

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, increases the potential for flooding, flash floods, cascading hazards and associated impacts from April or May onwards.

Short dry spells are likely to peak in frequency, particularly in the ABC Islands and Lesser Antilles.

Episodes of heat discomfort may appear as soon as March in inland portions of Belize, the Guianas and Trinidad, or April elsewhere, and become more widespread by May.

Rainfall totals unlikely to mitigate long-term drought impacts in the ABC Islands, St. Kitts & Nevis and the Windward Islands, with imminent long-term drought forecasted for the end of May in Grenada.

DECEMBER IN REVIEW

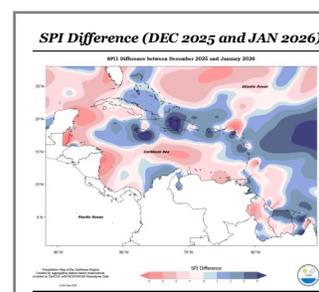
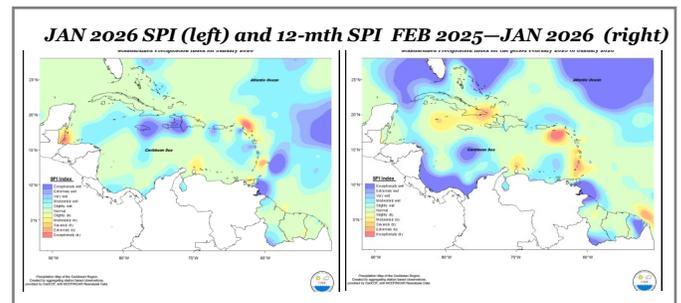
Mixed conditions were experienced across the islands of the eastern Caribbean during the month of January. Trinidad was moderately dry to exceptionally wet from west to east; Tobago and Martinique moderately wet to normal; Grenada slightly wet to normal; Barbados extremely wet to moderately dry; St Vincent slight to moderately dry; Dominica very to slightly wet; Guadeloupe moderately wet to moderately dry; Antigua and St Kitts normal to moderately dry; St Maarten very wet to slightly dry; Anguilla slightly wet to severely dry; St Croix and St Thomas normal. In the Guianas conditions were mostly normal ranging to extremely wet in southern and northern parts of Guyana and to moderately dry in northeastern Guyana. Aruba was moderately dry.

Puerto Rico extremely wet to normal southwest to east. The Dominican Republic ranged from exceptionally wet to slightly dry from southwest to northeast. Jamaica ranged from moderate to exceptionally wet. Grand Cayman was moderately wet. Cuba was predominantly normal ranging to moderately wet in the southeast. Northern Bahamas was predominantly normal to moderately wet and Belize exceptionally dry in the southeast ranging to slightly dry in the 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

During the 12-month period (February 2025 to January 2026), normal conditions prevailed across the region with pockets of extremes. Southern Trinidad, portions of the Guianas and central Bahamas were exceptionally wet whereas Aruba, Cayman Islands, easternmost Cuba, and the Windward islands experienced severely to exceptionally dry conditions. The U.S. Virgin Islands were exceptionally dry.



Most of the territories across the region experienced wetter conditions in January 2026 in comparison to December 2025.

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

AGRI-NEWS

Grenada: National Disaster Management Agency (NaDMA), provides a comprehensive outlook for the upcoming drought period and what it means to the people of Grenada. Read more <https://www.facebook.com/gisgrenada/posts/preparing-for-the-2026-drought-period-check-out-this-timely-production-by-the-na/1266232602365150/>

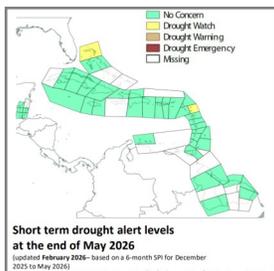
Belize: Government of Belize strengthens Climate Resilience in Agriculture. Read more <https://www.breakingbelizenews.com/2026/02/26/government-of-belize-strengthens-climate-resilience-in-agriculture/>

REGIONAL OUTLOOKS

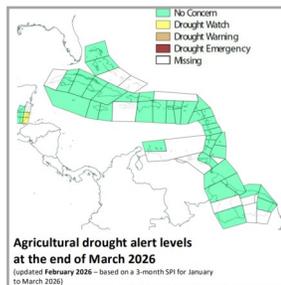
DROUGHT

Moderate (or worse) short-term drought has developed in easternmost Guadeloupe, St. Croix, St. Kitts, Saint Lucia, Sint Maarten/St. Martin, St. Vincent, and far southeast Suriname. Moderate (or worse) long-term drought has developed in Aruba, Eastern Cuba, Grenada, Martinique, Saint Lucia, and St. Vincent.

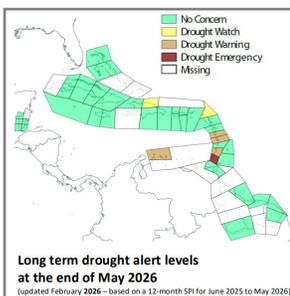
Agricultural drought that can impact soil moisture availability may be of concern across southeast Belize by the end of March.



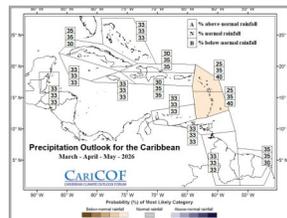
There may be some concern over short term drought that can impact small rivers, streams and ponds by the end of May 2026 across Antigua and northern Bahamas.



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 Grenada and is evolving in the ABC islands, Dominica, Martinique and St. Vincent and possibly across northern parts of the Dominican Republic and the islands of Saint Martin and St. Barts. Interests in these territories should monitor their water resources.



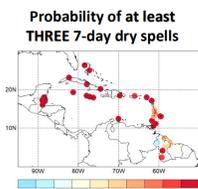
RAINFALL, WET/DRY SPELLS, TEMPERATURE and HEATWAVE DAYS (MARCH – MAY 2026)



Rainfall totals from March to May are likely to be the usual or less in the Lesser Antilles.

High to extremely high potential for long-term flooding, flash floods and related hazards in The Bahamas, Greater Antilles, Guianas and mountainous areas of the Lesser Antilles. Water depletion rates in

surface reservoirs and in rivers, possibly slightly slower than usual in the Lesser Antilles. Few rain disruptions of outdoor activity, drier surfaces and vegetation, environmental conditions less conducive to moisture-related pests, but heightened wildfire potential.

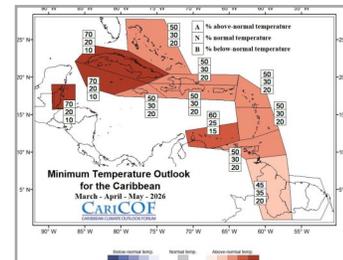
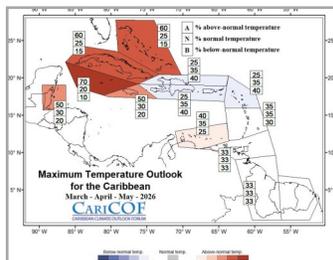


High to extremely high potential for the occurrence of at least three 7-day dry spells across most of the region from March to May.

High potential for at least one 15-day dry spells across the

region, except the Guianas.

Day-time (maximum) and night-time (minimum) temperatures, as well as humidity, will likely be at least as high as usual in Belize, The Bahamas, Cayman Islands, Cuba and Jamaica, with unusually warmer nights also expected for other parts of the region. Episodes of heat stress can develop as early as March in Belize, Guiana and Trinidad, or April elsewhere.



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

CLIMATE-SMART ADVISORIES

Drought (short- and long-term): Affecting eastern Guadeloupe and Cuba, St. Croix, St. Kitts, Saint Lucia, St. Martin, St. Vincent, Aruba, Grenada, and Martinique.

- ◆ Utilize drip irrigation or micro-sprinkler systems to improve water-use efficiency.
- ◆ Apply organic mulches (5–10 cm thick) to conserve soil moisture or apply plastic mulch
- ◆ Harvest and store rainwater in tanks, ponds, or lined reservoirs where feasible.
- ◆ Ensure livestock has adequate shade and proper ventilation.

Temperature and Heat Stress: Expected across parts of the Caribbean, including Belize, Guyana, and Trinidad.

- ◆ Use shade nets (30–50%), live barriers, or tree canopies to protect crops from excessive heat.
- ◆ Avoid fertilizer applications during periods of extreme heat; instead apply foliar nutrients during cooler times of the day, such as early morning or late afternoon.
- ◆ Reduce handling of animals during peak heat hours and provide electrolytes during periods of severe heat stress.

Flooding and Flash Flood Risk: Bahamas, the Greater Antilles, the Guianas, and mountainous areas of the Lesser Antilles.

- ◆ Move livestock to higher ground and provide suitable shelters.
- ◆ Clear drains and establish contour drains on slopes before heavy rainfall.
- ◆ Use raised beds 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 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.

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