

CARIBBEAN AGRO-CLIMATIC BULLETIN OF THE CARISAM



AUGUST 2026 • VOLUME 10 • ISSUE 3

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

KEY MESSAGES

- ◆ Intense humid heat into the peak of the Heat Season in September, culminating in recurrent heatwaves, especially in the Lesser Antilles and Guianas.
- ◆ Irregular and less frequent than usual bouts of Atlantic Hurricane Season activity. However, remain prepared! It only takes one!
- ◆ Potential continuation or exacerbation of drought impacts, particularly in Grand Cayman and the Lesser Antilles.
- ◆ Lower than usual rainfall frequency than in most years. Despite being less frequent than in most years, the expected occurrence of excessive rainfall events leads to high to extremely high potential for flooding, flash floods, cascading hazards and associated impacts.
- ◆ Intrusions of dusty Saharan air will inhibit tropical cyclone activity, but exacerbate humid heat and deteriorate air quality.

JUNE IN REVIEW

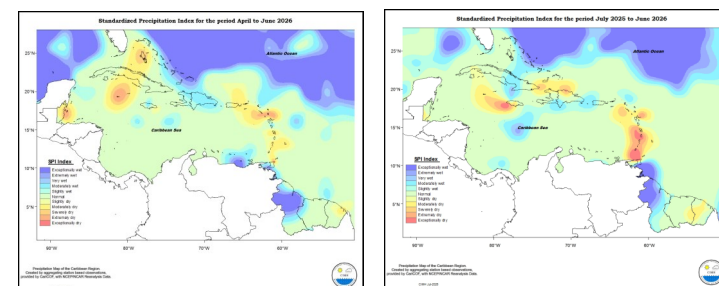
Apart from Trinidad that was exceptionally wet to slightly dry from southwest to northeast, normal to below normal conditions prevailed throughout the islands of the eastern Caribbean during the month of June. Tobago was normal; Grenada and Barbados normal to slightly dry; St Vincent, St Thomas and St Maarten moderately dry; Saint Lucia, Antigua and Anguilla moderate to slightly dry; Martinique moderate to extremely dry; Dominica and Guadeloupe moderate to severely dry; St Kitts severe to extremely dry and St Croix exceptionally dry. In the Guianas, conditions ranged from extremely wet in northwest Guyana to exceptionally dry. In northern portions of Suriname. Aruba was slightly wet.

Puerto Rico was predominantly moderately dry ranging from slightly dry in the extreme southwest and to severely dry in the extreme southeast. The Dominican Republic was severely dry in southern areas ranging to moderately wet in the north. Jamaica was moderately wet in central areas ranging to extremely dry in the west and to normal in eastern areas. Grand Cayman was moderately dry. Cuba was exceptionally dry in northern areas ranging to normal in the west and to slightly wet in eastern areas. Northern Bahamas ranged from exceptionally dry to moderately wet and Belize moderately wet in the south ranging to normal in the north and to extremely dry in southeastern areas.

The month of June was predominantly drier than May across most of the region.

WATER STATUS

Severe (or worse) agricultural drought has developed in Antigua, parts of Central Bahamas, eastern Belize, Grand Cayman, St. Kitts & Nevis, southwest Tobago.



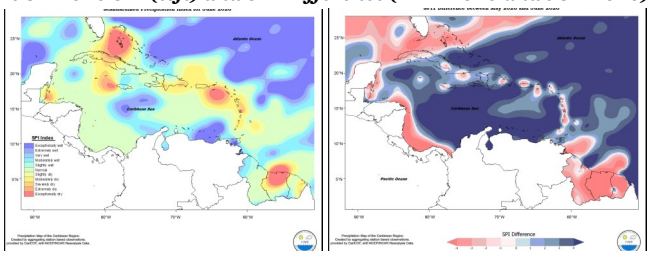
Severe (or worse) long-term drought has developed in easternmost Cuba, Grenada, eastern Guadeloupe, southwest Jamaica, Martinique, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent, and northernmost Trinidad. Severe (or worse) agricultural drought has developed in southwest Tobago and western Barbados.

AGRI-NEWS

Regional: Drought to continue its reign for remainder of 2026. Read more <https://www.facebook.com/abstvradio/posts/drought-to-continue-its-reign-for-remainder-of-2026antigua-and-barbuda-is-foreca/1548550250644739/>

International: Strong El Nino expected to intensify. Read more <https://public.wmo.int/news/media-centre/strong-el-nino-expected-intensify>

JUN 2026 SPI (left) and SPI Difference (MAY 2026 and JUN 2026)



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

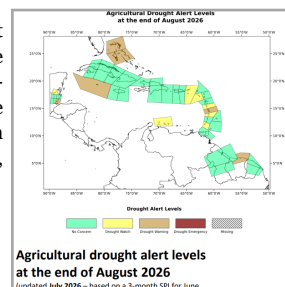
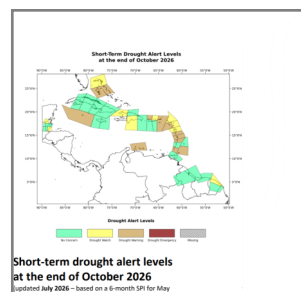
ABOUT CariSAM

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

REGIONAL OUTLOOKS

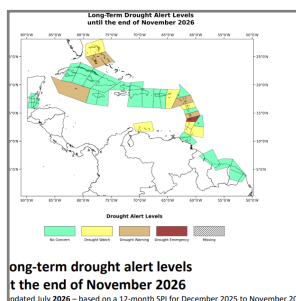
DROUGHT

There is some concern for agricultural drought that can impact soil moisture availability by the end of August across The Bahamas, Grand Cayman, Martinique and parts of coastal Suriname and possibly across the ABC Islands, northern Belize, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts, Saint Lucia, and US Virgin Islands.



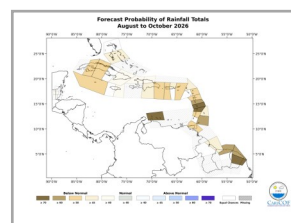
Some concern exists over short term drought that can impact small rivers, streams and ponds by the end of October across the ABC Islands, Northwest Bahamas, Grand Cayman, Dominica, Grenada, Martinique, northwest Puerto Rico, St. Kitts, Saint Lucia, Tobago and the USVI. and possibly across the Northern Bahamas, northern & southeast Belize, southern Dominican Republic, coastal French Guiana, Martinique, northeast Puerto Rico, other parts of the Leeward Islands.

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 November 2026 in Saint Lucia and evolving in Antigua, the Northwest Bahamas, Grand Cayman, Martinique and St. Kitts and possibly across ABC Islands, the Northern Bahamas, Grenada, Guadeloupe, St. Vincent, Tobago and the US Virgin Islands. Areas ending up in long-term drought by the end of November are likely to experience lower than usual water levels in large reservoirs, large rivers and groundwater in the ensuing dry season.



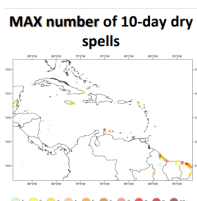
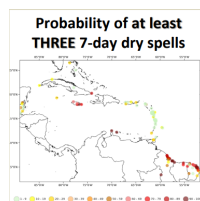
Interests in these territories should monitor their water resources.

RAINFALL, WET/DRY SPELLS, TEMPERATURE and HEATWAVE DAYS (AUGUST – OCTOBER 2026)



Rainfall totals from August to October are likely to be the usual or less across most of the islands, French Guiana, coastal Guyana, and Suriname, as well as the Northwest Bahamas and western Belize.

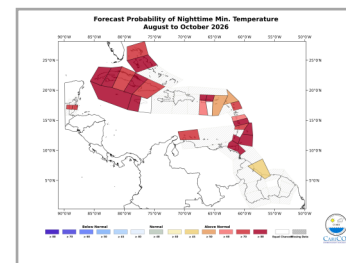
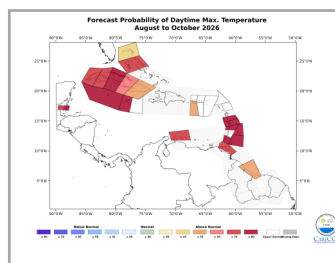
Though lower than other years, the potential for flooding, flash floods, compound hazards/cascading impacts due to excessive rains is high to extremely high. Water recharge rates in surface reservoirs and rivers will likely be slower than usual in Belize and the Antilles. A lower number wet days dampens the number of rainfall disruptions of outdoor activities, and only slowly builds up surface and soil moisture which reduce wildfire potential, while also reducing the prevalence of moisture-related pests and diseases.



Favourable potential for the occurrence of at least three 7-day dry spells across Jamaica and the Guianas from August to October.

At least six to eight 10-day dry spells may be observed across the Guianas.

Day-time temperatures (maximum) will likely be at least as warm as usual, with recurrent episodes of excessive, humid heat - culminating in heatwaves - causing heat stress, especially in vulnerable persons and communities. The risk of extreme heat is highest in the northern Caribbean.



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

CLIMATE-SMART ADVISORIES

Drought (short- and long-term) affecting Grenada, Dominica, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts, Martinique, Tobago, US Virgin Islands, Grand Cayman and Antigua

- ◆ Mulch crops using organic or inorganic materials to slow down moisture evaporation.
- ◆ Enrich soil structure with compost to help it hold water longer.
- ◆ Time your watering for the early morning or late afternoon, targeting sensitive stages like seedling setup, flowering, and fruit set.
- ◆ Harvest rainwater to create a backup supply for crops and animals.
- ◆ Stockpile forage and water to keep livestock sustained.

Potential Flooding and Landslides

- ◆ Clear farm drainage and waterways to stop waterlogging, excessive mud, and disease outbreaks in fields and animal shelters.
- ◆ Maintain vegetative barriers like grass strips to anchor vulnerable soil.
- ◆ Implement contouring and raised beds on sloping land to control runoff and protect root aeration.
- ◆ Time and split fertilizer applications using weather forecasts to prevent costly nutrient wash-off.
- ◆ Safeguard equipment and inputs ahead of major storms to prevent loss or chemical contamination.
- ◆ Scout fields regularly for early signs of moisture-driven crop diseases.
- ◆ Evacuate livestock to elevated, sheltered areas before floodwaters rise.

Humid Heat, High Temperatures and Saharan Dust

- ◆ Protect sensitive plants using mulch and nursery shade netting.
- ◆ Thin perennials crops to improve canopy airflow and prevent humidity-related diseases.
- ◆ Apply crop biostimulants to alleviate heat stress
- ◆ Provide adequate shade and ventilation for animals
- ◆ Enforce field workers are regular hydration, schedule rest breaks in the shade during hot days, and supply masks during dust episodes.

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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