

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

Caribbean Heat Season with heatwaves occurring as early as April and gradually ramping up, possibly matching April-May-June 2024 in the northwest of the region.

High evaporation rates, frequent short dry spells and buildup of any ongoing drought, thus increasing wildfire potential through May or longer.

Except for the ABC Islands, rainfall intensity should rise towards June, resulting in high to extremely high potential for flooding, flash floods, cascading hazards and associated impacts.

Episodes of Saharan dust intrusion will likely be frequent; if combined with El Niño, this means more build up of dryness and heat, as well as more erratic occurrence of severe weather

FEBRUARY IN REVIEW

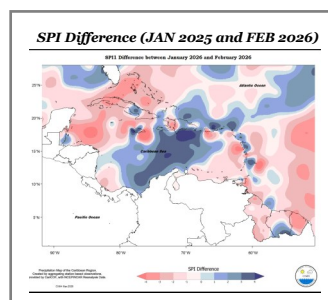
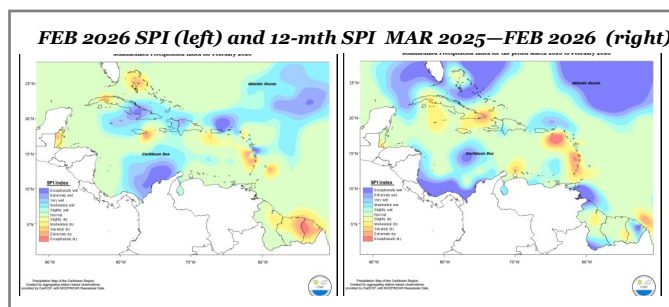
Mixed conditions were experienced across the islands of the eastern Caribbean during the month of February. Trinidad was predominantly normal to slightly dry; Tobago, Grenada and St Croix normal; Barbados and St Kitts normal to moderately dry; St Vincent mostly moderate to severely dry; Saint Lucia moderate to extremely dry; Martinique severely dry to extremely wet south to north; Dominica severely dry to exceptionally wet; Guadeloupe exceptionally wet to normal; Antigua predominantly slightly wet to normal; St Maarten very wet to normal; Anguilla moderately wet to normal and St Thomas moderate to extremely wet. Conditions in the Guianas ranged from normal in most of Guyana and parts of Suriname to exceptionally dry in the vicinity of the northern Suriname/French Guiana border. Aruba was normal.

Puerto Rico ranged from moderately dry in the southwest to exceptionally wet in the northeast. The Dominican Republic ranged from extremely wet to normal from northwest to east. Jamaica was moderately wet to extremely dry west to east. Grand Cayman was very wet. Cuba ranged from extremely dry in western areas to exceptionally wet in east central areas. Northern Bahamas ranged from normal to extremely dry and Belize from mostly moderate to extremely dry in central areas.

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 (March 2025 to February 2026), normal conditions prevailed across the region with pockets of extremes. Southern Trinidad and central Bahamas were exceptionally wet whereas the U.S. Virgin Islands were exceptionally dry. Severely to extremely conditions were observed across some territories of the Lesser Antilles.



Most of the territories across the region experienced drier conditions in February in comparison to January.

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

AGRI-NEWS

Region: ENSO likely to affect Caribbean weather. Read more <https://nationnews.com/2026/03/30/enso-conditions-likely-to-affect-caribbean-weather/>

Saint Lucia: Severe dry season as rainfall deficit nears 40 per cent and. Drought expected to continue. Read more <https://stlucianewsnow.net/saint-lucia-facing-severe-dry-season-as-rainfall-deficit-nears-40/>

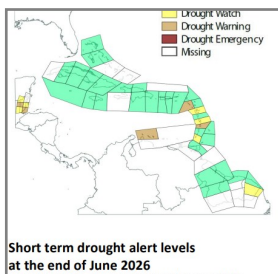
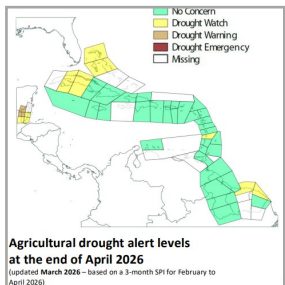
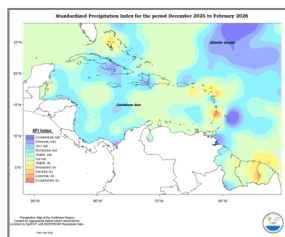
Jamaica: Government integrating climate-smart practices into agriculture. Read more <https://jis.gov.jm/govt-integrating-climate-smart-practices-into-agriculture/>

REGIONAL OUTLOOKS

DROUGHT

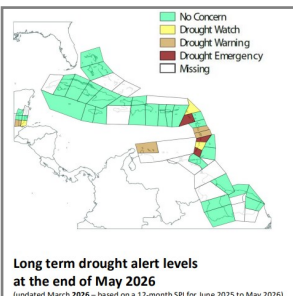
Moderate (or worse) short-term drought has developed in Antigua, the northwest and northern Bahamas, French Guiana, Saint Kitts, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and Suriname. Moderate (or worse) long-term drought has developed in Aruba, southern Belize, western and eastern Cuba, Grenada, Jamaica, Martinique, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent, and southeast Suriname.

Agricultural drought that can impact soil moisture availability may be of concern across northwestern Belize (and possibly across The Bahamas, southern Belize, western Cuba, coastal French Guiana, Saint Lucia and coastal Suriname) by the end of March.

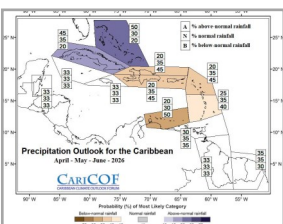


There may be some concern over short term drought that can impact small rivers, streams and ponds by the end of May 2026 across the ABC islands, western & southeastern Belize, St. Kitts and Saint Lucia and possibly across in parts of Belize, Guadeloupe, Grenada, Martinique, Saint Lucia and interior French Guiana.

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, St. Kitts and Saint Lucia and is evolving in the ABC islands, southwestern Belize, Dominica, and Martinique and possibly across northern parts of southeastern Belize, St. Martin and St. Vincent. Interests in these territories should monitor their water resources.



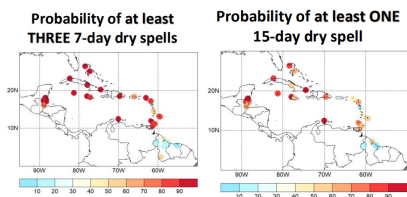
RAINFALL, WET/DRY SPELLS, TEMPERATURE and HEATWAVE DAYS (APRIL – JUNE 2026)



Rainfall totals from April to June are likely to be the usual or more in The Bahamas and Cuba, but usual or less in the ABC Islands, Hispaniola, US Caribbean Territories, and the Lesser Antilles.

High potential for flooding, flash floods and related impacts and compounding or cascading hazards due to intense rainfall events, particularly in mountainous areas and the

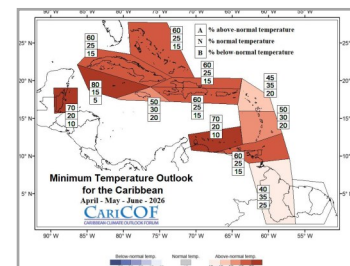
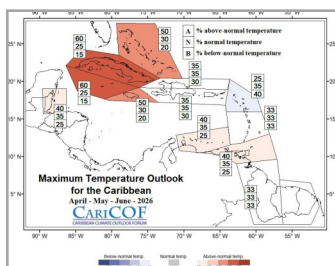
Guianas. Water recharge rates in surface reservoirs and in rivers will likely accelerate, particularly in the Guianas. Accelerated rise in wet day frequency into May can make conditions conducive to moisture-related pests, but dampen wildfire potential.



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 temperatures (maximum) as well as humidity, will likely be at least as high as usual in the ABC Islands, Trinidad and Tobago, Belize, The Bahamas, Cayman Islands, Cuba and Jamaica, with unusually warmer nighttime temperatures (minimum) and humidity expected for other parts of the region. Episodes of excessive heat stress can develop from April onwards.



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

CLIMATE-SMART ADVISORIES

Drought (short- and long-term) affecting Antigua, northern Bahamas, French Guiana, St. Kitts, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent, Suriname, Grenada, Jamaica, Martinique, Cuba, Aruba, and Belize.

- ◆ Schedule planting in the early morning or late afternoon to minimize transplant stress.
- ◆ Use drip irrigation/ micro-sprinklers and apply water more frequently in smaller amounts rather than heavy watering.
- ◆ Apply organic mulch (5–10 cm thick) or plastic mulch to conserve soil moisture.
- ◆ For livestock: provide shade, ventilation and adequate water
- ◆ Reduce stocking density if pasture availability declines.
- ◆ Introduce drought-tolerant forages such as mulato grass)

Temperature and heat stress affecting (Belize, Cuba, Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago).

- ◆ Avoid fertilizer application during extreme heat; apply foliar nutrients/biostimulants (e.g., seaweed extracts) in cooler periods.
- ◆ Use 30–50% shade, barriers, or trees to reduce crop heat stress
- ◆ For livestock, minimize handling during peak heat, provide electrolytes and minerals

Rainfall and potential flooding: expected in areas such as The Bahamas and Cuba.

- ◆ Clear drains and install contour drainage on slopes.
- ◆ Move livestock to higher ground with secure shelter.
- ◆ Use raised beds in flood-prone areas to prevent waterlogging.

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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