

# AGROMET BULLETIN



## HIGHLIGHTS FOR JANUARY

- ✚ All thirteen (13) parishes received rainfall below their 30-year means.
- ✚ Normal conditions experienced for most parishes for the November 2024/January 2025 period.
- ✚ Rainfall probabilities are indeterminate for most of the island while, below normal for some southern areas.

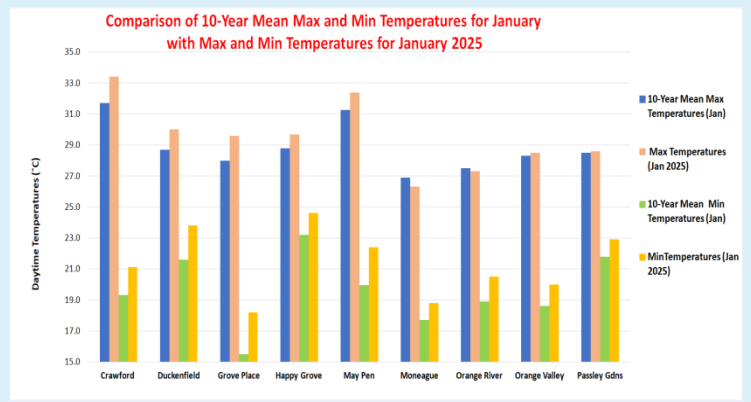
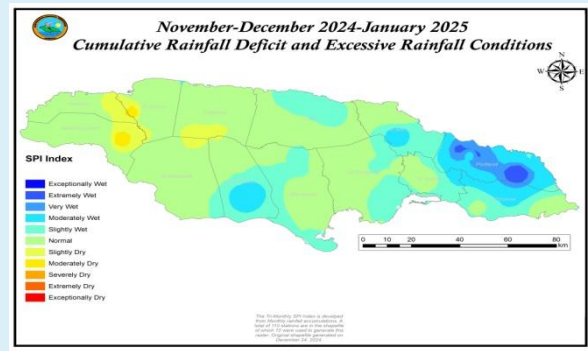
### What Happened: November 2024 to January 2025

Based on the analysis (image to the right), normal conditions were observed across most parishes, with slight to moderately wet conditions in parts of St. Ann, St. Mary, St. Thomas, Kingston & St. Andrew (KSA), St. Catherine, Clarendon and Manchester. Wet to exceptionally wet conditions were experienced in Portland. Mild dryness was observed in eastern parts of Hanover and Westmoreland into bordering areas of St. James, along with southern Trelawny.

Following the flooding that occurred in many farming communities in November, farmers likely began replanting short-term cash crops and should be looking forward to reaping in order to recoup some losses.

Mean day-time and night-time temperatures were marginally higher than their 10-year averages for some stations in the east and south of the island.

### Wet and Dry Conditions, November 2024 - January 2025



## Seasonal Forecast: March to May 2025

For the period March to May, rainfall amounts for Jamaica are likely to remain below normal in some southern areas and indeterminate in northern and eastern parishes (see map). There could be concerns if there is not sufficient rains going into the early wet season (April to June) as drier conditions would not be favorable for farmers.

Temperatures for the next three months are likely to be warmer than normal, as Jamaica transitions from the end of the cool season in March to the start of the heat season (April to October).

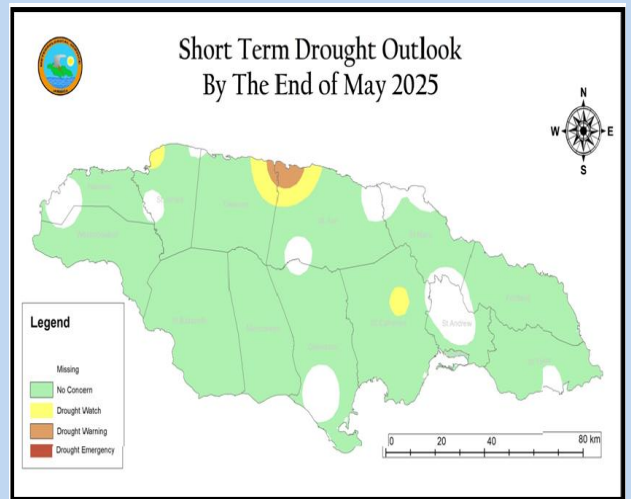
## Possible Impacts

With reduced rainfall experienced in January, which could continue into February, there is the potential for drier conditions to affect those areas currently experiencing normal to slightly dry conditions. This could pose further challenges for the farming communities dependent solely on rainfall for irrigation, as well as for the availability of water in sufficient amounts for other uses. Should there be drier conditions, the risk of more bushfire outbreaks would increase, especially in the east and south (see map).

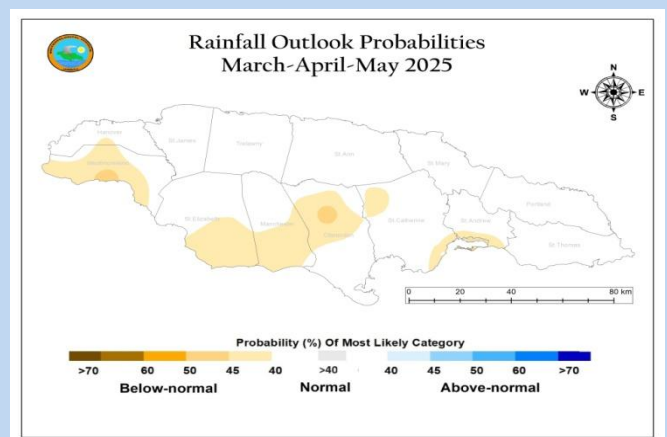
As the Meteorological Service continues to monitor conditions across the island, the advice is for stakeholders to be prudent in the use of available water, employ soil moisture retention and where possible, adopt rainwater harvesting solutions. It is also essential to ensure that animals are properly hydrated.

Over the next 3 months, night-time temperatures could be cooler-than-usual in central hilly areas. Day-time temperatures however, should be tolerable until the end of March, even if they are warmer-than-usual when compared to their historical values; however conditions should change when the heat season starts in April.

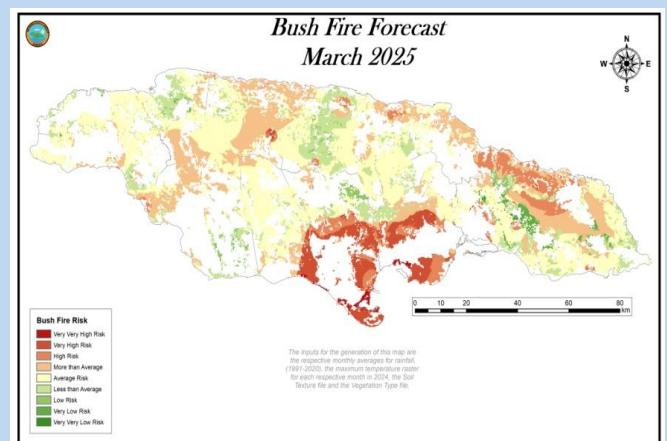
## Drought Outlook to the end of May 2025



## Rainfall Probability Outlook to the end of May 2025



## Bush Fire Forecast, March 2025



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## 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.