

# CARIBBEAN AGRO-CLIMATIC BULLETIN OF THE CARISAM



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

## KEY MESSAGES

**The occurrence of severe weather activity as soon as April in southern Belize, the Guianas, the Greater Antilles and mountainous areas of the Lesser Antilles, implying high or even extremely high potential for flooding, flash floods, cascading hazards and associated impacts after March.**

**Short dry spells increase in frequency, particularly in the ABC Islands and Lesser Antilles.**

**Comfortable temperatures in February making way to episodes of heat discomfort by March in inland portions of Belize, the Guianas and Trinidad, or April elsewhere.**

**Rainfall totals unlikely to mitigate long-term drought impacts in the ABC Islands, St. Kitts & Nevis and the Windward Islands caused by large rainfall deficits during the 2025 Wet Season.**

## DECEMBER IN REVIEW

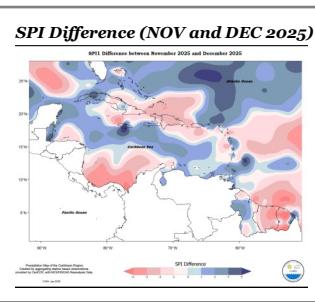
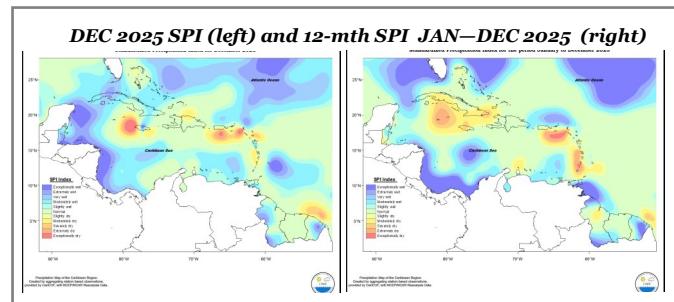
Mixed conditions were experienced across the eastern Caribbean in December. Trinidad was moderately wet to normal; Tobago, Grenada and St Thomas normal; Barbados extreme to moderately wet; St Vincent moderately dry; Saint Lucia and Martinique moderately dry to normal; Dominica slightly dry to moderately wet; Guadeloupe and Anguilla moderately wet to moderately dry; Antigua moderate to severely dry; St Kitts and St Croix slight to moderately dry and St Maarten extremely dry to normal. In the Guianas, conditions were mostly normal ranging to exceptionally wet in southwestern Guyana and eastern French Guiana and to moderately dry in coastal French Guiana. Aruba was slightly dry to normal.

Puerto Rico was extremely dry to slightly wet south to north. The Dominican Republic was mostly normal ranging to slightly dry in the southeast and to moderately dry in the north. Jamaica was exceptionally wet in central areas ranging to exceptionally dry in the west and to moderately dry in the east. Grand Cayman was normal. Cuba was extremely wet in western areas ranging to normal in southern and eastern areas. Northern Bahamas was slightly wet to slightly dry and Belize exceptional to slightly wet 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)

During the 12-month period (January to December 2025), normal to extremely dry conditions were observed across much of the region, with the exception of the Guianas, The ABC Islands, Belize, Cuba and the Bahamas which were normal to extremely wet.



A mixture of conditions prevailed across the region during November and December. Notably, much of Hispaniola, Grand Cayman, much of Cuba Suriname and French Guiana experienced a drier December.

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

## AGRI-NEWS

**Jamaica:** Agriculture Ministry Announces \$20M Post-Hurricane Recovery Package to Revitalise Aquaculture Sector. Read more <https://jis.gov.jm/agriculture-ministry-announces-20m-post-hurricane-recovery-package-to-revitalise-aquaculture-sector/>

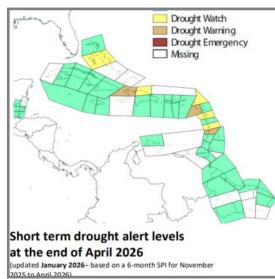
**Belize:** Belize boosts Climate-Smart Agriculture with Nuclear techniques to improve fertilizer efficiency. Read more <https://www.breakingbelizenews.com/2026/01/31/belize-boosts-climate-smart-agriculture-with-nuclear-techniques-to-improve-fertilizer-efficiency/>

## REGIONAL OUTLOOKS

### DROUGHT

Moderate (or worse) short-term drought has developed in Aruba, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and Trinidad and Tobago. Moderate (or worse) long-term drought has developed in Aruba, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Grenada, Jamaica, southwest Belize, Martinique, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent.

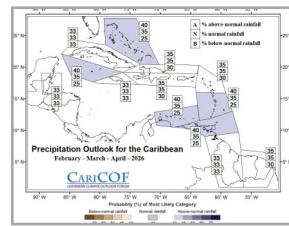
Agricultural drought that can impact soil moisture availability is evolving in northern Hispaniola, northwest Puerto Rico and St. Kitts and Nevis by the end of February.



There may be some concern over short term drought that can impact small rivers, streams and ponds by the end of April 2026 across northern Haiti, St. Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia and possibly across the northwest Bahamas, northern Dominican Republic, Guadeloupe, Martinique and islands of Saint Martin and St. Barts.

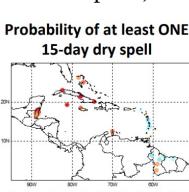
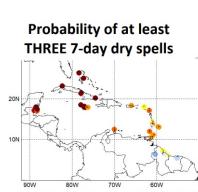
There is heightened concern for long-term drought, that can impact large reservoirs, large rivers or groundwater, to present a challenge in farming by the end of May 2026 in the ABC islands, Grenada and Saint Lucia and is evolving in Dominica, Martinique and St. Kitts and Nevis and possibly across southwest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

### RAINFALL, WET/DRY SPELLS, TEMPERATURE and HEATWAVE DAYS (FEBRUARY – APRIL 2026)



Rainfall totals from February to April are likely to be the usual or higher in the ABC Islands, the Bahamas, Barbados, Grand Cayman, Trinidad & Tobago and the Windward Islands.

High to extremely high potential for long-term flooding, flash floods and related hazards in Cuba, the Guianas, Puerto Rico and mountainous areas of the Greater and Lesser Antilles. Usual water depletion rates in surface reservoirs and rivers. Few wet days during the core of the dry season, leading to few outdoor activity disruptions, drier surfaces and vegetation, environmental conditions less conducive to moisture-related pests, but heightened wildfire potential.



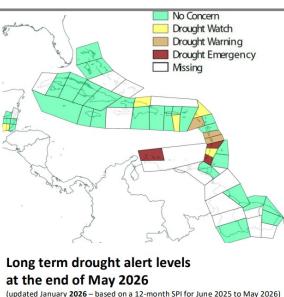
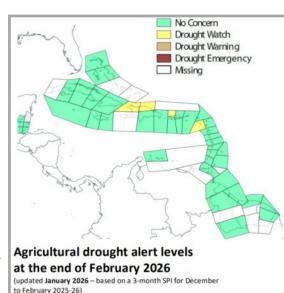
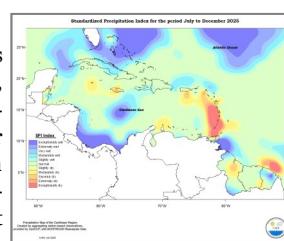
High to extremely high potential for the occurrence of at least three 7-day dry spells across the region (except the Guianas) from February to April.

High potential for at least three 15-day dry spells across Aruba, Belize, Grand Cayman, Jamaica, Cuba and northern Bahamas.

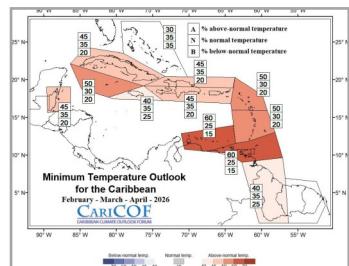
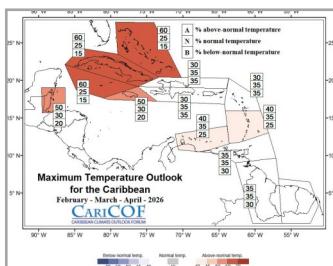
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Day-time (maximum) and night-time (minimum) temperatures, as well as humidity will likely be at least as high as usual throughout the Antilles islands and Belize. Episodes of hazardous heat stress can develop as early as March in inland areas in Belize, southern Guiana and Trinidad, or April (elsewhere), with the highest likelihood in the northwest.



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

### CLIMATE-SMART ADVISORIES

**Drought (short- and long-term): Affecting multiple islands, especially Grenada, Saint Lucia, and the ABC Islands (Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao)**

- ◆ Increase organic matter and apply 5–10cm of mulch to retain soil moisture and reduce water loss by 20–35%.
- ◆ Maintain soil moisture at 60–70% during critical crop stages (flowering/fruit set) and schedule transplanting during cooler periods.
- ◆ Ensure livestock have secure water storage for 2–3 weeks and provide shaded areas to lower water needs.

**Temperature and Heat Stress: Likely from March–April, in Belize, southern Guiana, Trinidad, and the northwest Caribbean**

- ◆ Provide shade for crops using shade nets (30–50%), live barriers, or tree canopies.
- ◆ Avoid fertilizer application during extreme heat, and apply foliar feeds only during cooler hours.
- ◆ Minimize handling of animals during peak heat and supply electrolytes in extreme conditions

**Localized Flood Risk: (Cuba, The Guianas, Puerto Rico, and mountainous areas of the Greater and Lesser Antilles)**

- ◆ Move livestock to higher ground and provide suitable shelters.
- ◆ Clear drains and install contour drains on slopes before heavy rainfall.
- ◆ Use raised beds for vegetables in flood-prone areas.

**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 CARICOF 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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