

CARIBBEAN AGRO-CLIMATIC BULLETIN OF THE CARISAM



JANUARY 2026 • VOLUME 9 • ISSUE 8

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

KEY MESSAGES

A slower than normal decrease in severe weather activity, particularly through January in the Guianas, resulting in high potential for flooding, flash floods, cascading hazards and associated impacts there.

Short dry spells increase in frequency, particularly in the Greater Antilles.

Comfortable temperatures through February, with episodes of heat discomfort likely limited to inland portions of Belize, the Guianas and Trinidad in March.

Drought impacts possible in the ABC Islands, the Windward Islands, in southwest Belize and in Grand Cayman.

NOVEMBER IN REVIEW

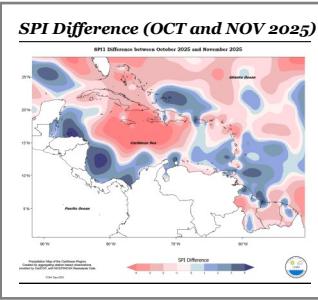
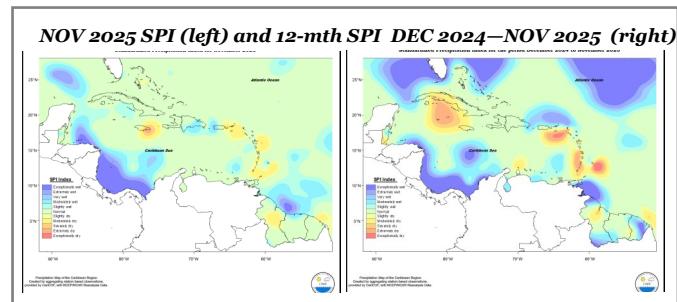
Except for Barbados that was normal to moderately wet, predominantly normal to below normal conditions were experienced across the eastern Caribbean during the month of November. Trinidad and Dominica were normal; Tobago, Grenada, St Croix and St Thomas moderately dry; Barbados normal to moderately wet southeast to west; St Vincent and Martinique slight to moderately dry; Saint Lucia, Guadeloupe, St Maarten and Anguilla moderately dry to normal; Antigua normal and St Kitts slightly dry. In the Guianas, conditions were mostly normal ranging to moderately dry in central Guyana and northern French Guiana and to extremely wet in coastal Guyana near the Suriname border. Aruba was normal.

Puerto Rico was very wet to moderately dry west to east. The Dominican Republic was moderately wet to normal. Jamaica ranged from normal to extremely dry west to east. Grand Cayman was normal. Cuba was predominantly normal apart from slightly wet conditions on the southern coastline. Northern Bahamas was slightly dry ranging to mostly normal and Belize was mostly normal ranging to moderately wet in central areas.

ABOUT CARI-SAM

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

During the 12-month period (December 2024 to November 2025), southeast Barbados, Grenada, St. Vincent, Saint Lucia and Cayman Islands were extremely dry. In contrast, southern Trinidad was exceptionally wet.



A mixture of conditions prevailed across the region during October and November. Notably, Belize, Barbados, Aruba, and pockets along coastal Guianas experienced a wetter November.

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

AGRI-NEWS

Jamaica: Approximately 200 farmers and fisherfolk in Treasure Beach, St. Elizabeth, received over \$7 million in supplies and equipment on Tuesday (December 23) at the Bred's Foundation Complex, as part of Hurricane Melissa recovery efforts. Read more <https://jis.gov.jm/200-farmers-and-fisherfolk-in-treasure-beach-receive-7m-in-hurricane-recovery-supplies/>

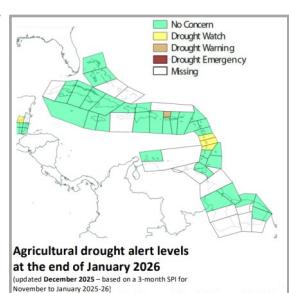
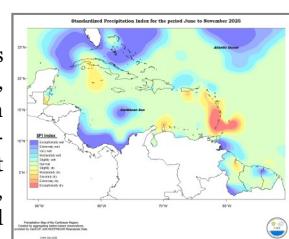
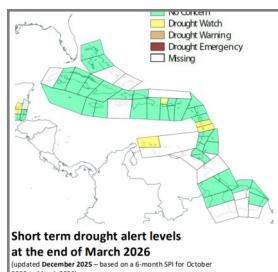
Jamaica: The Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA) is encouraging a measured, soil-focused approach to restoring crop production, following heavy rains. Read more <https://jis.gov.jm/rada-encourages-soil-centred-approach-to-crop-production/>

REGIONAL OUTLOOKS

DROUGHT

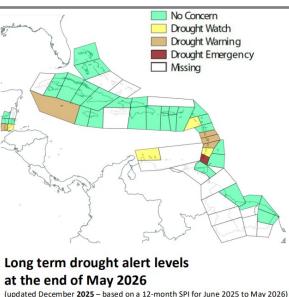
Moderate (or worse) short-term drought has developed in Aruba, southeast Barbados, Grand Cayman, Dominica, Grenada, northern Guyana, Martinique, Saint Lucia, and St. Vincent. Moderate (or worse) long-term drought has developed in Aruba, southeast Barbados, southwest Belize, Cayman Islands, Central and parts of Western Cuba, Grenada, central parts of northern Guyana, western Jamaica, Martinique, St-Barts, St. Croix and Saint Vincent.

Agricultural drought that can impact soil moisture availability is evolving in northwest Puerto Rico and might possibly develop or continue in northwest Belize, Dominica, Martinique and Saint Lucia by the end of January.

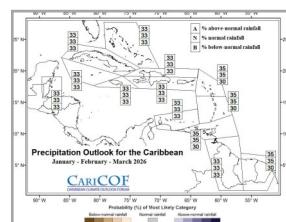


There may be some concern over short term drought that can impact small rivers, streams and ponds by the end of March 2026 across The ABC islands, western Belize, Dominica, Martinique and northwest Puerto Rico.

There is concern for long-term drought, that can impact large reservoirs, large rivers or groundwater, to present a challenge in farming by the end of May 2026 in Grenada and possibly across southwest Belize, Grand Cayman, Dominica, Martinique, Saint Lucia, the ABC islands, southeast Belize, St. Kitts and St. Vincent. Interests in these territories should monitor their water resources.

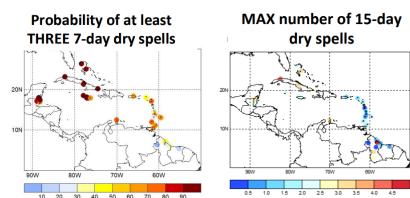


RAINFALL, WET/DRY SPELLS, TEMPERATURE and HEATWAVE DAYS (JANUARY – MARCH 2026)



There is much uncertainty in the rainfall totals from January through March. Farmers across the region should prepare for typical rainfall amounts for the period.

High to extremely high potential for long-term flooding, flash floods and related hazards across Belize, the Guianas and mountainous areas in the Antilles; moderate potential in other areas. Faster depletion of large water reservoirs and soil moisture in the ABC Islands, the coastal Guianas and the Lesser Antilles.



High potential for the occurrence of at least three 7-day dry spells across the region (except the Guianas) January to March.

At least three 15-day dry spells are possible during January to March across northern Belize,

Cuba, northern Bahamas, Aruba and Guyana.

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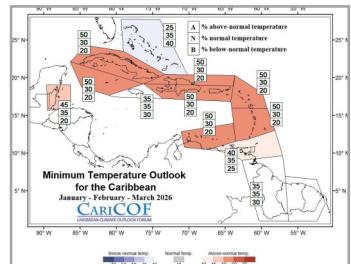
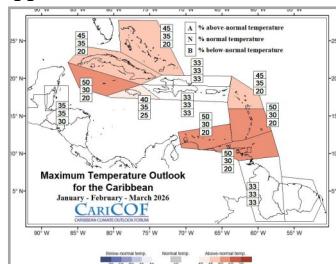
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Day-time (maximum) and night-time (minimum) temperatures, as well as humidity will likely be at least as high as usual throughout the Antilles islands and Belize. Episodes of hazardous heat stress across a wide section of the population are not expected during this period, with the possible exception of inland areas in Belize, southern Guiana and Trinidad (though episodes of hazardous heat stress can become a concern as May approaches).



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

CLIMATE-SMART ADVISORIES

Drought (Short- and long-term): Affecting: Aruba, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Cuba, Jamaica, Dominica, Martinique, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent, and Grand Cayman.

- ◆ Prioritise mulching (organic residues or plastic) to conserve soil moisture and moderate temperatures.
- ◆ Use drought-tolerant or short-cycle crop varieties, particularly for vegetables.
- ◆ Adopt drip/ micro-irrigation where feasible; avoid overhead watering
- ◆ Secure clean, reliable water for livestock and clean troughs regularly.

Temperature and Heat Stress: (Localised risk in Belize, southern Guyana, and Trinidad)

- ◆ Provide shade for crops using shade nets, live barriers, or tree canopies.
- ◆ Avoid fertiliser applications during extreme heat and consider using biostimulants to improve plant tolerance.
- ◆ Adjust livestock numbers downward where water and cooling options are constrained.

Rainfall and Flood Risk: (Belize, the Guianas, and mountainous areas of the Antilles – high to extremely high flash-flood risk)

- ◆ Improve and maintain field drainage systems.
- ◆ Avoid fertiliser and pesticide applications immediately before or during heavy rainfall events.
- ◆ Move livestock to higher ground in flood-prone areas and provide suitable protective shelters

Maintain records of inputs to aid post-disaster recovery

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.