

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

It is likely that rainfall totals could continue to be normal to below normal during this peak of the wet season across Belize, the Eastern Caribbean and the Guianas. A number of short dry spells are likely in across the northern portion of The Bahamas, Cuba, Cayman Islands and Jamaica.

There is some chance of short term drought concern by the end of the wet season in November especially for northwestern Belize. Moreover, long term drought concerns may arise by the end of the wet season for northwestern Belize, Cayman Islands, Antigua and St. Kitts.

Warmer day and night time temperatures in September to November, could influence heat stress especially across the Eastern Caribbean and the Guianas. An increased number in heatwave days are likely in these areas.

JULY IN REVIEW

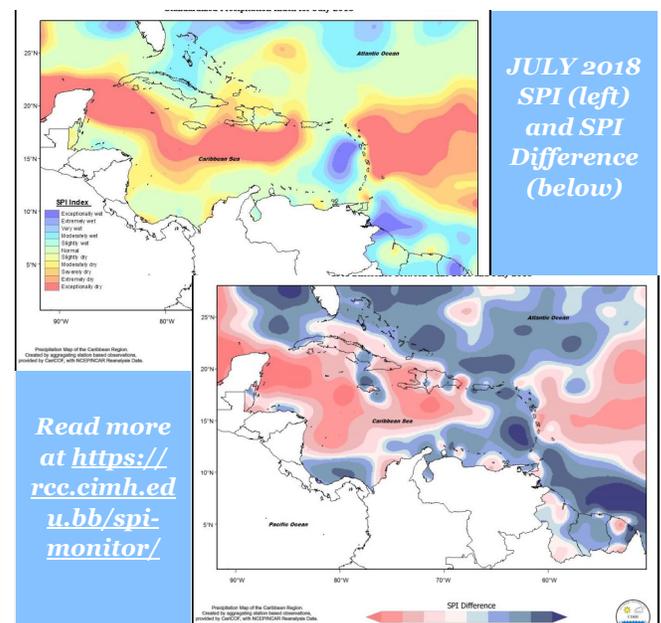
Apart from Guadeloupe that ranged from severely dry to moderately wet, normal to below normal rainfall dominated the in the islands of the eastern Caribbean, Trinidad, St. Kitts, and St. Thomas were normal; Tobago was normal to extremely dry; Grenada slightly dry in the south but normal elsewhere; Barbados severe to exceptionally dry; St. Vincent normal; Saint Lucia and Martinique moderate to severely dry; Dominica slight to moderately dry; Antigua moderately dry; St. Maarten slightly dry. Conditions in the Guianas ranged from moderately dry in northern portions of Guyana and Suriname to exceptionally wet in northern parts of Guyana and eastern French Guiana. Aruba and Curacao were normal.

Conditions in Puerto Rico ranged from severely dry in the west to normal in the east; while Hispaniola ranged from exceptionally dry to normal. Jamaica ranged from slight to severely dry, while Grand Cayman was exceptionally dry. Cuba ranged from exceptionally dry in the extreme west to moderately wet in north-central areas, but Belize ranged from normal to moderately dry.

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

Decreasing wetness continues to be observed across portions of Belize, Cuba, Hispaniola, and Dominica southwards to St. Lucia and Barbados during the month of July.



AGRI-NEWS

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) partners with the government of Dominica in climate-smart agriculture. Read more at <https://caribbeannewsservice.com/now/iica-to-launch-an-ambitious-project-on-resilient-agriculture-in-dominica/>

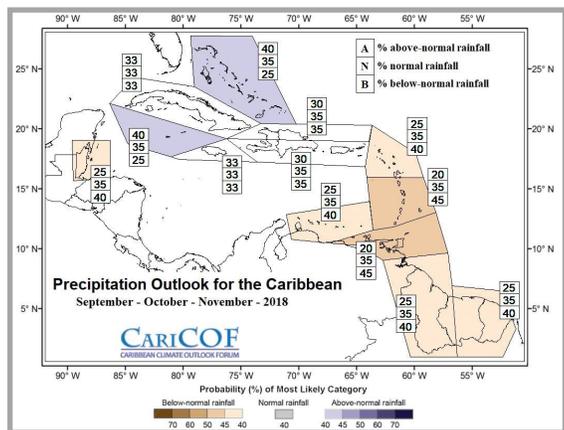
Mark your calendar! The Caribbean Week of Agriculture to be held in Barbados from October 8 to 12, 2018. Read more at <https://cwa2018.caricom.org/>

REGIONAL OUTLOOKS

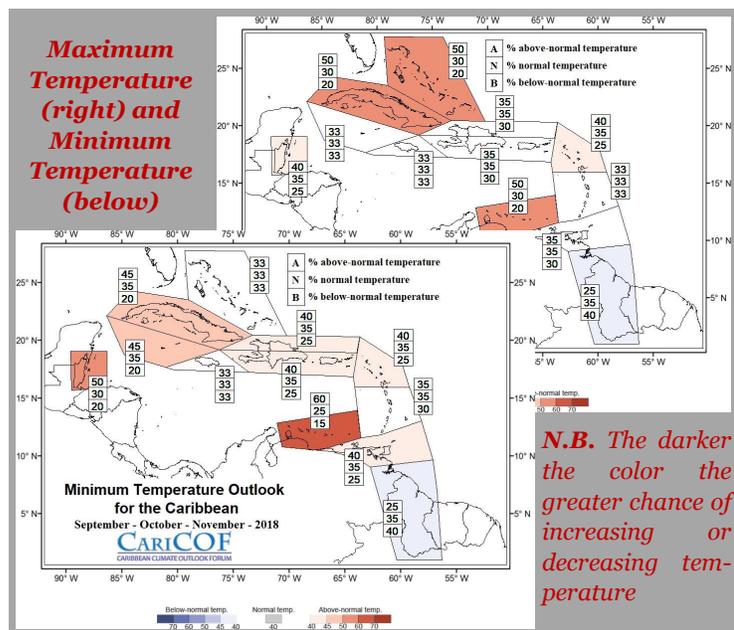
RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURE (SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER)

A reducing number of wet days and normal to below normal rainfall totals particularly across Belize, the Eastern Caribbean and the Guianas could negatively impact the amount of reliable rainfall for agriculture. However, the potential still exists for flooding and flash flooding where there may be extreme wet spell events.

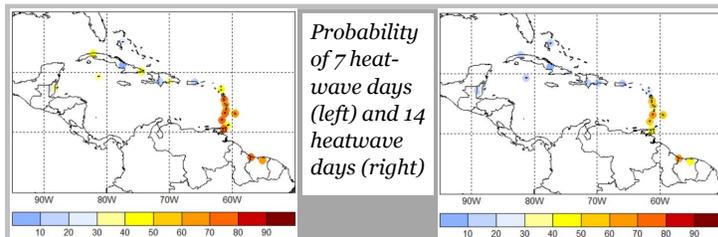
There is also the chance of at least three 7-day dry spells across the northern portion of The Bahamas, Cuba, Cayman Islands and Jamaica.



Both day and night time temperatures could be warmer than usual (but not as warm as in recent years) across the region except for Guyana.



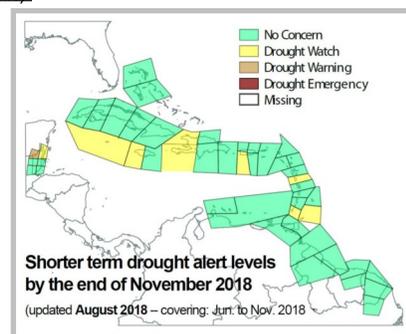
There is favourable chance of the Eastern Caribbean and the Guianas experiencing at least 7 and 14 heatwave days. This can give rise to heat stress in crops, livestock and even for the farmer.



DROUGHT

Short-term drought may be a concern by the end of November for Cayman Islands, western Jamaica, Haiti, southwestern Puerto Rico, Dominica, Grenada and Tobago but **more so for northwestern Belize**.

Also there may be concerns for long-term drought by the end of the wet season for northwestern Belize, Cayman Islands, Antigua and St. Kitts. Visit <https://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/long-range-forecasts/caricof-climate-outlooks/>.



CLIMATE-SMART ADVISORIES

The region progresses into the warmest and wettest part of the season.

- Be mindful of the fact that some territories may need to supplement water for agriculture where rainfall totals and increasing dry spells affect the available water.
- Continue to be mindful of the necessary procedures needed to avoid/minimize damage or loss in the event of floods or flash floods.
- As heat stress may be of concern, use protective measures against its effects on crops, livestock and human health.
- The hurricane season continues! Although the season has been quite inactive thus far, do not be complacent. Continue to take precautionary measures against any loss and/or damage.

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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