# CARIBBEAN AGRO-CLIMATIC BULLETIN OF THE CARISAM

SEPTEMBER 2026 • VOLUME 10 • ISSUE 4

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

## KEY MESSAGES

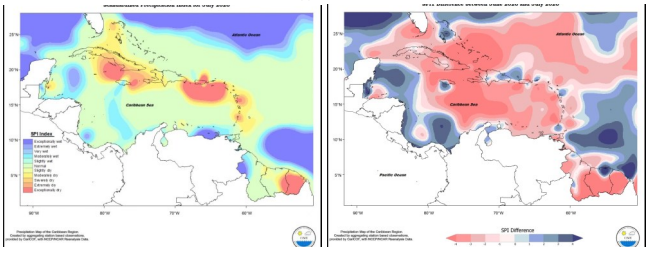
- **Potential expansion of areas with impactful drought.**
- **Humid heat peaking in September (and October in the Guianas), culminating in heatwaves.**
- **Unusually irregular and infrequent tropical cyclone activity.**
- **Unusually low and shower, wet spell and excessive rainfall event frequency.**
- **High to extremely high potential for flooding, flash floods, cascading hazards and associated impacts remains across the region, with the possible exception of the ABC Islands and French Guiana.**
- **Coral reef bleaching potential around the Bahamas and the Greater Antilles.**
- **Dusty Saharan air intrusions tend to be infrequent in this period, but they can further inhibit tropical cyclone activity, while exacerbating humid heat and deteriorating air quality.**

## JULY IN REVIEW

Conditions throughout the eastern Caribbean were mostly normal to below normal during the month of July, apart from Trinidad which was mostly normal ranging to slightly wet in the southwest and to slightly dry in the extreme northeast. Tobago, Barbados and St Thomas were slight to moderately dry; Grenada normal; St Vincent extremely dry; Saint Lucia and Martinique mostly moderate to severely dry; Dominica and St Maarten moderate to exceptionally dry; Guadeloupe and St. Kitts exceptional to slightly dry; Antigua moderately dry; St Croix exceptionally dry; and Anguilla severe to slightly dry. In the Guianas, conditions varied from exceptionally wet in northwestern Guyana to exceptionally dry in French Guiana and eastern Suriname. Aruba was normal, but Curacao slightly dry.

Puerto Rico was mostly exceptionally dry ranging to moderately dry in the southeast and to slightly wet in the northwest. The Dominican Republic was normal ranging to moderately dry in the southwest and to exceptionally dry in the extreme southeast. Jamaica was very wet in central areas ranging to exceptionally dry in the extreme northwest and in the east. Grand Cayman was slight to moderately dry. Cuba was normal in western areas ranging to exceptionally dry in southeastern areas. Northern Bahamas was severely dry to slightly wet and Belize extremely wet in central areas ranging to normal in the southwest and to moderately dry on the northeastern coastline.

*JUL 2026 SPI (left) and SPI Difference (JUN 2026 and JUL 2026)*

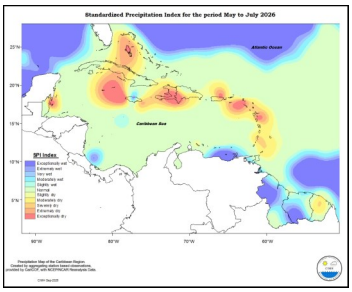


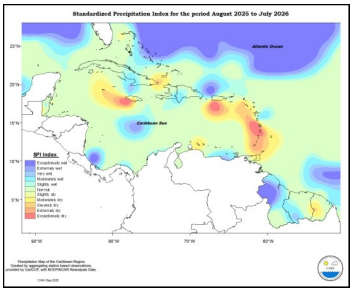
***Read more at https://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/spi-monitor/***

The month of July was predominantly drier than June across most of the region, with the exception of Belize and mush of the Dominican Republic.

## WATER STATUS

Severe (or worse) agricultural drought has developed in Northern & Northwest Bahamas, coastal northern Belize, Grand Cayman, Central Cuba, northeast Dominica, southwest Dominican Republic, Guadeloupe, central French Guiana, Haiti, far western & southeast Jamaica, Leeward Islands, northeast Puerto Rico, St. Croix, St. Vincent.




Severe (or worse) short-term drought has developed in Antigua, Northern & Northwest Bahamas, Grand Cayman, Martinique, southwest Puerto Rico, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Vincent, Tobago. Severe (or worse) long-term drought has developed in Grand Cayman, Grenada, southwest Jamaica, Martinique, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent, southwest French Guiana, Tobago, far northern Trinidad.

## AGRI-NEWS

**Regional:** Drought creating crisis in the Caribbean. Read more caribbean-nationalweekly.com

**Jamaica:** Farmers encouraged to adapt to climate realities. Read more jis.gov.jm

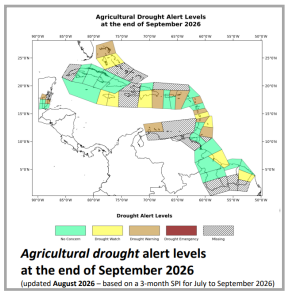
## ABOUT CariSAM

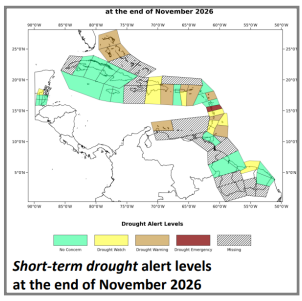
**The Caribbean Society for Agricultural Meteorology (CariSAM) is an online platform that hosts forums, provided online weather and climate information for agro-meteorologists, and much more. Agricultural interests can register and access relevant information and be a part of future capacity building exercises, and more. *Visit us at: www.carisam.cimh.edu.bb***

# REGIONAL OUTLOOKS

## DROUGHT

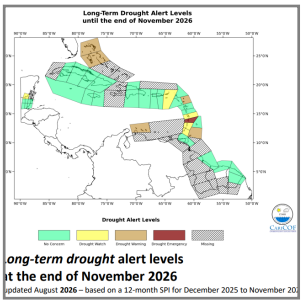
There is some concern for agricultural drought that can impact soil moisture availability by the end of September 2026 across the ABC Islands, Antigua, northwest & central coastal Belize, Northern Bahamas, Dominica, easternmost Dominican Republic, northeast Puerto Rico, Saint Lucia, Tobago, USVI. and possibly across Barbados, Northwest Bahamas, southern Dominican Republic, interior French Guiana, coastal Guyana, Jamaica, Martinique.



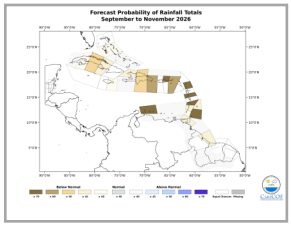

Some concern exists over short term drought that can impact small rivers, streams and ponds by the end of November across Dominica, the ABC Islands, Antigua, Northern & Northwest Bahamas, easternmost Dominican Republic, northeast Puerto Rico, Saint Lucia, Tobago, USVI and possibly across Barbados, northern & southern Dominican Republic, southeast Puerto Rico, elsewhere in the Windward 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 the ABC Islands, Antigua, Northern & Northwest Bahamas, Tobago and possibly across Grenada, Martinique, St. Vincent, USVI. 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.



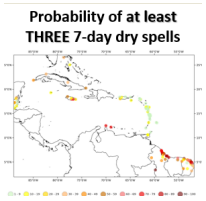

***Interests in these territories should monitor their water resources.***

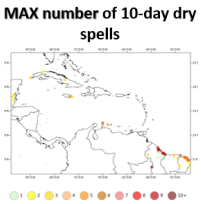
## RAINFALL, WET/DRY SPELLS, TEMPERATURE and HEATWAVE DAYS (AUGUST — OCTOBER 2026)




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.

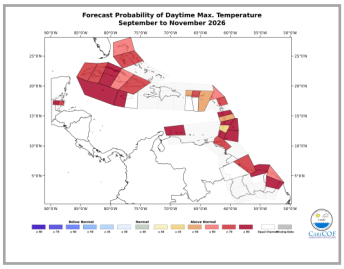


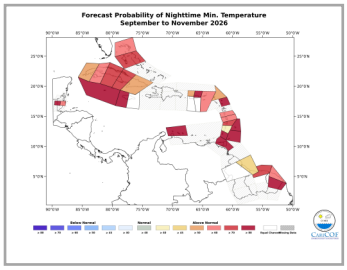




Favourable potential for the occurrence of at least three 7-day dry spells across Jamaica and the Guianas from August to October.

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/](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**

- Water during the cooler parts of the day, focusing on seedlings, flowering, and fruit set critical stages
- Repair leaks in irrigation systems and water tanks, and harvest and store rainwater whenever it falls.
- Increase soil organic matter through compost and manure applications, and keep 3-5 cm thick of mulch
- Monitor crops closely for mites, scales, thrips and whiteflies
- Stockpile forage and water to keep livestock sustained.

**Below-Normal Rainfall, but Flash Flooding Still Possible**

- Clear and maintain drains, use contouring and raised beds on sloping land to reduce runoff, flooding, and waterlogging.
- Do not leave soil bare. Apply organic matter to reduce runoff and improve soil structure and water infiltration.
- Split fertilizer applications into smaller doses and avoid applying large amounts before heavy rainfall.
- Regularly scout fields for early signs of diseases associated with wet conditions.
- Move livestock to higher, sheltered areas before flooding occurs.

**Heat and High Temperatures**

- Provide temporary shade or use shade nets to protect nurseries and plants from excessive heat.
- Ensure livestock have adequate shade and a continuous supply of water.
- Apply biostimulants such as seaweed extracts, humic substances, amino acids, and chitosan-based products to improve crop resilience to heat stress.
- Promote worker safety by ensuring regular hydration, scheduling rest breaks in shaded areas during hot periods.

***Please also keep updated and take into consideration your local weather and climate advisories.***



**CONTACT US:**

**Adrian Trotman**
Agro-meteorologist/ Chief of Applied Meteorology and Climatology, CIMH
Email: atrotman@cimh.edu.bb

**Shontelle Stoute**
Technical Officer, CIMH
Email: sstoute@cimh.edu.bb

**Gem Thomas Barry**
Agronmist, CARDI
Email: gthomas-barry@cardi.org