



Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology

P.O. Box 130, Bridgetown, Barbados

Tel: 246-425-1362/3/5

Fax: 246-424-4733

Email: info@cimh.edu.bb

Press Release

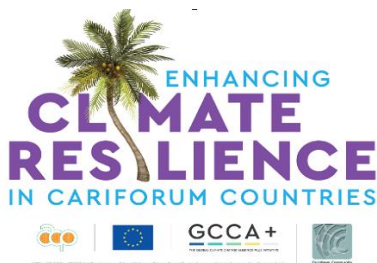
Water Managers and Meteorologists Trained in Sub-Seasonal to Seasonal Impacts-Based Forecasting

From January 23 to 24, 2024, experts in the fields of water resources management and meteorology from across the Caribbean gathered in Bridgetown, Barbados, to participate in a two-day workshop on sub-seasonal to seasonal impacts-based forecasting related to excessive rainfall and rainfall deficits. The aim of the workshop was to raise awareness of sub-seasonal to seasonal forecast information on water availability, specifically focusing on water quantity, which is a critical consideration for effective water resources management planning and decision-making.

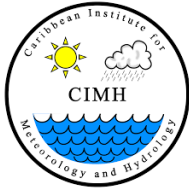
Organized under the Intra-ACP GCCA+ Programme in the Caribbean: Enhancing Climate Resilience in CARIFORUM Countries led by the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCC), the workshop was hosted by the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) in collaboration with the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI) of the Columbia University, with support from the European Union (EU).

Dr. David Farrell, Principal of the CIMH, emphasized the significance of the workshop, stating, "This workshop provides an invaluable platform for water managers and meteorological services to enhance their understanding of sub-seasonal to seasonal forecasts and the importance of these forecasts for predicting water availability at sub-seasonal and seasonal scales. By collaborating with our partners in CARIFORUM countries, the CCCC, and the IRI, we are strengthening our capacity to address climate resilience and improve water resources management in the region." Dr. Farrell also thanked the EU for its support of the Intra-ACP GCCA+ Programme in the Caribbean.

Ansel Dubon, Lead Project Manager, of the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCC) noted "that the activities, inclusive of the workshop, being undertaken by the CIMH and IRI are essential to achieving the Overall Objective of the GCCA+ programme, which is to reduce risks and vulnerabilities from climate change to human-made and natural assets in CARIFORUM countries. We look forward to the various officers who participated in the training applying the new capacities to benefit the supply of water in their respective countries and by extension, the region".



 COLUMBIA CLIMATE SCHOOL
INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
FOR CLIMATE AND SOCIETY



Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology

P.O. Box 130, Bridgetown, Barbados

Tel: 246-425-1362/3/5

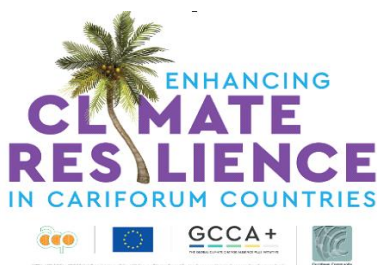
Fax: 246-424-4733

Email: info@cimh.edu.bb

Commending the CIMH's foresight and recognising the Institute as an exemplary regional climate service provider, Dr. Simon Mason, Chief Climate Scientist of the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI), Columbia University stated, "There have been some exciting developments in the last few years in the science-community's ability to predict heavy rainfall and dry spells 2 to 4 weeks in advance, and these so-called sub-seasonal forecasts will become routine from some of the leading global centres early in 2024. The CIMH has been anticipating these developments, and after a series of research and training activities, CIMH produced its first ever experimental sub-seasonal forecast at the most recent Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum held in Dominica in November 2023. Dr. Mason further explained "Such forecasts provide valuable potential to improve water-resource management and flash-flood control in the Caribbean region, but collaboration with the water management community is required to ensure that the forecasts are adapted, designed and interpreted to maximise their benefit. This water-managers' workshop is an excellent opportunity to take these important next steps to strengthen resiliency in the region."

During the workshop participants were introduced to sub-seasonal forecast potential for flashfloods and dry spells as part of a range of climate early warning information products delivered by the Caribbean Regional Climate Centre hosted by CIMH.

It is anticipated this workshop will support informed decision-making and catalyze the collaborative efforts required to address climate challenges, improve water resources management, and enhance resilience in the Caribbean region.



 COLUMBIA CLIMATE SCHOOL
INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
FOR CLIMATE AND SOCIETY