

## **Dominica's report for September 2015**

The month of September was normal to moderately dry across the island of Dominica. Tropical Storm Grace from the 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> and tropical waves contributed to the month's total.

**Canefield Airport:** A total of 168.6mm of rainfall was recorded for the month. This total represents about two thirds of the monthly mean. There were 11 rainfall days for the month with the longest dry spell of 10 days occurring during the last dekad of the month. The mean air temperature of 29.1°C remained above average by 0.4°C. The maximum daily temperature recorded was 34.3°C on the 9<sup>th</sup> and the minimum 21.8°C on the 12<sup>th</sup>. The average wind direction was south south westerly (200°) at a speed of 7km/h. The highest gust recorded was 41km/h on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Douglas-Charles:** A total of 130.8mm of rainfall was recorded for September. This total represents about 41% of the monthly mean. There were 12 rainfall days with 4 consecutive dry days at the beginning of the month and 13 during the last half of the month. The air temperature averaged 29.0°C and this is 0.4°C above the mean. The maximum temperature recorded was 32.6°C on the 4<sup>th</sup> and the minimum was 22.6°C on the 12<sup>th</sup>. The average wind direction was east south easterly (120°) at 11km/h. The highest wind gust recorded was 48km/h on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

The most affected areas during tropical storm Erika were the Central, West and South regions. A month later, farmers are still recovering from significant damage to farm access roads and property and are in the process of clearing debris, cleaning and planting. Road bypasses have been completed in heavily farmed areas such as Belles and Carholme.

There was significant erosion of top soil in affected areas making the land unsuitable for planting while poor water quality resulted in chicken mortality on poultry farms. Heavy silted rivers and streams also caused flash floods during the earlier part of the month further damaging feeder roads. Farmers are also faced with the issue of praedial larceny.

Few wet days were observed during the latter part of the month which limited crop establishment and production and rainwater harvesting.

Vegetables and root crops, passion fruit and avocados were harvested during the month.