

SAINT LUCIA AGROMET REPORT – JULY 2020

The monthly averages for the Hewanorra and George F L Charles airport stations for July 2020 are shown in the table below:

AVERAGE MONTHLY DATA FOR HEWANORRA (H) and GEORGE F L CHARLES (GFLC)													
Stn	Cloud Cover (oktas)	Wind Dir (o from N)	Wind Speed (kt)	Air Temp. (°C)	Calculated Tmean (max+min)/2 (°C)	RH (%)	Rainfall Long-Term Mean (mm)	Rainfall Total (mm)	Max Temp (°C)	Min Temp (°C)	Daily Sunshine (Hrs)	Daily Evap (mm)	Soil 10cm (°C)
Hew	5	90	15	28.6	28.8	79	149.6	134.5	31.5	26.1	9.2	7.4	28.7
GFLC	5	100	8	29.5	28.3	73	190.9	138.1	31.2	25.3			

Saint Lucia experienced below normal to normal precipitation for the month of July. The rainfall recorded at Hewanorra was 134.5 mm whilst at George F. L. Charles, this was 138.1 mm and 29 percent below the long term mean. There were 21 rainy days and no significant dry spells noted for both of the aforementioned stations.

In August, the climatological data usually reveals a gradual increase in rainfall totals with means of 161.5 mm and 230.1 mm at Hewanorra and George F. L. Charles, respectively (*using base period 1981 – 2010*). Generally, tropical waves and other tropical systems are contributors to majority of the precipitation recorded during this time and towards the peak of the hurricane season, these have a tendency to increase. As a result, the national precipitation outlook for August to October (**ASO**) indicates **above normal** precipitation which could range from 590.4 mm to 794.8 mm at Hewanorra and 723.6 mm to 1038.6 mm at George F. L. Charles. The extended national precipitation outlook for November to January 2021 (**NDJ**) however, suggests **below normal** rainfall totals which could range from 243.8 mm to 309.0 mm in Vieux Fort (south) and 311.4 mm to 403.9 mm in Castries (north).

Both stations recorded warmer than expected maximum and minimum temperatures for July. Consequently, the trend continues with the national temperature outlook for ASO and NDJ favouring **above normal** maximum and minimum temperatures.

The 1, 3, 6 and 12-month SPIs for Hewanorra were normal to moderately dry whereas at George F. L. Charles, these were slightly to exceptionally dry. These stations remain at a precipitation deficit and an evolving long term drought is evident. As a result, this event should continue to be monitored closely. Thus, citizens should take the necessary conservation measures, monitor water resources and keep updated on the weather.