

# CARIBBEAN AGRO-CLIMATIC BULLETIN OF THE CARISAM



APRIL 2022 • VOLUME 5 • ISSUE 11

A joint bulletin of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH).

## KEY MESSAGES

**Short-term drought conditions may be of concern across western Cuba, Dominica, southern French Guiana, Martinique, Puerto Rico, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent, and Tobago by the end of June 2022. Interests across the region should closely monitor their water resources and look out for next update.**

**Long-term drought conditions may be of concern across Eastern Caribbean territories north of St. Vincent, portions of Belize, and the ABC Islands. Interests across the region should closely monitor their water resources and look out for next update.**

**There is much uncertainty in rainfall totals over the April through June period across the region.**

**With few wet days, wild fire potential is expected to peak in May.**

**At least three 7-day dry spells and one 15-day dry spell is favourable across most of the region from April to June.**

**Day and night time temperatures will progressively warm towards May, which marks the start of the Caribbean Heat Season.**

## FEBRUARY IN REVIEW

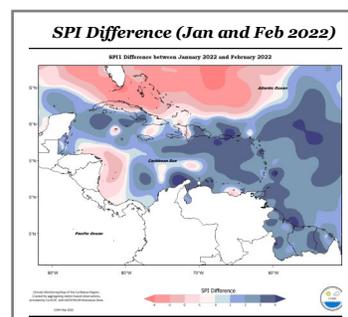
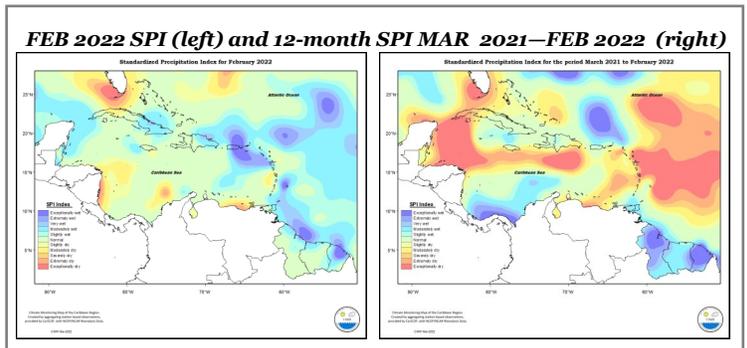
Conditions throughout the eastern Caribbean were predominantly normal to above normal during the month of February. Trinidad and Grenada normal to moderately wet; Tobago very wet; Barbados very to exceptionally wet; St Vincent slightly dry in the west to predominantly normal elsewhere; Saint Lucia and Antigua predominantly normal to slightly wet; Martinique normal to moderately dry; Dominica normal to moderately wet; Guadeloupe extremely wet in the west to normal in the east; St Kitts and St Thomas extreme to very wet; St Maarten and Anguilla slightly wet and St Croix exceptional to extremely wet. In the Guianas, conditions ranged from normal to exceptionally wet. Aruba was normal and Curacao was normal to slightly wet from south to north.

## 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)

Puerto Rico ranged from slight to exceptionally wet west to east. Hispaniola ranged from normal in Haiti in the west to very wet in northern Dominican Republic. Jamaica was predominantly normal ranging to slightly dry in the southeast and northwest and to moderately wet in the west. Grand Cayman was normal. Cuba ranged from severely dry in the northwest to moderately wet in the west and to very wet in north-eastern areas. Northern Bahamas ranged from normal to moderately dry and Belize ranged from normal in central areas to very wet in the south and moderately wet in the northeast.

A review of the 12-month period (March 2021 to February 2022), showed predominantly normal to exceptionally dry conditions across the region (except the Guianas and Trinidad and Tobago).

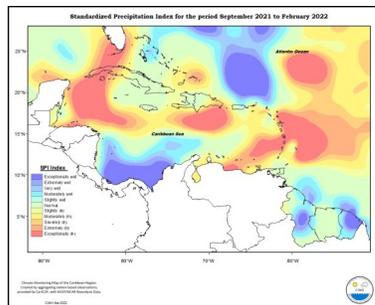


The month of February has been predominantly wetter as compared to January across the region with the exception of Cayman Islands, most of Cuba, The Bahamas and central and northern Haiti.

Read more at <https://rec.cimh.edu.bb/spi-monitor/>

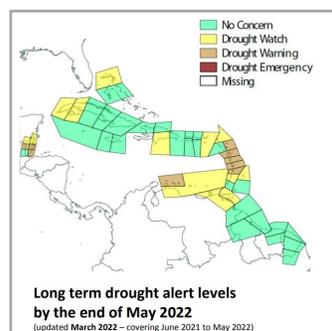
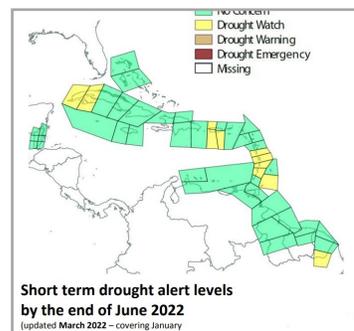
## REGIONAL OUTLOOKS

### DROUGHT



Moderate (or worse) shorter term drought has developed in Antigua, Dominica, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Saint Lucia, and St. Vincent. Moderate (or worse) long term drought has developed in Antigua, north-west Bahamas, western Cuba, Dominica, southeastern Dominican Republic, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Saint Kitts, Saint

Lucia, and St. Vincent.

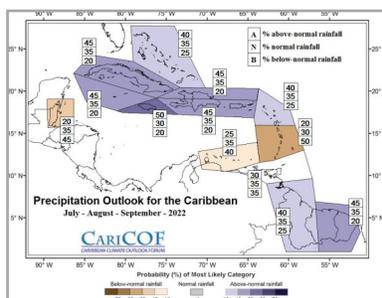


By the end of June 2022, impacts from short-term drought may be of a concern across western Cuba, Dominica, southern French Guiana, Martinique, Puerto Rico, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent, and Tobago. Long-term drought that can impact large reservoirs, large rivers or groundwater would likely present a challenge in farming across territories north of St. Vincent, portions of Belize and the ABC Islands by the end of May 2022.

*Interests across the region should closely monitor their water resources and look out for the next update.*

### RAINFALL, WET/DRY SPELLS, TEMPERATURE and HEATWAVE DAYS (APRIL—JUNE 2022)

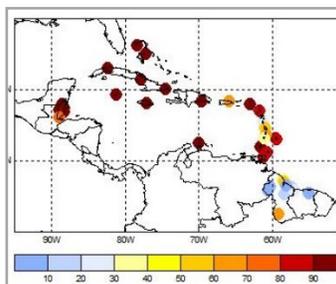
Rainfall totals from April through June across are uncertain. However, farmers should prepare for normal rainfall during this period. In addition, rainfall totals for July through September are likely to be at wet as usual or wetter, with the exception of Belize, the ABC Islands, and the Windward Islands.



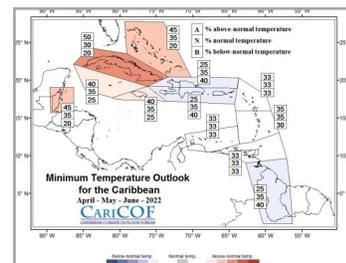
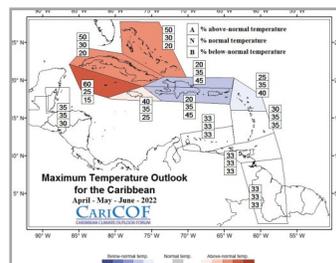
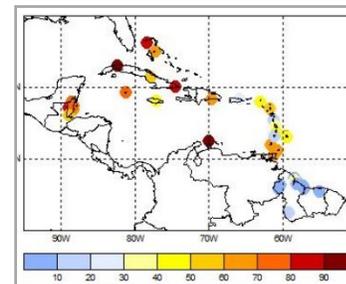
Relatively fast depletion of large water reservoirs across the Caribbean islands is likely until the end of May due to the low frequency of wet spells.

The occurrence of at least three 7-day dry spells is highly favourable across most of the region, with the exception of the Guianas. The occurrence of at least one 15-day dry spell is also favourable across the ABC Islands, Belize, the Greater Antilles (except Puerto Rico), northern part of The Bahamas, Grenada, and Tobago.

Probability of at least THREE 7-day dry spells in AMJ



Probability of at least ONE 15-day dry spell in AMJ



Night-time (minimum) and day-time (maximum) temperatures will progressively warm into May, which marks the start of the Caribbean Heat Season. Moreover, day time temperatures may be warmer than usual across The Bahamas, Cuba, and The Cayman Islands. Night time temperatures may be warmer than usual more so across Cuba.

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

### CLIMATE-SMART ADVISORIES

**Farmers should consider planting plots that their limited water resources would irrigate/satisfy in the event of frequent dry spells/drought.**

**Consider on-farm drought management plans** in the event of a likely occurrence of dry spells and drought conditions. These may include:

- ♦ Selecting drought tolerant crops and varieties and planting them with careful thought of the availability of water resources.
- ♦ Identifying alternate water sources for irrigation and other on-farm activities; employing water management techniques such as irrigation scheduling and mulching; installing water-saving devices (e.g. drip lines & timers).
- ♦ Avoid transplanting in extreme hot conditions this may cause wilting and even death.

**Maintain proper records** of inputs and the crop under cultivation and/or livestock being reared.

June is soon here. **Be hurricane prepared!**

*Please also keep updated and 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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