

## SAINT LUCIA AGROMET REPORT – JUNE 2020

The monthly averages for the Hewanorra and George F L Charles airport stations for June 2020 are shown in the table below:

AVERAGE MONTHLY DATA FOR HEWANORRA (H) and GEORGE F L CHARLES (GFLC)													
Stn	Cloud Cover (oktas)	Wind Dir (o from N)	Wind Speed (kt)	Air Temp. (°C)	Calculated Tmean (max+min)/2 (°C)	RH (%)	Rainfall Long-Term Mean (mm)	Rainfall Total (mm)	Max Temp (°C)	Min Temp (°C)	Daily Sunshine (Hrs)	Daily Evap (mm)	Soil 10cm (°C)
Hew	5	90	17	28.6	29.0	76	119.6	176.4	31.6	26.4	8.7	8.2	29.1
GFLC	5	100	9	29.5	28.4	70	149.4	79.1	31.4	25.5			

Although precipitation generally increases with the commencement of the Atlantic Hurricane Season, rainfall totals varied for Saint Lucia as these were wetter than expected for the south and drier than normal for the north of the island. Hewanorra Airport station recorded 176.4 mm which was 32 percent above the long term mean and the 10<sup>th</sup> wettest June total (*based on 48 years of historical data*). George F. L. Charles on the other hand, recorded 79.1 mm which was 47 percent below the long term mean and the 6<sup>th</sup> driest total for June (*based on 54 years of historical data*). There were 19 rainy days with a 4-day dry spell at Hewanorra whilst at George F. L. Charles, there were 14 rainy days with its longest dry spell lasting 5 days.

Climatologically, rainfall totals gradually increase in July as the hurricane season progresses. Thus, the climatological mean for Hewanorra is 162.1 mm and 212.0 mm at George F. L. Charles (*using based period 1981 – 2010*). Normally, the precipitation recorded during this time of year is the result of tropical waves which have a tendency to increase in occurrence with the continuation of the hurricane season. These generally precede the formation of tropical cyclones. The July to September (**JAS**) national precipitation outlook indicates **below normal** and as such, rainfall totals could range from 334.3 mm to 423 mm at Hewanorra and 471.1 mm to 577.5 mm at George F. L. Charles Airport. The October to December (**OND**) national precipitation outlook however highlights **climatology** which translates to an uncertainty in the expected rainfall conditions. As a result, normal rainfall totals could range from 421.9 mm to 541.3 mm at Hewanorra and at George F. L. Charles, 547.8 mm to 650 mm.

The maximum and minimum temperatures were warmer than normal for Saint Lucia during the month of June. This is expected to continue into the **JAS** and **OND** seasons as the national temperature outlooks for these periods suggest **above normal** maximum and minimum temperatures.

At Hewanorra, the 1, 3, 6 and 12-month SPIs were moderately wet, normal, slightly and moderately dry whereas at George F. L. Charles, these were moderately to exceptionally dry. The rainfall accumulation also remains at a precipitation deficit despite the wetter conditions experienced at the Hewanorra Airport station. The anticipation of uncertain and drier than normal as well as warmer than usual conditions, along with evidence of an evolving long term drought, continues to raise concern. Consequently, citizens should closely monitor the drought situation as this can have adverse effects on water availability. Therefore, citizens should pay attention to water resources, adhere to the necessary conservation practices and be cognizant of any changes in weather patterns.