

# 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).

## KEY MESSAGES

**This period (August to October) marks the peak of the Caribbean Heat Season and is likely to be warmer than in the past two years with several heatwaves possible in any low-lying area. Therefore recurrent episodes of heat stress could be a concern to farmers, small livestock and poultry.**

Drought may continue in areas currently affected thus further impacting the available water for agriculture.

A seasonable increase in very wet and extremely spells is expected across the region, which may bring welcomed drought relief, but also concern for flooding.

## JUNE IN REVIEW

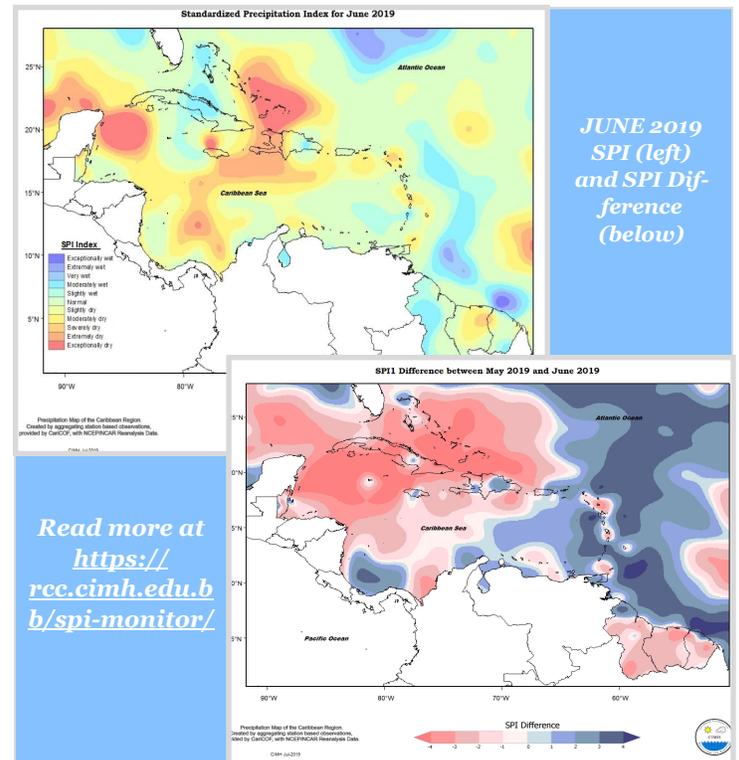
Islands of the Lesser Antilles received normal to below normal rainfall during the month of June, with the exception of St. Vincent which was moderately wet. Conditions in the Guianas were mixed with moderately wet in the west and southwestern Guyana and the north and southeastern French Guiana to moderately dry at the northern Suriname/French Guiana border.

Puerto Rico and Jamaica experienced normal to below normal conditions with Jamaica having exceptionally dry conditions in the northwest. However, Hispaniola was exceptionally dry in northern Haiti and moderately wet in the central Dominican Republic. The Cayman islands experienced normal conditions. In Cuba, conditions ranged from severely dry in the extreme west and east to moderately wet in central areas, while the northern Bahamas was normal to moderately wet. Belize ranged from normal in the south to severely dry in the north.

The month of June presented less rainfall than the month of May for quite a few territories, especially those of the Greater Antilles. Some islands of the Lesser Antilles received more rainfall in June than in May thus temporarily relieving drought conditions.

## 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)



## AGRI-NEWS



Farmers should take note: The Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) is warning people in the Caribbean that they are at risk for heat strokes and even death as a result of the heat wave being experienced

globally. Read more <https://www.nationnews.com/nationnews/news/240734/heat-wave-warning-caribbean>

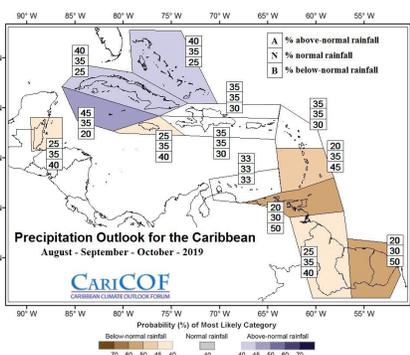
Drought conditions still affecting parts of Jamaica amidst incoming rains. Read more [http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/water-restrictions-continue\\_170545?profile=1373](http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/water-restrictions-continue_170545?profile=1373)

**REGIONAL OUTLOOKS**

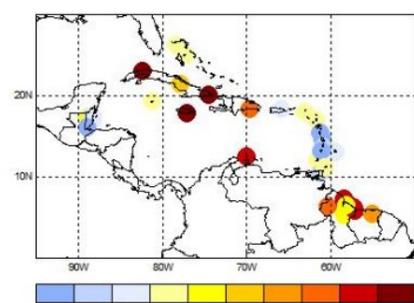
**RAINFALL, WET/DRY SPELLS, TEMPERATURE and HEAT (AUGUST TO OCTOBER)**

Less reliable rains for agriculture is likely as rainfall totals could be normal to below normal across Barbados, Belize, the Guianas, Jamaica and the Windward Islands. However, rainfall totals are likely to be at least as wet as usual throughout The Cayman Islands, Cuba, and The Bahamas.

Long-term flooding and flash flood potential remains a concern in the event of very wet and extreme wet spells.

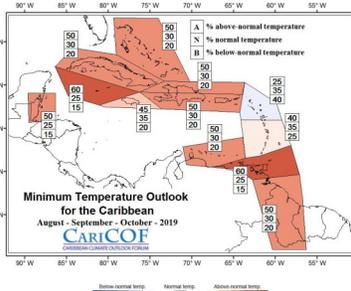
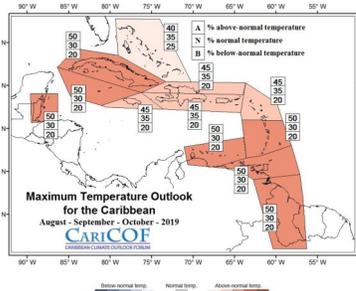


Probability of at least THREE 7-day dry spells



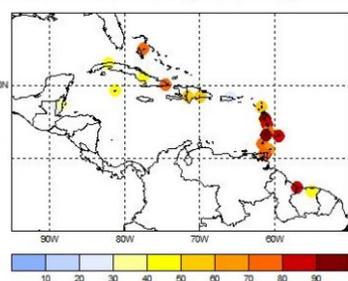
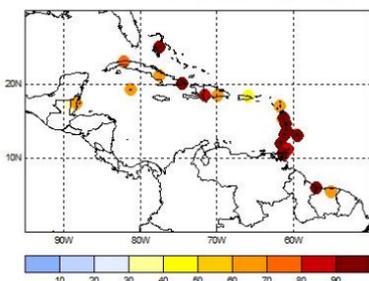
The occurrence of at least three 7-day dry spells is very likely across Jamaica, parts of Cuba, Hispaniola, The ABC Islands and the Guianas. The occurrence of such within the growing period could affect yields where sources of irrigation are not available.

Day time temperatures are likely to be normal to above normal across the region, so too for night time temperatures (except for the Leeward Islands).



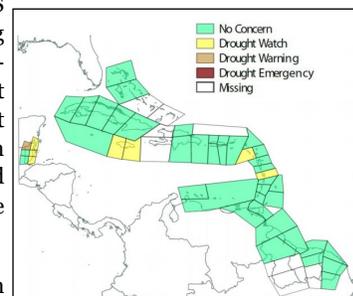
Recurrent episodes of heat stress may be of a concern to vulnerable individuals, small livestock and poultry as this period (August to October) marks the peak of the Caribbean Heat Season. There is favourable chance of the occurrence of at least 7 or even 14 heatwave days across the region (especially for the Eastern Caribbean).

Prob at least 7 heatwave days between Aug & Oct 20' Prob. at least 14 heatwave days between Aug & Oct 2019

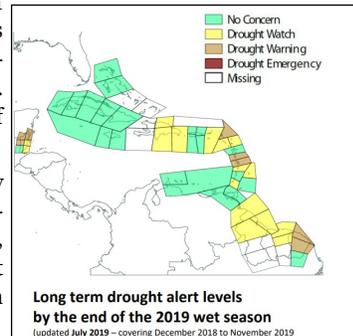


**DROUGHT**

At present, severe (or worse) shorter term drought has developed in northern Belize, northernmost Dominican Republic, the northern Leeward Islands, St. Kitts, and the US Virgin Islands. Severe (or worse) long term drought has developed in Barbados, southern Belize, easternmost Cuba, southern and easternmost Dominican Republic, parts of French Guiana, Haiti, the northern Leeward Islands, Martinique, Tobago, and the US Caribbean Territories.



Shorter term drought is evolving in northwestern Belize and may possibly develop in eastern Belize, Martinique and St. Kitts (by the end of October). Long term drought is evolving in northern Belize, Dominica, French Guiana, Martinique, St. Barths and St. Martin (by the end of November).



Long term drought may possibly develop in Antigua, Barbados, southeast Belize, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, St. Kitts, Saint Lucia, Suriname, and the US Virgin Islands.

Visit <http://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/climate-outlooks/> to access the latest climate outlooks.

**CLIMATE-SMART ADVISORIES**

As the region enters the peak of the Caribbean Heat Season farmers should take all necessary precautions against the effects of heat on human health, crops and livestock.

- Ensure that you keep hydrated, wear cool clothing
- Where possible, limit outdoor activity to the coolest time of the day
- Ensure that adequate water and shade are provided for livestock

In the event of dry spells farmers could employ mulching and drip irrigation to combat any low water availability.

To minimize the effects of flash flooding 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; and store fertilizer away from moisture and water sources.

**Continue to be hurricane prepared!**

*Please also take into consideration your local weather and climate advisories.*

**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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