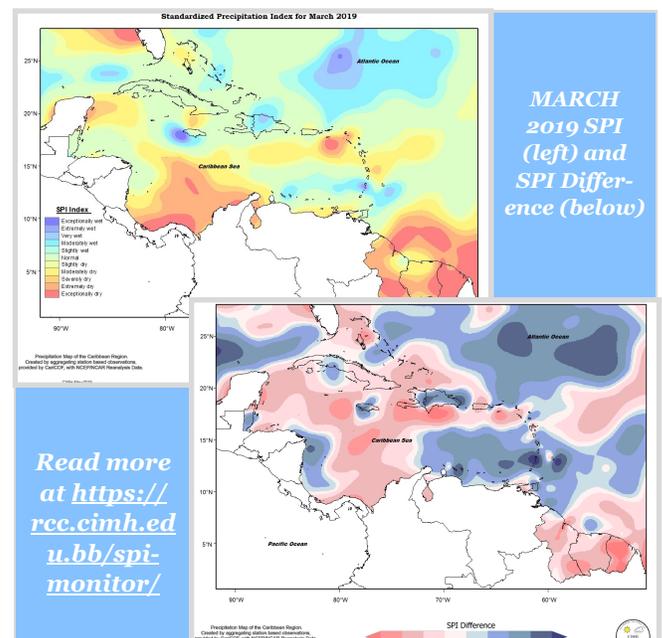
Conditions were mixed in the eastern Caribbean for the month of March. Trinidad, Tobago, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Antigua and St. Thomas were all normal or predominantly so; Barbados normal to slightly wet; St. Vincent very to extremely wet; Martinique slight to moderately dry; Dominica moderately dry; Guadeloupe slightly dry St. Kitts moderate to severely dry; St. Maarten severely dry; and St. Croix severe to extremely dry. Conditions in the Guianas ranged from exceptionally dry in parts of southern Guyana and much of French Guiana to normal in northeastern Guyana. Aruba was slightly dry, but Curacao slight to moderately wet.

Puerto Rico was normal to slightly dry, but Hispaniola ranged from normal in the west, south and east to very wet in north-western Dominican Republic. Jamaica was predominantly normal, with above normal rainfall in the southern and western extremities, and below normal in the northern extremities, but Grand Cayman was normal. Northern Bahamas was normal to moderately dry, while Belize was predominantly normal apart from the extreme north that was slightly dry and the extreme south that was slightly 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

The month of March has seen increased rainfall, in comparison to February, across most of the region with the exception of the Dominican Republic and most islands of the Eastern Caribbean.



AGRI-NEWS

Suriname is now more equipped to tackle drought and diversify production. Read more <https://caribbeannewsservice.com/now/suriname-is-now-more-equipped-to-tackle-drought-and-diversify-production/>

Renewable energy is making its way into Guyana's agriculture sector. Read more <https://caribbeannewsservice.com/now/renewable-energy-is-making-its-way-into-guianas-agriculture-sector/>

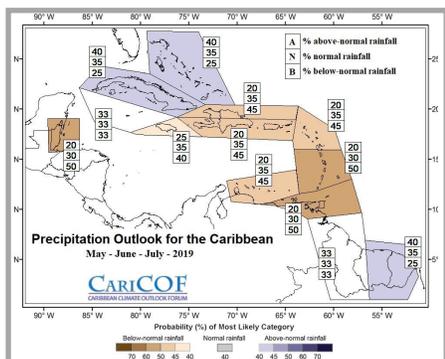
REGIONAL OUTLOOKS

RAINFALL, WET/DRY SPELLS AND TEMPERATURE (MAY TO JULY)

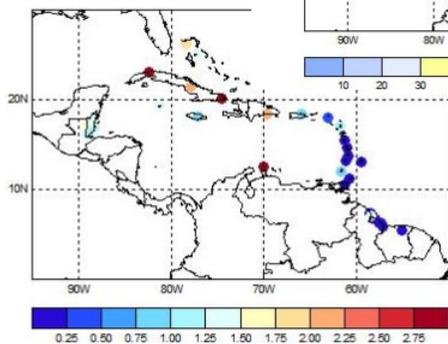
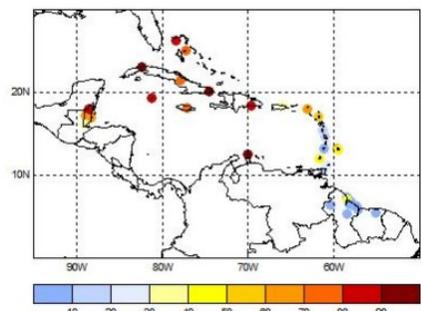
With the commencement of the wet season, rainfall totals are likely to be normal to above normal across Cuba, The Bahamas and the Guianas but normal to below normal elsewhere.

Flash flood and long-term flooding potential from very wet and extreme spells may become a concern particularly in Belize, Jamaica, St. Maarten and the Guianas.

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



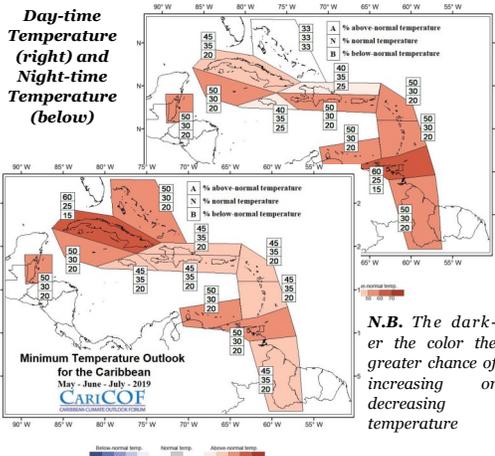
Probability of at least THREE 7-day dry spells (right) and Maximum number of 15-day dry spells (below)



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.

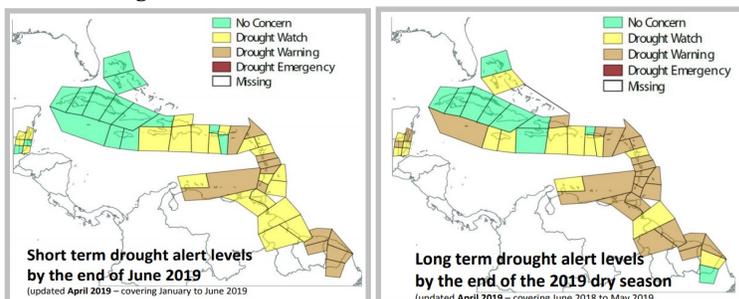
Heatwaves may be of concern (Belize and Trinidad and Tobago from May and elsewhere from July) with the increasing heat sensation.



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

DROUGHT

Shorter term drought is evolving in Dominica, French Guiana, Grenada, Martinique, St. Martin, St. Lucia, Suriname, and the US Virgin Islands. Shorter term drought might possibly develop in the ABC islands, Antigua, Barbados, much of Belize, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Hispaniola, parts of Puerto Rico, St. Kitts, St. Vincent, Trinidad & Tobago.



Long term drought is evolving in Antigua, west-central and North Eastern Belize, Cayman, Northern Dominican Republic, Northern French Guiana, Guyana, Northeast Lesser Antilles (except Guadeloupe), Puerto Rico, Suriname. Long term drought might possibly develop in the ABC islands, Northwestern Bahamas, the remainder of Belize, Southern Dominican Republic, Central French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Jamaica, and Southern Puerto Rico. 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! Farmers should review their operation to identify ways of reducing damage/loss in the event of a hurricane.

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.

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 by restricting activities as much as possible to the cooler hours of the day and consuming plenty of water.



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.

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