

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). As of May 2017, the previous monthly CAMI bulletin transitions into the Caribbean Agro-Climatic Bulletin of the CarisAM.

KEY MESSAGES

As the majority of the region enters into the wettest part of the year, it is likely that conditions would be wetter than normal apart from in the southeast portions in the vicinity of Trinidad and Tobago and the Guianas. However, a couple countries would likely still experience drought conditions by the end of November. A long-term drought situation seems imminent over Central Bahamas by the end of November and could also possibly evolve over the northern portion of the island. Short-term drought may continue over Haiti. If concerns do arise, this could be exacerbated as the region heads into the dry season.

AUGUST IN REVIEW

Normal to above normal rainfall was experienced in the islands of the eastern Caribbean during August. Trinidad was predominantly normal, with northern areas being slight to moderately wet; Tobago normal to extremely wet. Conditions in the Guianas ranged from exceptionally dry in French Guiana to moderately wet in southern Guyana and southwest Suriname. Aruba was slightly dry while Curacao was normal.

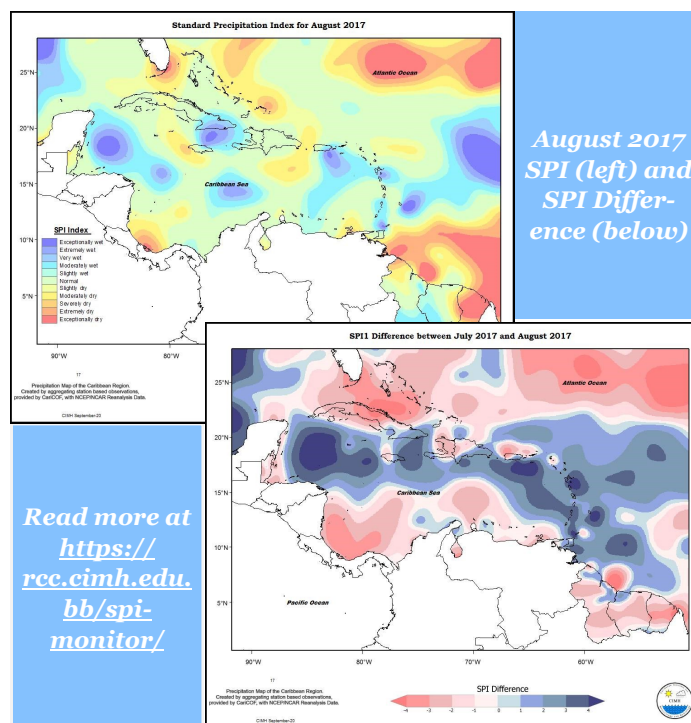
Conditions in Puerto Rico ranged from slightly dry in the west to extremely wet in the southeast. Hispaniola was predominantly normal, apart from in the extreme west of Haiti that was slightly wet and the extreme east of the Dominican Republic that was slight to moderately dry. Apart from the extreme west that was slight to moderately dry, Jamaica was also predominantly normal, and Grand Cayman was normal. Conditions in Cuba ranged from slightly dry in the northwest to moderately wet in the east. Belize was normal in the south and slightly dry in the north.

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

How wet or dry was it compared to July?

The month of August was wetter than July across most territories except across most of the larger territories.



AUGUST AGRI-NEWS

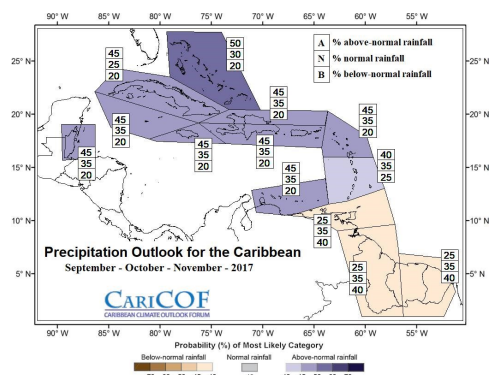
Rains during the month of August in Grenada brought abundant yields in avocados, sweet potatoes, corn, watermelons, cashew, mangoes, just to name a few.

REGIONAL OUTLOOKS

There are no concerns for drought across the region, except for Haiti (until the end of November in the case of short-term drought) and central and northern Bahamas (until the end of November in the case of long-term drought). Visit <https://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/long-range-forecasts/caricof-climate-outlooks/>

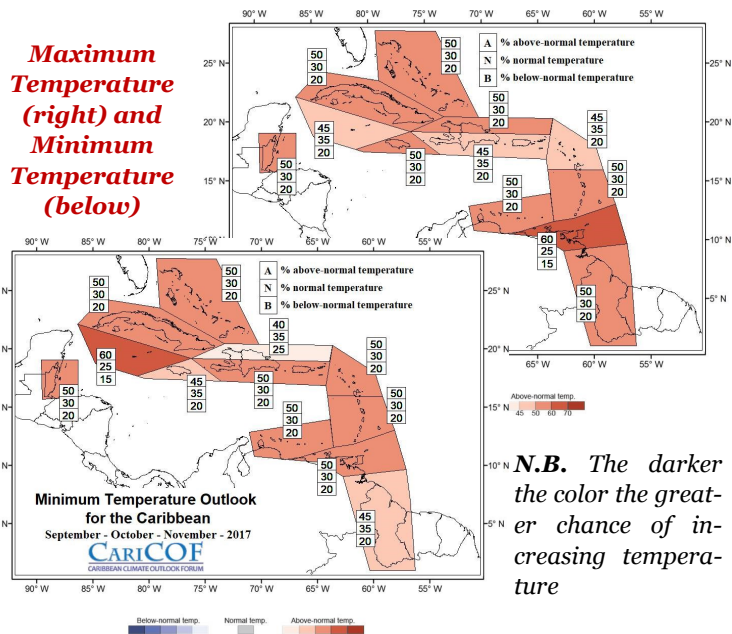
SEPTEMBER—OCTOBER—NOVEMBER 2017

The months of September through November are usually the wettest months. Moreover, **the region could experience an increase in the usual rainfall amounts during this period.** However, territories such as Trinidad and Tobago and the Guianas (now in their dry season) could receive normal to below normal rainfall amounts.



The distribution of rainfall during September to November could be skewed due to an **increased chance of extremely wet spells across most of the region, giving rise to the potential for flash flooding.**

With what increasingly seems to be the “new normal”, day and night-time temperatures could be warmer than usual during the next three months.



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

The potential for heat stress in livestock and poultry, crops and even farmers themselves during September to November remains high. There is a high chance of territories of the Eastern Caribbean, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Guianas experiencing at least 14 heat-wave days between September to November.

Read more at <https://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/heat-outlook-experimental/>

CLIMATE-SMART ADVISORIES



As flash flood potential may be a concern in some territories, farmers are advised to:

- Maintain drains around crop beds and/or plant crops on raised beds, particularly in the central and northern portions of the region
- House animals on high ground and/or on raised pens

The increasing incidences of pests and diseases could be a concern as moisture levels rise. Follow the guidelines from your local agricultural representatives to effectively control pests and diseases.

With the favourable chance of increased day and night-time temperatures, heat stress is a likely factor to consider from heat waves. Guard against heat stress for livestock, crops and yourselves by:

- Ensuring livestock are kept cool by providing cool and clean drinking water; establishing/locating shading for livestock such as: cows, sheep, goat
- Ensuring cooling systems such as fans are in place and good ventilation available for poultry houses
- Keeping irrigation equipment ready to apply water as necessary to cropping systems
- Keeping hydrated, taking frequent breaks, and resting in the shade.

As the region reaches the peak of the hurricane season be mindful of the necessary procedures you need to take to avoid/minimize damage or loss to crops/livestock, infrastructure and human lives.

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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