Trinidad and Tobago Dryness Monitor and Outlook by End of November 2025

Dry spell worsens to a Drought Watch for southwest Tobago! A wetter than usual transition into the Dry Season is expected to ease dryness concerns by February 2026.

Issued: Dec 12, 2025

Key Message:

A Dry Spell has become more severe over parts of Tobago leading to Drought Watch over southeast Tobago during September, October and November. During the 3-months, the level of severity increased over southwestern Tobago: from Dry Spell to Moderately Dry spell (Drought Watch) near Crown Point; and from borderline dry to dry near Hillsborough. In Trinidad, the Dry Spell eased to borderline dry near Brazil and across the eastern Caroni Plains however areas near Valencia and Piarco remained Dry by the end of November.

A wetter than usual transition from the Wet into the Dry Season is expected to lead to less dryness in December with mainly near-normal levels of dryness expected through January and February 2026. During the next 3-month period March-April-May 2026, there is no indication of abnormal dryness/drought. Therefore, there is little to no concern of dryness/drought expected in the long-term.

Recent Rainfall and Wet Days.

Rainfall amounts have improved in November to near normal in Trinidad however Tobago has remained below normal at Crown Point. The rainfall totals at Piarco for September, October and November are 128 mm (71.5% of average), 146.3 mm (76% of average) and 208.4 (94%) respectively. The rainfall totals in Crown Point for September, October and November are 62.5 mm (43% of average), 130.6 mm (73% of average) and 142.4 mm (65% of average) respectively.

In September: Piarco observed one extremely wet day (greater than 25 mm), three wet days (at least 10 mm); Crown Point observed two wet days. In October: Piarco observed one extremely wet day, five wet days; Crown Point observed two extremely wet days and three wet days. In November: Piarco observed four extremely wet days, one wet day and four relatively wet days (greater than 1 mm); Crown Point observed one extremely wet day, four wet days and ten relatively wet days.

Dryness Indicator Level of Severity.

From September to November 2025, the severity level ranged from Dry to No Concern in Trinidad with a dryness indicator (3-month SPI) of -1.03 to +0.34 (see Figure 1). In Tobago, the severity level ranged from Dry to Very Dry (Drought watch) with SPI values from -1.61 to -1.03, (see Figure 2).

The colour-coded dryness indicator maps showing observed level of dryness is based solely on rainfall and can be used for decision-making or for heightening awareness on dryness.

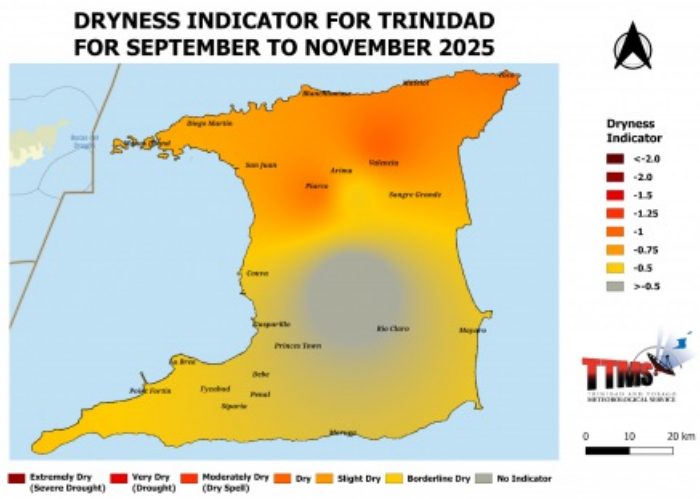

Figure 1. The colours on this map show observed dryness levels based on the rainfall differences from average, which have been standardized and expressed as the number of standard deviations less than average. The 3-month period used to compute the dryness is September to November 2025 compared to the historical average for the same 3-month period. The yellow to red colours on the map indicate areas with borderline-dry to extremely dry levels of dryness. The grey colour indicates areas where there are no significant dryness concerns.

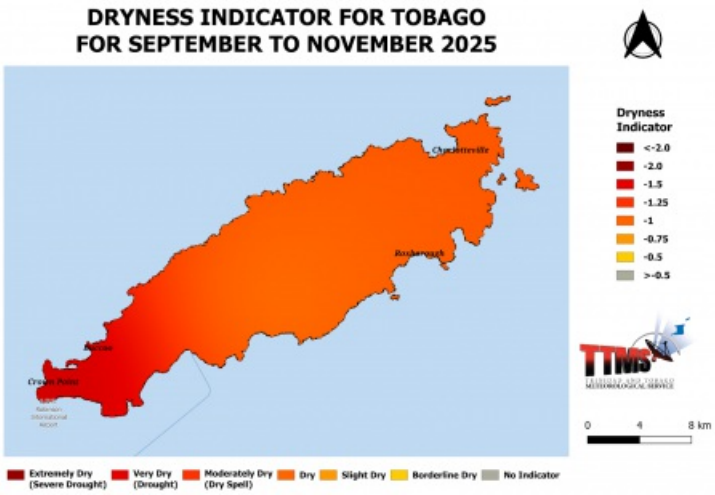

Figure 2. The colours on this map show observed dryness levels based on the rainfall differences from average, which have been standardized and expressed as the number of standard deviations less than average. The 3-month period used to compute the dryness is September to November 2025 compared to the historical average for the same 3-month period. The yellow to red colours on the map indicate areas with borderline-dry to extremely dry levels of dryness. The grey colour indicates areas where there are no significant dryness concerns.

Dryness Outlook for December 2025 to February 2026:

The 3-month outlook for the period December-January-February 2026 shows little to no indication of drought in the short-term for the majority of the country. The risk of extremely drier than normal conditions is low to moderate for Tobago and the majority of Trinidad. The Dryness Indicator (SPI) is expected to range from +0.67 to +0.90 across Trinidad, and +0.8 across Tobago for the three-month period (see Figures 3 and 4).

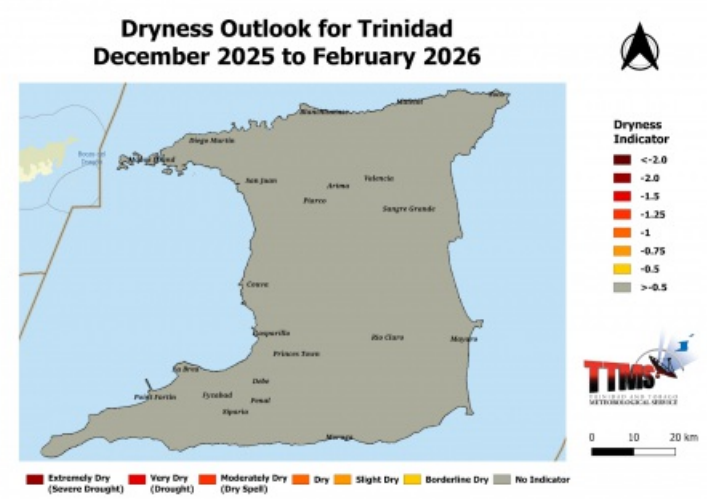

Figure 3. The colours on this map show the predicted levels of dryness for the period December 2025 to February 2026. It is based on the difference between standardized accumulated rainfall (observed and predicted) from November 2025 to January 2026 and the historical average rainfall for the same period. The yellow to red colours indicate borderline dry to extremely dry levels. The grey colour indicates areas where there are no significant dryness concerns.

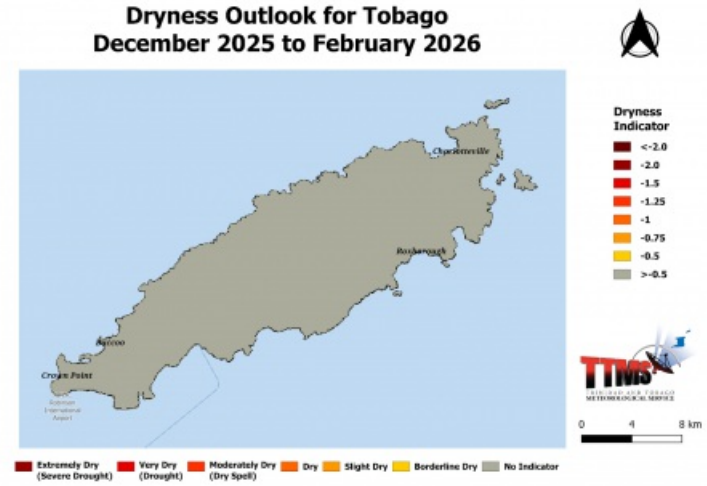

Figure 4. The colours on this map show the predicted levels of dryness for the period December 2025 to February 2026. It is based on the difference between standardized accumulated rainfall (observed and predicted) from November 2025 to January 2026 and the historical average rainfall for the same period. The yellow to red colours indicate borderline dry to extremely dry levels. The grey colour indicates areas where there are no significant dryness concerns.

Dryness Outlook for December 2025 to February 2026 (continued):

There are enhanced chances for near normal rainfall December through February with most rainfall expected during the transition from Wet to Dry Season, December 2025 and January 2026.

The ongoing weak La Niña is expected to positively influence rainfall with at least near normal rainfall totals during the 3-month period December 2025 through January 2026. Overall, from December through February 2026, this should maintain or boost soil moisture, streams and river levels within catchment areas and replenish reservoirs.

Dryness Outlook for March to May 2026:

Near-normal levels of dryness are expected March-April-May 2026, however climatologically March is the driest month of the year. During January to March 2026, the weak La Niña is expected to become neutral (neither La Niña nor El Niño) leading to at least near normal dryness through March-April-May 2026, see ENSO Monitor Update (https://www.metoffice.gov.tt/enso).

Likely Impacts and Suggested Actions:

Less severe levels of dryness December-January-February 2026 could bring the following impacts:

- maintain or boost soil moisture, streams and river levels within catchment areas and replenish reservoirs.
- decrease bush, forest and landfill fire potential.
- positively affect surface and groundwater recharge rates and stream flow rates.
- lead to an increase in breeding areas for insect vectors such as mosquitoes during wetter and warmer than usual conditions.

Persons involved in agriculture are advised to: maintain adequate drainage on fields during December-January; ensure regular weeding to reduce competition and water stress on crops; in February/March, meet any added demand for irrigation by exploring alternative water sources such as recycled water, brackish water for on farm activities.

Standardized Precipitation Index
The Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) is an index showing the severity and rarity of dryness or wetness of an area. Negative values of SPI indicate less than median rainfall and drier conditions; positive values indicate greater than median rainfall and wetter conditions. In general, dryness impacts are expected when the value of the 3-month SPI lies near-1.0. As the negative SPI value becomes smaller in amount than -1.0, the severity of impacts increases. For Trinidad and Tobago, extreme dryness occurs in the dry season when negative SPIs are larger than -1.25.

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