NOVEMBER 2026
VOLUME 10 | ISSUE 6

CARIBBEAN AGRO-CLIMATIC BULLETIN OF THE CARISAM

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

KEY MESSAGES

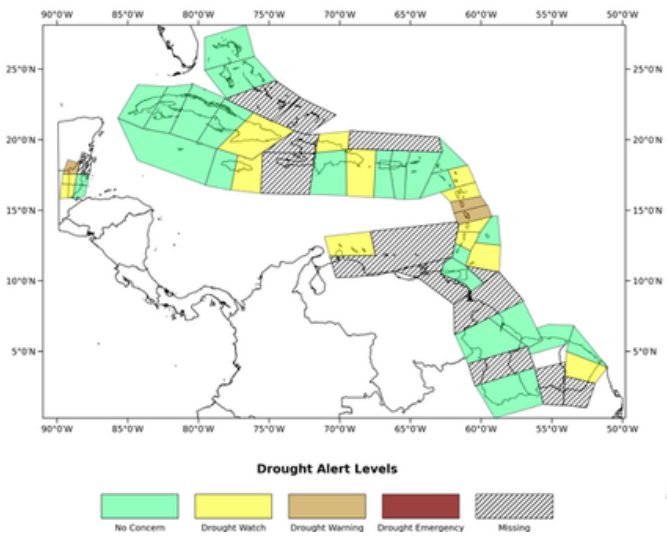
- Potential expansion and/or intensification of drought
- Fewer episodes of excessive heat, though unseasonably high temperatures for the cool season are very likely
- Unusually low shower, wet spell and excessive rainfall frequency, except in the far northwest of the region, but this does not rule out the possibility of flooding, flash floods, cascading hazards and associated impacts across the region, with the possible exception of the ABC Islands and French Guiana
- Potential for coral reef bleaching around the Bahamas and the Greater Antilles through December.
- Dusty Saharan air intrusions, though not so frequent in this season, can temporarily exacerbate heat and deteriorate air quality while inhibiting intense shower activity.

REGIONAL OUTLOOKS

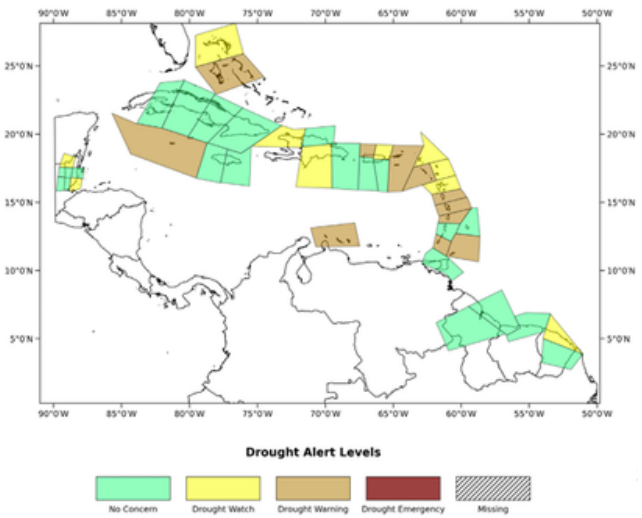
DROUGHT

There is some concern for agricultural drought that can impact soil moisture availability by the end of November 2026 across Northern Belize, Dominica, Martinique and possibly across Antigua, northern and western Belize, Eastern Cuba, northern and eastern Dominican Republic, interior French Guiana, Guadeloupe, eastern Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent, Tobago.

Agricultural Drought Alert Levels at the end of November 2026



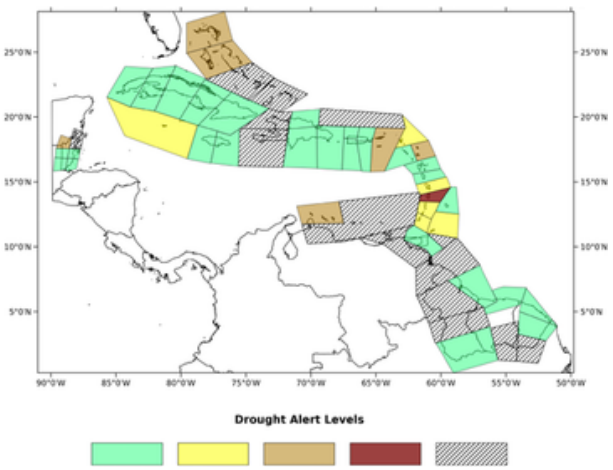
Short-term Drought alert levels at the end of January 2027



Some concern exists over short term drought that can impact small rivers, streams and ponds by the end of January 2027 across the the ABC Islands, Antigua, northern Belize, Dominica, French Guiana, Grenada, coastal Guyana, Martinique, Saint Lucia, Tobago, US Virgin Islands and possibly across the Dominican Republic, Guadeloupe, southernmost Guyana, Jamaica, northeast Puerto Rico, St. Barts, St. Martin, St. Vincent, coastal Suriname, Trinidad.

There is immediate 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, the Northern and Northwest Bahamas, northern Belize, USVI. Long-term drought might possibly develop or continue in Grand Cayman, Grenada, Martinique, St. Vincent, Tobago. 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.

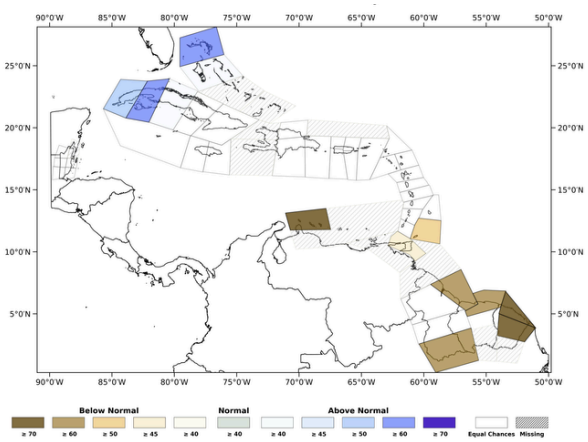
Long-term Drought alert levels at the end of November 2026



Interests in these territories should monitor their water resources.

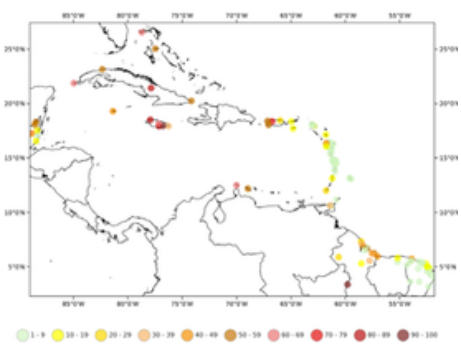
RAINFALL, WET/DRY SPELLS, TEMPERATURE and HEATWAVE DAYS

Forecast Probability of Rainfall Totals November 2026 to January 2027

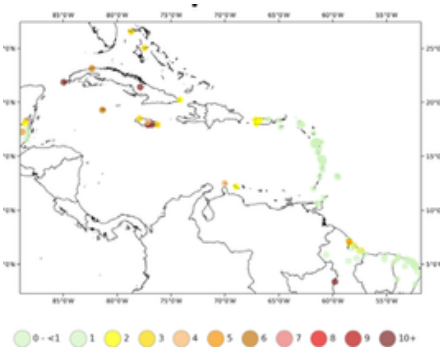


Rainfall totals from November to January are likely to be less than usual in the ABC Islands and the Guianas, no more than usual in Trinidad and Tobago, but at least as high as usual in the Northern Bahamas and Western Cuba. The potential for flooding, flash floods, compound hazards and cascading impacts is moderate to high; dampened risk with fewer very wet spells & excessive rainfall events, except in Belize. Water recharge rates in surface reservoirs and rivers will likely be slower than usual (except in the far northwest). Fewer wet days dampens the number of rainfall disruptions of outdoor activities, and only slowly builds up surface and soil moisture but reduce wildfire potential, while also reducing the prevalence of moisture-related pests and diseases.

Probability of at least THREE 7-day Dry Spells



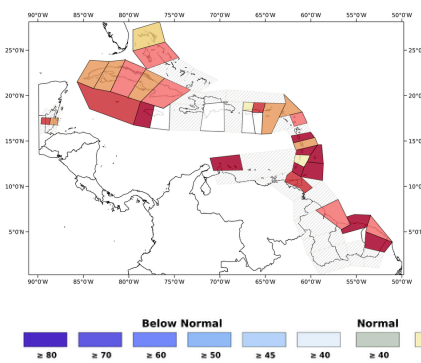
MAX Number of 10-day Dry Spells



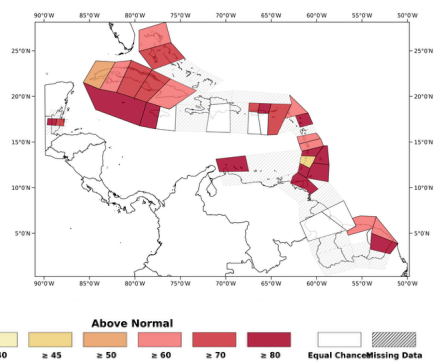
Favourable potential for the occurrence of at least three 7-day dry spells across Jamaica, Cuba, Puerto Rico and the ABC Islands November to January. At least three to six 10-day dry spells may be observed across Jamaica, Cuba, Cayman Islands and northwest Bahamas.

Day-time temperatures (maximum) will likely be unusually warm. However, with the cool season set to start in December, recurrent episodes of excessive, humid heat should be infrequent particularly after November in the Caribbean Islands and Belize. The Guianas may continue to experience hot spells through or even beyond November.

Forecast Probability of Daytime Temperature (November 2026 to January 2027)



Forecast Probability of Nighttime Temperature (November 2026 to January 2027)



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

CLIMATE-SMART ADVISORIES

Drought (short and long-term) affecting the ABC Islands, Antigua, Coastal Guyana, Dominica, French Guiana, Grenada, Martinique, Northern Belize, the Northern/Northwest Bahamas, Saint Lucia, Tobago, and the USVI.

- Apply controlled deficit irrigation by delivering smaller, targeted volumes of water strictly during critical growth stages such as transplanting, flowering, and fruit set.
- Utilize drip irrigation or micro-sprinkler systems to maximize water-use efficiency.
- Spread a 5–10 cm layer of organic mulch—or install plastic mulch—to lock in soil moisture.
- Scout crops regularly for dry-weather pests, including mites, scale insects, thrips, and whiteflies.
- Maintain constant access to clean drinking water for livestock and stockpile extra forage as hay or silage.

Below-Normal Rainfall, but Flash Flooding Still Possible

- Clear debris from drains, culverts, and field trenches to prevent waterlogging during sudden downpours.
- Plant crops on raised beds or ridges to improve drainage and protect roots from standing water.
- Use cover crops, living ground covers, or contour grass barriers on slopes to prevent heavy rain from washing away topsoil.
- Store animal feed, and farm inputs on elevated pallets to protect them from floodwater

Warmer-than-normal November–December temperatures

- Choose heat-tolerant, slow-bolting cultivars or stagger planting dates for cool-season crops such as cabbage and onions.
- Apply potassium fertilizers, soluble silicon, or seaweed biostimulants to boost plant heat tolerance.
- Cover nurseries and sensitive crops with ~30–40% shade cloth to reduce canopy heat.
- · Harvest crops in the early morning and transfer crates straight to the shade.
- Give livestock and poultry well-ventilated, shaded resting areas.
- Schedule herding, moving, or transporting livestock outside the hottest hours of the day.

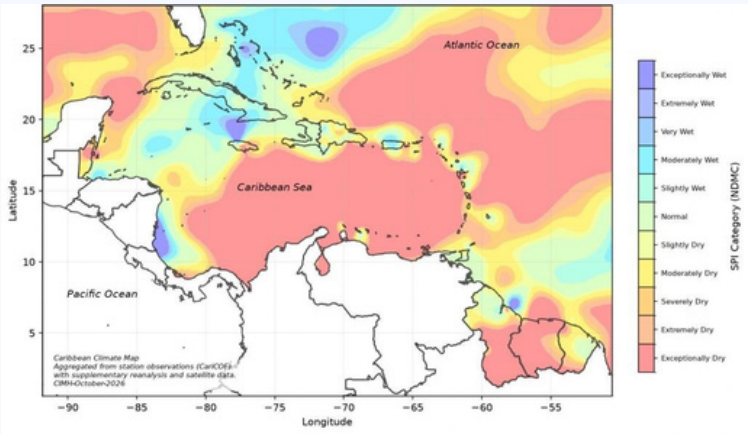
SEPTEMBER IN REVIEW

Predominantly normal to below normal conditions were experienced throughout the islands of the eastern Caribbean during the month of September. Trinidad, Barbados, Antigua and Anguilla were normal to moderately dry; Tobago normal to extremely dry; Grenada extreme to exceptionally dry; St Vincent extreme to severely dry; Saint Lucia moderate to severely dry; Martinique exceptional to moderately dry; Dominica exceptionally dry to normal; Guadeloupe exceptionally dry to moderately wet; St Kitts moderate to severely dry; St Maarten severely dry to normal; St Croix slight to severely dry and St Thomas moderately dry. In the Guianas, conditions ranged from exceptionally dry over much of the area to exceptionally wet in extreme northeastern portions of Guyana.

Aruba was exceptional to moderately dry. Curacao was normal to exceptionally dry.

Puerto Rico ranged from very wet in the north to exceptionally dry in southern areas. The Dominican Republic was moderately wet to severely dry. Jamaica was exceptionally dry in the south to exceptionally wet in the north. Grand Cayman was slightly wet. Cuba ranged from exceptionally dry in the west to extremely wet in the southeast. Northern Bahamas was extremely wet to moderately dry and Belize normal in the east to exceptionally dry in the north.

SPI SEPTEMBER 2026



Precipitation maps of the Caribbean region created. By aggregating station based observations, provided by CariCOF, with NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis Data.

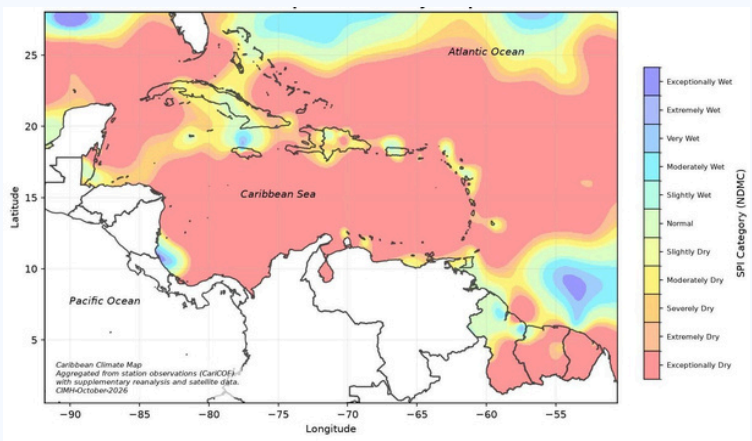
WATER STATUS

Severe (or worse) agricultural drought has developed across the Antilles (except parts of Anguilla, Antigua, Barbados, Central Cuba, Grand Cayman, several areas in the Dominican Republic, northeast Guadeloupe, northern Jamaica, much of Puerto Rico, Trinidad), the Bahamas (except the Northern and parts of the Northwest Bahamas), northern Belize, the Guianas (except most of northern Guyana and northwest Suriname).

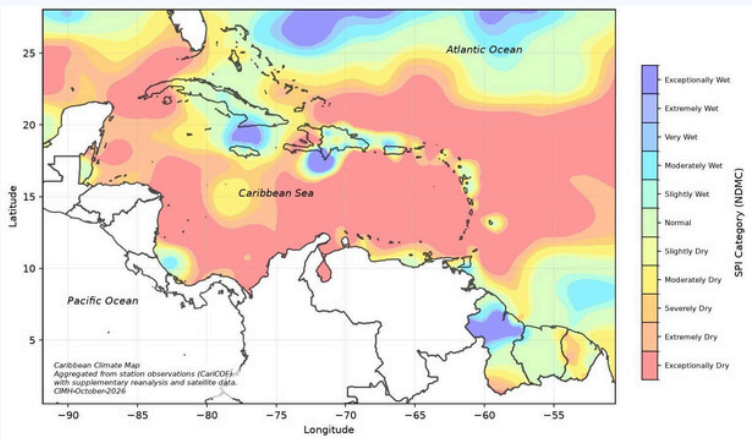
Northern and parts of the Northwest Bahamas), northern Belize, much of French Guiana, southern Guyana.

Severe (or worse) long-term drought has developed in the ABC Islands, southeast Bahamas, northern Belize, Central and easternmost Cuba, Haiti, western interior of French Guiana, the Leeward Islands (except Antigua and eastern

Standardized Precipitation Index for the period May to September 2026



Standardized Precipitation Index for the period October 2025 to September 2026



Precipitation maps of the Caribbean region created. By aggregating station based observations, provided by CariCOF, with NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis Data.

Severe (or worse) short-term drought has developed across the Antilles (except parts of Barbados, northeast Dominica, most parts of the Dominican Republic, northeast Guadeloupe, northern and western Jamaica, interior and northern Puerto Rico, Trinidad), the Bahamas (except the

parts of Guadeloupe), southeast Puerto Rico, the Windward Islands (except parts of Martinique), Tobago, northern Trinidad, Turks & Caicos Islands.

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

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.

CONTACT US:

Adrian Trotman
Agro-meteorologist/ Chief of Applied Meteorology and Climatology, CIMH

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

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