

AGROMET BULLETIN



HIGHLIGHTS FOR MARCH

- ✚ Stations in nine of thirteen (13) parishes received below-normal rainfall.
- ✚ No parish reported meteorological drought for the February/March period.
- ✚ Below-normal rainfall is forecast for April to June 2022.
- ✚ Warmer than normal temperatures are expected for the next three months.

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What Happened: January 2022– March 2022

Based on analysis (image to the right) very wet conditions were observed across sections of Westmoreland, St.Elizabeth and Manchester. Mild levels of wetness were noted in Portland and bordering areas of St. Mary and St. Ann. In contrast mild dryness was noted in sections of St. Catherine. While moderate drying was observed across KSA, St. Thomas, Trelawny and St. James.

There were some parishes receiving adequate rainfall which resulted in farming communities getting some relief from the dry conditions despite, the general below-normal rainfall projection for the island.

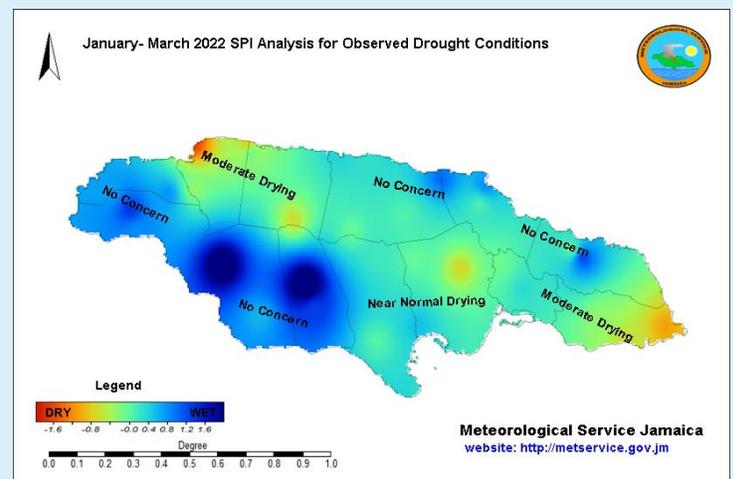
No parish experienced meteorological drought conditions in the February/March bi-monthly period.

Extreme temperatures, ranging from 1-3°C lower, were recorded in several locations across the island for the month of March 2022, when compared to March 2021.

Wet and Dry Conditions, January 2022–March 2022

Read more by visiting our website:

<https://www.metservice.gov.jm/climate-products>



Seasonal Forecast: April– June 2022

For the April to June period, rainfall amounts for Jamaica are likely to be below-normal during the traditional early wet season. Based on the forecast (map insert) mild levels of dryness are likely for farming communities in most parishes. The expectations are that sections of St. Elizabeth, Manchester and the cockpit area could benefit from any rainfall experienced during the next three months.

Temperatures for the next three months are likely to be warmer than normal as the northern hemisphere transitions to summer. Hotter days and nights are expected especially during the month of June.

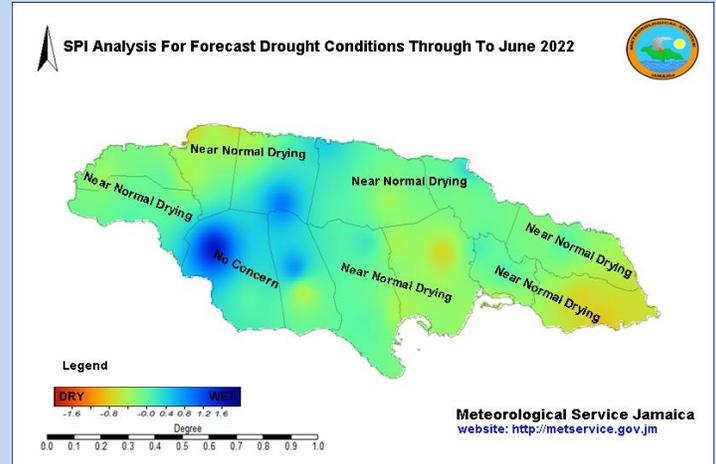
Possible Impacts

Should the forecast for below-normal rainfall materialize, dry conditions could continue or worsen in farming communities dependent on rainfall for irrigation and therefore close monitoring is being recommended.

Continuous monitoring of the drying trend across the island will be done, however, stakeholders are being advised to be prudent in the use of available water including the employment of rainwater harvesting solutions, and to ensure that animals are properly hydrated. Also, with the expected increase in temperature the mulching technique is recommended.

The forecast for warmer than normal temperatures should result in comfortable temperatures particularly during April.

Wet and Dry Conditions, April– June2022



Seasonal Outlook, April– June 2022

JAMAICA	Below-Normal (%)	Normal (%)	Above-Normal (%)
Rainfall Outlook	40	30	30
Temperature Outlook	30	30	40

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.

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