

# 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

**There is much uncertainty regarding rainfall for October to December 2018 apart from the eastern Caribbean that is likely to be normal to below normal, and Belize normal to above normal. An increasing number of short dry spells are likely in across the region especially the Greater Antilles, northern Belize, the ABC Islands and the Guianas.**

**No short term drought concerns are developing throughout the region, with the exception of northern Belize. However, long term drought could possibly develop in Antigua, northern Belize, Cayman Islands by the end of the wet season.**

**Warmer day and night time temperatures in October to December, could influence heat stress across the region, with the exception of the Guianas. There is some chance that the Guianas and some territories of the Eastern Caribbean could experience at least seven heat-wave days.**

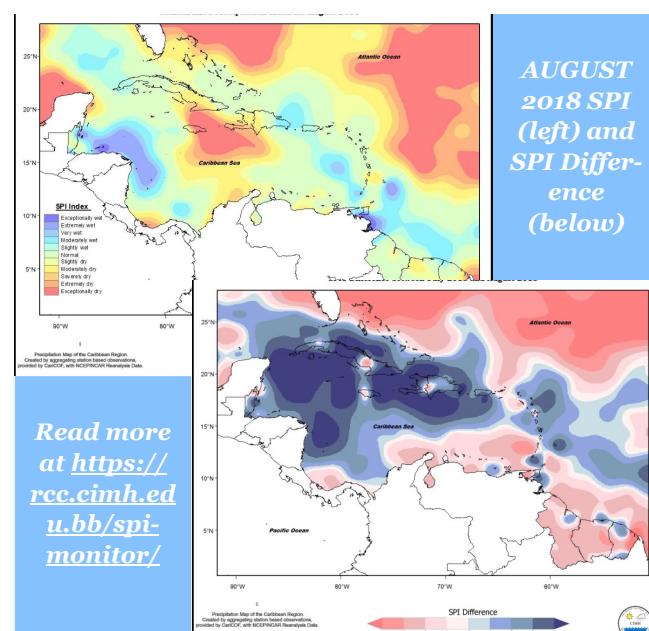
## AUGUST IN REVIEW

Mixed conditions were experienced in the islands of the eastern Caribbean for August. Trinidad ranged from exceptionally wet in the south-west to moderately dry in the northeast; Tobago normal; Grenada moderate to very wet; Barbados normal in the northwest to moderately wet in the southeast; St. Vincent and Guadeloupe normal to slightly dry; St. Lucia slight to moderately dry; Martinique, Dominica, Antigua, St. Kitts and St. Maarten normal; and Anguilla slightly dry. Conditions in the Guianas ranged from moderately wet in northern and southwestern Guyana and at the northern border of Suriname and French Guiana to moderately dry in northwest Suriname and extremely dry in eastern French Guiana. Aruba was slightly dry but Curacao was normal.

Puerto Rico was predominantly slightly wet, while Hispaniola ranged from extremely dry in south west Haiti to moderately wet in eastern Dominican Republic. Conditions in Jamaica ranged from normal in extreme western areas to exceptionally dry in the east, but Grand Cayman was normal. Conditions in Cuba ranged from slightly wet in the west to extremely dry in the southeast.

Northern Bahamas ranged from slight to extremely dry. Conditions in Belize ranged from moderately dry in the west to extremely wet in the northeast and moderately wet in the south.

The month of August saw an increase in rainfall totals across most of the region, especially the greater Antilles.



## AGRI-NEWS

The Caribbean Week of Agriculture, “Strengthening Agriculture for a healthier future in the Region”, October 8 to 12, 2018 in Barbados. Read more at <https://cwa2018.caricom.org/>

## 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](http://www.carisam.cimh.edu.bb)

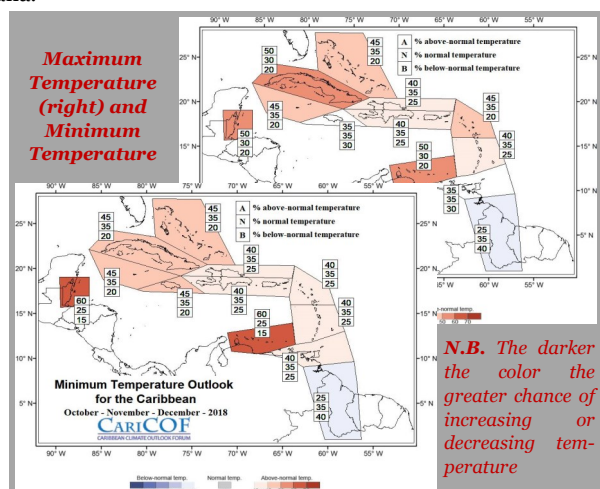
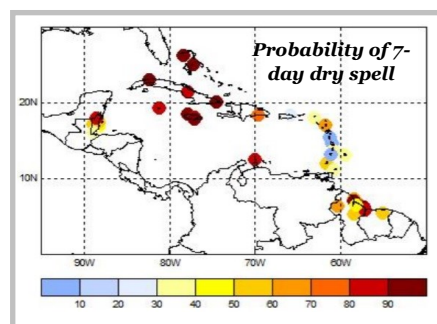
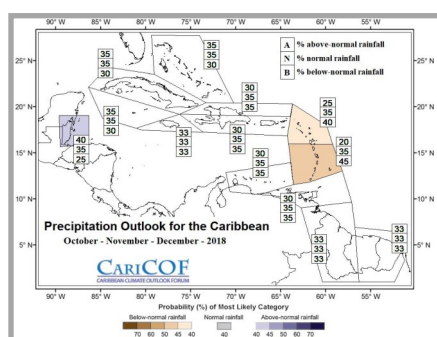
## REGIONAL OUTLOOKS

### RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURE (OCTOBER TO DECEMBER)

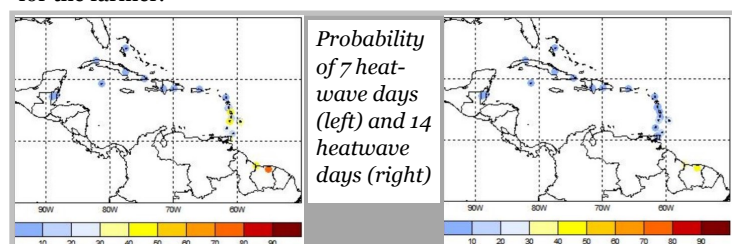
Rainfall totals during the latter portion of the wet season are likely to be the usual or drier than usual in Barbados, the Leeward and Windward Islands, but can be at least as wet as usual in Belize.

There is no favourable chance of an increasing number of wet days or extremely wet days during this period as the number of wet spells may be fewer. However, an increasing number of short dry spells are likely in across the region especially the Greater Antilles, northern Belize, the ABC Islands and the Guianas.

Day (maximum) and night-time (minimum) temperatures across the region are likely to be above to normal, with the possible exception of Guyana.

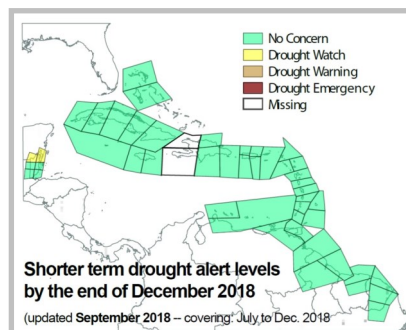


Some territories of the Eastern Caribbean and the Guianas may be experiencing at least 7 heatwave days during October to November. Moreover, the Guianas may also experience heatwave days of up to 14 days duration. This can give rise to heat stress in crops, livestock and even for the farmer.



### DROUGHT

At the end of September long term drought had been developing in the



Grand Cayman, southernmost Belize and southernmost Hispaniola while short term drought was seen in Antigua, parts of Barbados, northern Belize, southernmost Cuba, southern Hispaniola, eastern Jamaica, the northern Leeward Islands, St. Lucia and Tobago.

By the end of December, short term drought could possibly remain in northern Belize. Whereas, long term drought could possibly remain in Cayman and possibly appear in Antigua by the end of the wet season.

Visit <https://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/long-range-forecasts/caricof-climate-outlooks/>.

### CLIMATE-SMART ADVISORIES

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.

As heat stress may be of concern (especially in those areas where heat wave days are more likely to occur), use protective measures against its effects on crops, livestock and human health.

- 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.

Continue to take precautionary measures against any loss and/or damage from tropical cyclones.

### 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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