

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

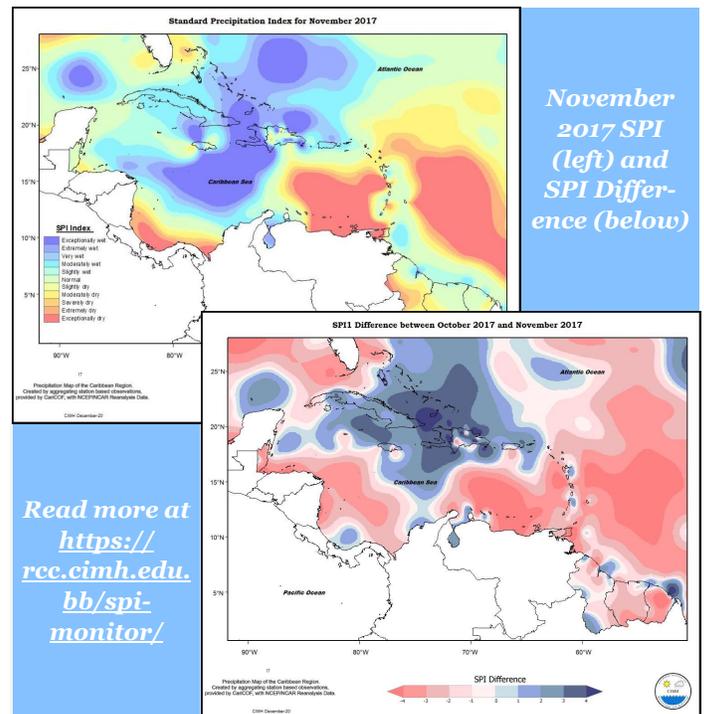
Rainfall totals are forecast to be high enough to prevent drought from being a major concern in the Caribbean during this relatively cool dry season, with the likely exception of south-eastern Haïti and central portions of Cuba. Despite this interests in northern portions of the Dominican Republic, the Leeward and Windward Islands should monitor water availability in case of short term drought.

Through January, the wet season in the Guianas is likely to be wetter than usual, with reliable rains, but also flash flood and long-term flooding concerns.

NOVEMBER IN REVIEW

The islands of the eastern Caribbean received predominantly normal to below normal rainfall. Trinidad was exceptionally dry in the west to normal in the east; Tobago; St. Vincent and Guadeloupe normal to moderately dry; Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Maarten normal; Barbados normal to slightly dry; Martinique normal to exceptionally dry; Dominica normal to severely dry; Antigua moderate to severely dry; and St. Kitts slight to moderately dry. Conditions in the Guianas ranged from exceptionally dry in western Guyana to extremely wet in northern Guyana, though Suriname and French Guiana were generally slightly dry to slightly wet. Aruba and Curacao were normal.

Puerto Rico was moderate to very wet, while Hispaniola ranged from exceptionally wet to exceptionally dry. In Jamaica, conditions ranged from slightly dry to exceptionally wet; while Grand Cayman was normal. Conditions in Cuba ranged from slightly wet in the west to exceptionally wet in the east; but in Belize the range was from moderately dry to slightly wet.



AGRI-NEWS

Government and grassroots efforts are helping agriculture recover from Hurricane Maria—and emerge stronger than before. Read more at <https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2017/11/puerto-rico-agriculture-destruction-resilience-hurricane-maria/>

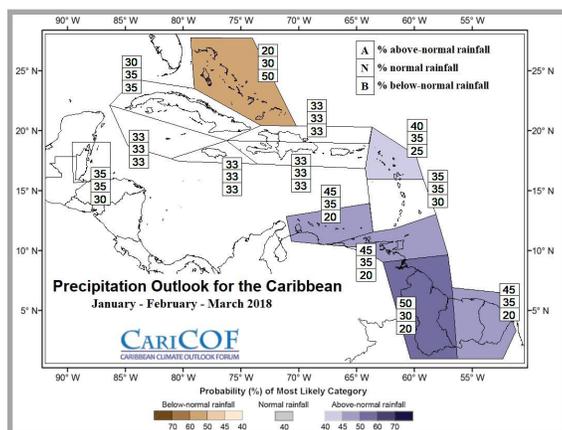
ABOUT CarisAM

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

REGIONAL OUTLOOKS

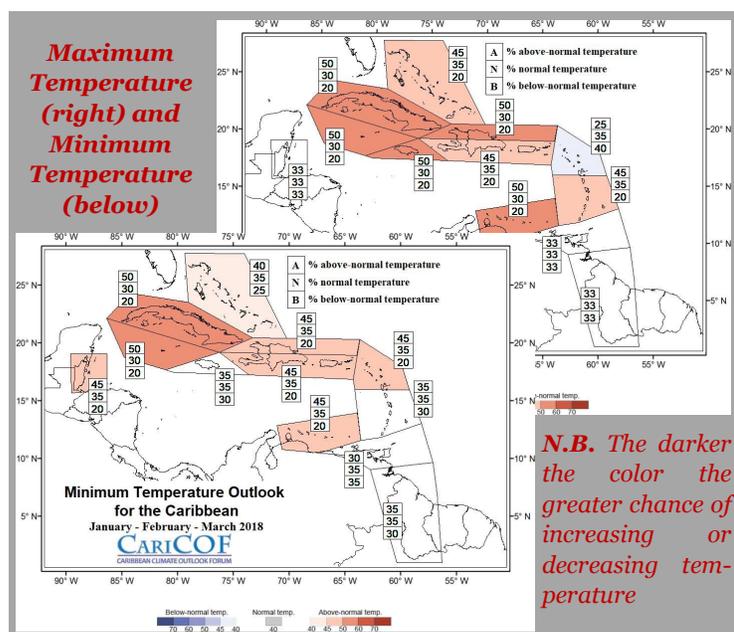
JANUARY—FEBRUARY—MARCH 2018

For the period of January to March 2018, **rainfall totals could meet or even exceed the normal amounts** across the ABC Islands, the Guianas, the Leeward Islands and Trinidad and Tobago. Normal to below normal conditions are possible across The Bahamas.



With the increasing likelihood of wet spell across the coastal Guianas through January the potential for flash flooding increases.

Night-time (minimum) and day-time (maximum) temperatures in the Caribbean are likely to be meet normal conditions or even feel warmer, except perhaps Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago and, at night, the Windwards.



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

As at the end of November 2017, the central parts of The Bahamas and southeastern Haïti were under a long-term drought, while short term drought is seen in southeastern Haïti, western-most portions of Jamaica and Martinique. Short-term drought conditions may remain in southeastern Haïti and may also develop in northern-most portions of the Dominican Republic, the Leewards (except St. Kitts), Martinique and the US Virgin Islands. Visit <https://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/long-range-forecasts/caricof-climate-outlooks/>

CLIMATE-SMART ADVISORIES



The chance of greater amounts of rainfall in the upcoming season could see bumper crop yields (e.g. avocado and mangoes) in some territories, while taking note that above normal rainfall in the dry season does not necessarily mean water requirements would be fully met without irrigation. The lower night-time temperatures favour pollen viability and would also give rise to increased crop production.

On the contrary, the incidence of pests and diseases (e.g. bacterial leaf diseases and water moles) could be an issue. Follow the guidelines from your local agricultural representatives to effectively control pests and diseases. Some citrus crops may also be impacted due to increased rains but should thrive with favourable dry-spells.

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
Store fertilizer away from moisture and water sources

In regions where rainfall amounts are likely to be reduced, techniques such as mulching could be employed so as to conserve soil moisture.

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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