

# 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

Entering the peak of the 2020 wet season the chance of flooding significantly increases along with higher chances for landslides, particularly across Belize and the islands. However, positively, soil moisture would be high. Strong tropical cyclone activity is also likely.

Heat stress will likely be higher than in most years due to high humidity and warmer than usual temperatures.

Copious rains should ease drought concerns during this period for most. The Guianas return to their hot, dry season at this time.

## JUNE IN REVIEW

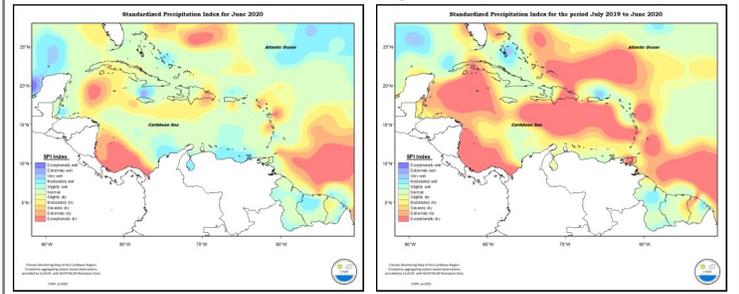
Rainfall in the eastern Caribbean was predominantly normal to below normal for the month of June. Trinidad and Antigua were normal to slightly dry; Tobago normal to severely dry; Grenada, Barbados, St Vincent, St Croix and St. Thomas normal; Saint Lucia slightly wet in the south to moderately dry in the north; Martinique slight to extremely dry from south to north; Dominica severe to slightly dry; Guadeloupe mostly normal to extremely dry from west to east; St Kitts moderate to extremely dry; and St Maarten moderately dry. Most of the Guianas was normal to slightly wet, but ranged from very wet in north eastern French Guiana to moderately dry in north western French Guiana. Curacao was normal to slightly wet and Aruba was normal.

Puerto Rico ranged from predominantly normal in central areas to moderately dry in the southeast and to slightly wet in the north west. Hispaniola ranged from normal in most of Haiti and north western Dominican Republic to extremely dry in east central Dominican Republic. Jamaica ranged from normal to very wet in the extreme north. Grand Cayman was moderately dry. Cuba ranged from moderately dry in western areas to normal in the extreme west and to moderately wet in the extreme south-eastern tip. Northern Bahamas though predominantly normal was slightly dry in the north. Belize was mostly normal with the exception of the extreme

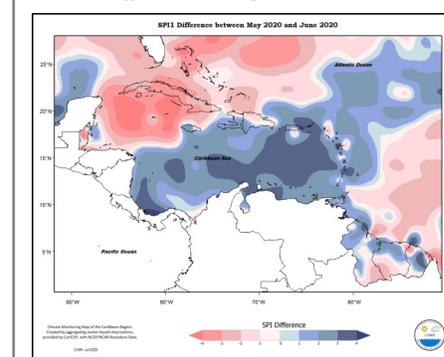
south which was slightly dry and the south east which was moderately wet.

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

## JUNE 2020 SPI (left) and 12-month SPI JULY 2019 TO JUNE 2020 (right)



## SPI Difference (May and June 2020)



The northern and southeastern portions of the Caribbean received less rainfall in the month of June than May.

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

## AGRI-NEWS

**Worsening Water Crisis in the Eastern Caribbean.** Read more at <https://eos.org/articles/worsening-water-crisis-in-the-eastern-caribbean>

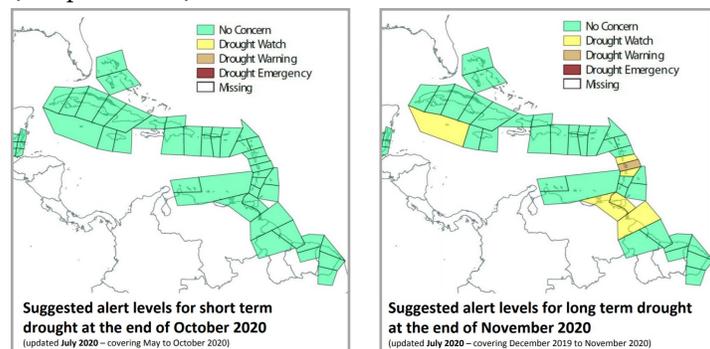
## ABOUT CariSAM

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 June 2020, severe (or worse) short-term drought has developed in Grand Cayman, Dominica, most parts of Hispaniola, the Leeward Islands (except the US Virgin Islands), Martinique, northern Saint Lucia, and Tobago. Severe (or worse) long term drought has developed in Aruba, northernmost and south-easternmost Bahamas, Barbados, parts of Belize, Cayman Islands, parts of Western Cuba, most parts of the Dominican Republic, northwestern French Guiana, eastern Guadeloupe, south-westernmost Puerto Rico, Trinidad, and the Windward Islands (except Grenada).



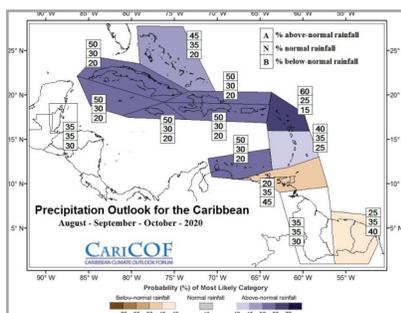
By the end of October 2020, there is likely to be no concern regarding surface soil wetness, and stream and river flow.

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 Martinique and possibly Grand Cayman, Dominica, northernmost Guyana, Saint Lucia and Trinidad.

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

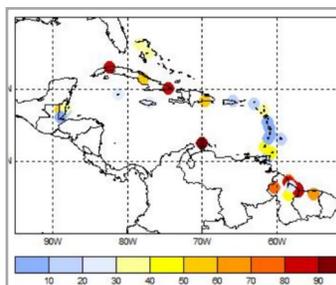
### RAINFALL, WET/DRY SPELLS, TEMPERATURE and HEATWAVE DAYS (AUGUST—OCTOBER 2020)

Rainfall totals from August to October are likely to be at least as high as usual in the ABC Islands, Barbados, the Greater Antilles, the Windward and Leeward Islands, but the usual or lower in eastern parts of the Guianas and in Trinidad and Tobago. Flash flood and long-term flooding potential will be a significant concern in the region, except for the southern part of the Eastern Caribbean, including the Guianas. Recharge of large water reservoirs may be faster than usual in many places.

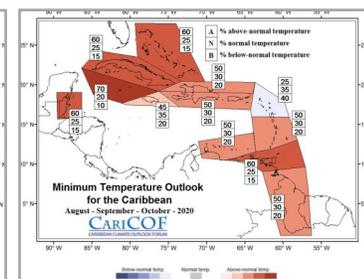
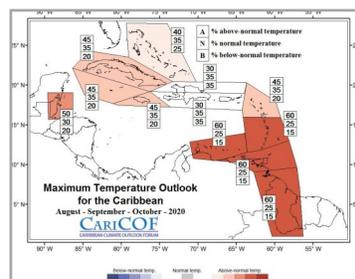
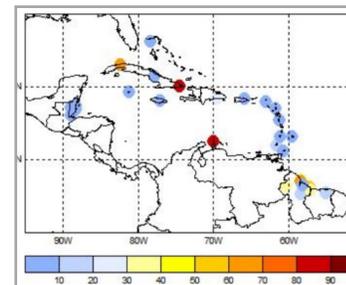


The occurrence of 7-day dry spells and 15-day dry spells still remain favourable particularly across the ABC Islands and parts of Cuba.

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



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



Day (maximum) and night-time (minimum) temperatures are likely to be at least as warm as usual across most of the Caribbean, with the possible exception of night-time temperatures in the Leeward Islands. Frequent heat waves and increasing humidity will increase discomfort.

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

### CLIMATE-SMART ADVISORIES

- ◆ Review hurricane preparations as strong tropical cyclone activity is likely during the second half of the season.
- ◆ To enhance food security in the event of a tropical cyclone, farmers may want to consider planting more resilient crops (e.g. root crops)
- ◆ Provide shade and ample water for livestock during periods of heatwaves. 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

**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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