

HIGHLIGHTS FOR JUNE

- ✚ Stations in 8 of thirteen parishes received below-normal rainfall.
- ✚ Nine (9) of thirteen (13) parishes continued to record meteorological drought.
- ✚ Below-normal to near-normal rainfall is forecast for July to September.
- ✚ Above-normal temperatures are still expected for the three-month period.

SUMMARY

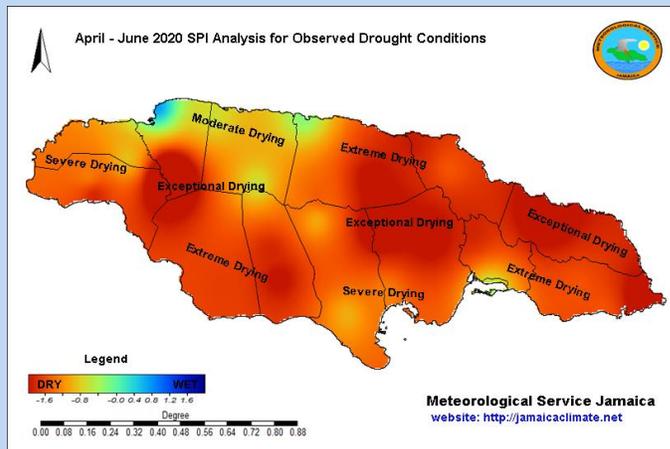
Stations in eight of the 13 parishes received below-normal rainfall in June. Varying levels of dryness were observed across the island with extremely dry to exceptionally dry conditions, along with meteorological drought, being experienced in nine parishes. Below-normal to near-normal rainfall is expected for Jamaica for the July to September period and this could exacerbate dryness conditions in many parishes across the island. The forecast is for above-normal temperatures over the next three months and this could cause more heat stress impacts.

What Happened: April – June 2020

Based on analysis done (image to the right) the continuing lack of sufficient amounts of rainfall has resulted in varying levels of dryness being observed across the island, with extremely dry to exceptionally dry conditions being experienced in sections of all parishes, except for northern areas of St. James and Trelawny where, moderately dry conditions were observed. The drying conditions have adversely affected farming communities in all parishes, with local media highlighting the plight of many farmers.

Cooler than normal temperatures, ranging from 1-4°C were recorded in some areas across the island for the month of June 2020, when compared to June 2019.

Wet and Dry Conditions, April-June 2020



Read more by visiting our website:
<https://www.jamaicaclimate.net/farmers-bulletin>

ABOUT US: This report provides short term precipitation forecasts, as well as drought monitoring products that will assist in making critical decisions about the growing season for crops, as well as irrigation scheduling and water management.

AGROMET BULLETIN



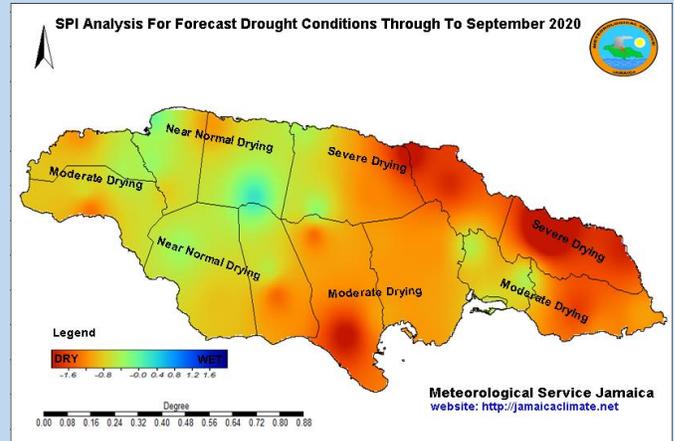
Seasonal Forecast: July – September 2020

For the three-month period July to September overall rainfall amounts for Jamaica are likely to be below-normal to near-normal. Based on the projections, there is the possibility that drying could continue in farming communities in Westmoreland, Clarendon, St. Catherine, KSA, St. Thomas, Portland, St. Mary, St. Ann and Hanover, where, lower rainfall totals are expected. In contrast, farming communities in St. James, Trelawny and sections of St. Elizabeth and Manchester could benefit the most from rainfall over the next three months, thereby providing some relief from the drying conditions. Temperatures for the July to September Summer period are likely to be above-normal.

Possible Impacts

The forecast for less-than-expected rainfall could continue to present a challenge for the availability of water in farming communities that are currently being impacted by dry/drought conditions. These conditions could therefore, continue over the next three months. As the Meteorological Service continues to monitor drought conditions across the island, the advice is for stakeholders, in particular farmers, to continue employing irrigation, along with methods of retaining soil moisture. The forecast for warmer-than-normal temperatures could cause more heat stress impacts; therefore, cooling solutions for livestock and other animals should be continued.

Wet and Dry Conditions, July – September 2020



Seasonal Outlook, July - September 2020

JAMAICA	Below %	Normal %	Above %
Rainfall Outlook	40	30	30
Temperature Outlook	20	30	50

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