

CARIBBEAN AGRO-CLIMATIC BULLETIN OF THE CARISAM



DECEMBER 2018 • VOLUME 2 • ISSUE 7

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

The hurricane season is officially over, we are now on an El Niño watch!

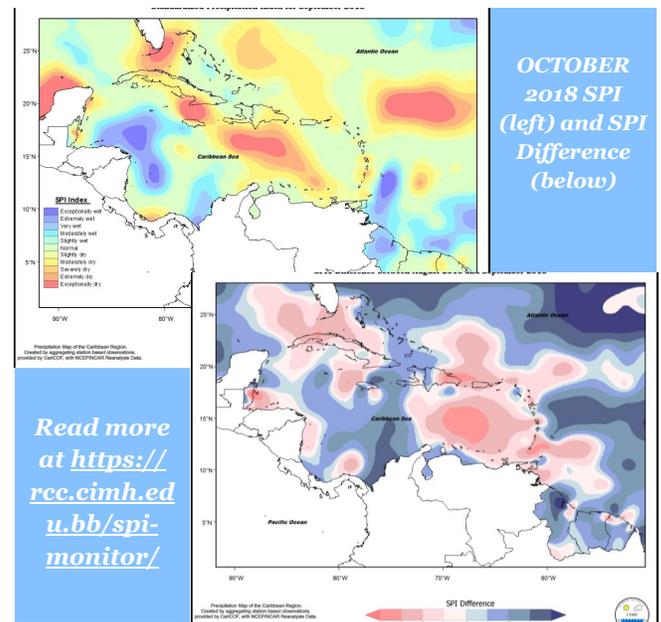
Interests in the region should pay special attention to their water resources as the region enters the dry season. Both short-term (ending February 2019) and long-term (by end of 2019 dry season) drought could be concerning for most territories as rainfall amounts could be reduced in the coming months.

OCTOBER IN REVIEW

Rainfall totals in the islands of the eastern Caribbean were mixed, with many above and below normal amounts. Trinidad ranged from very to extremely wet; Tobago extreme to exceptionally wet; Grenada and St. Vincent moderately wet; Barbados slight to moderately dry; St. Lucia and St. Kitts normal; Martinique normal to exceptionally dry; Dominica and Guadeloupe normal to moderately dry; Antigua moderately dry; and Anguilla and St. Maarten slightly wet. Conditions in the Guianas ranged from very wet in southern Guyana to exceptionally dry in northern and southeastern French Guiana. Aruba was slightly wet, while Curacao was very to extremely wet.

Puerto Rico was predominantly normal, but Hispaniola ranged from normal in northeastern Dominican Republic to extremely dry in the south. Conditions in Jamaica ranged from moderately dry in the northwest to moderately wet in the southeast, but Grand Cayman was moderately dry. Cuba ranged from moderately dry to extremely wet, while northern Bahamas was normal to moderately dry. Belize ranged from slightly dry in the southeast to very wet near central areas.

The month of October was predominantly drier than September across the Guianas; the Windward Islands and Barbados.



AGRI-NEWS

On Wednesday 5 December, all CARDI offices across the region will be celebrating CARDI Day under the theme “**Celebrating the potential of the region’s coconut industry.**” Read more at <http://www.cardi.org/blog/card-day-2018-celebrating-the-potential-of-the-regions-coconut-industry/>

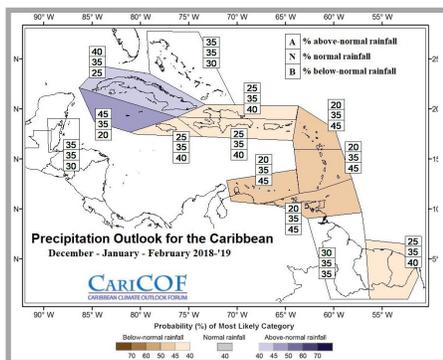
ABOUT CariSAM

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

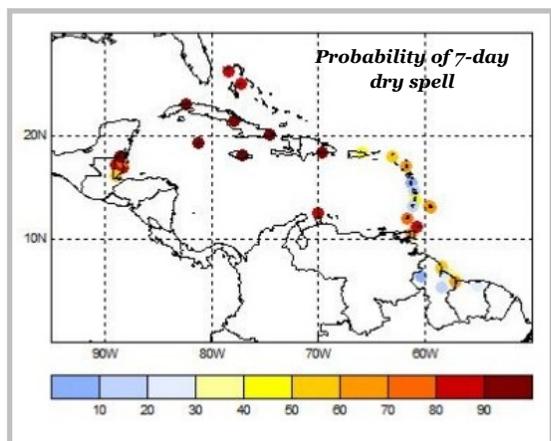
RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURE (DECEMBER TO FEBRUARY)

Rainfall totals are likely to be normal to below normal across the ABC Islands, eastern Guianas, Hispaniola, the Lesser Antilles, the U.S. Caribbean territories, but as wet as usual (or above) in the Cayman Islands and Cuba.

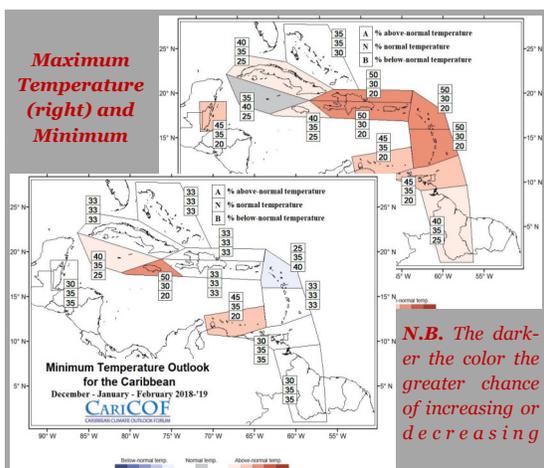


There is a concern for flash flooding across the coastal Guianas with the possibility of extreme wet spells present itself, especially in the month of December.

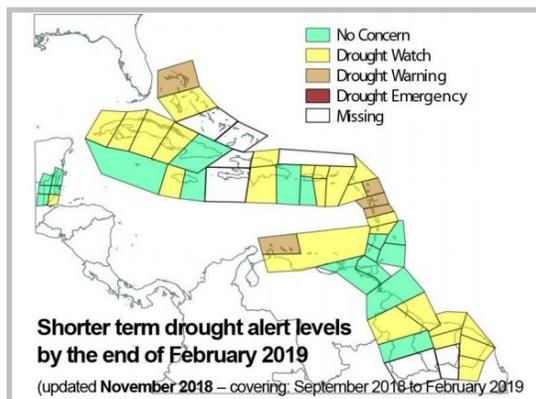
The chance of having at least three 7-day dry spells remain high across the northern and western Caribbean. There is also favorable chance across the ABC Islands and Trinidad and Tobago.



Day time temperatures could be normal to above normal across most of the region. Even though this period is usually cooler than the rest of the year, the likelihood of increasing temperatures could still impact crops and livestock. However there is much more uncertainty regarding night time temperatures.



DROUGHT



By the end of February 2019 there may be some concerns for short term drought across most of the region. Long term drought could also be a concern by the end of the 2019 dry season as

the likelihood of an El Nino could reduce rainfall totals. This significantly could reduce the amount of available water for agriculture.

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

CLIMATE-SMART ADVISORIES

With the possibility for the decrease in water availability various techniques could be employed to adapt to the situation for example drip irrigation, irrigation scheduling, reducing planting area, plant drought tolerant varieties/species water harvesting, composting, mulching etc.



Also, increasing dry spells (along with increasing day time temperatures) may also be of concern at critical growing phases of crops, farmers should:

- Ensure that irrigation and water conservation techniques are employed.
- Provide adequate water and shade for livestock

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
- House animals on high ground and/or on raised pens
- Store fertilizer away from moisture and water sources

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

CONTACT US:

Adrian Trotman
 Agro-meteorologist/ Chief of Applied Meteorology and Climatology, CIMH
 Email: atrotman@cimh.edu.bb

Shontelle Stoute
 Technical Officer, CIMH
 Email: sstoute@cimh.edu.bb

Rasheeda Hall-Hanson
 CARDI
 Email: rhanson@cardi.org