MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN
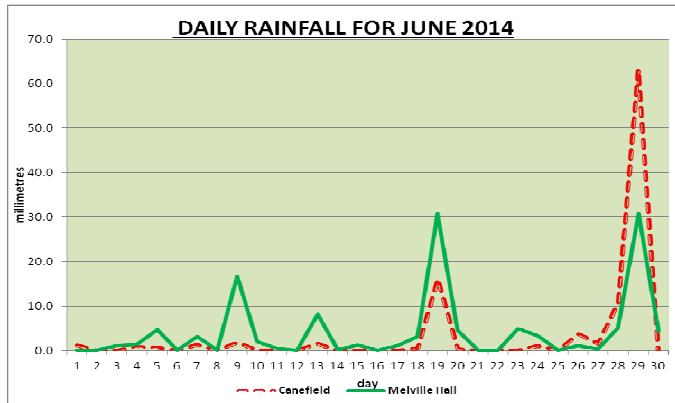
OVERVIEW OF CONDITIONS FOR JUNE 2014

Figure 1 Daily rainfall at Canefield and Melville Hall Airports

Tropical waves traversing the region produced some much needed rainfall across the island during the third quarter and latter part of the month. The island observed a delay to the start of the wet season with below normal rainfall totals being recorded. The Atlantic high pressure system along with Saharan dust haze resulted in a dry and stable atmosphere throughout much of the month.

The Canefield Airport recorded 104.4mm of rainfall and this represents about 66% of the monthly mean. A maximum daily total of 63.2mm on the 29th made up 61% of the months total. This was as a result of a tropical wave traversing the area. There were 10 rainfall days, which is 6 days below normal and two 5 days dry spells during the first and third quarters of the month.

The Melville Hall Airport recorded 128.8mm of rainfall and this is about 67% of the monthly mean. A total of 30.8mm recorded on both the 19th and 29th as a result of tropical waves, contributed to the month's highest daily totals. Rainfall days were normal with 18 days recorded. There was no significant dry spells.

Despite the dry conditions farmers made use of the intermittent rainfall events and began the establishment of ground provisions to include yams, dasheen, tania, toloma and ginger. Vegetables like lettuce, cabbages and cucumbers remained in abundance on the market, while tomatoes and seasoning peppers were in low supplies.

Fungal spots and insect eggs were observed on celery. Due to the dry conditions an increase in the Red Palm Mite was observed in banana and plantain crops located underneath coconut trees. A large amount of the Giant African Snails was collected in the northern region. Farmers in the north began the rehabilitation of banana and plantain fields after being treated for the Black Sigatoka Disease. Spraying for the disease continued in some western and eastern regions.

MONTHLY WEATHER PARAMETERS

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Melville-Hall Airport
Rainfall Total 30 year average Wet Days (>1.0mm)	104.4mm 159.5mm 10	128.8mm 191.0mm 18
Temperature 30 year average	29.3°C 29.0°C	28.4°C 28.5°C
Maximum Temperature	33.8°C (24th)	31.4°C (26th)
Minimum Temperature	22.9°C (30th)	22.9°C (30th)
Relative Humidity	58%	73%
Maximum wind gust	48km/h	74km/h
Average daily sunshine hours	-	7hrs 19mins

Table 1 Monthly weather parameters

CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR JULY

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Melville Hall Airport
Rainfall	251.4mm	237.2mm
-highest total	410.6mm (2011)	459.2mm (2011)
-lowest total	45.1mm (1994)	57.4mm (1994)
Temperature	28.9°C	28.6°C
-maximum	34.5°C (1995)	33.2°C (1995)
-minimum	20.5°C (1989)	20.7°C (1989, 1993)
Chance of 5 day dry spell	29%	19%
Chance of 10 day dry spell	0%	3%

Table 2 Climate summary for July
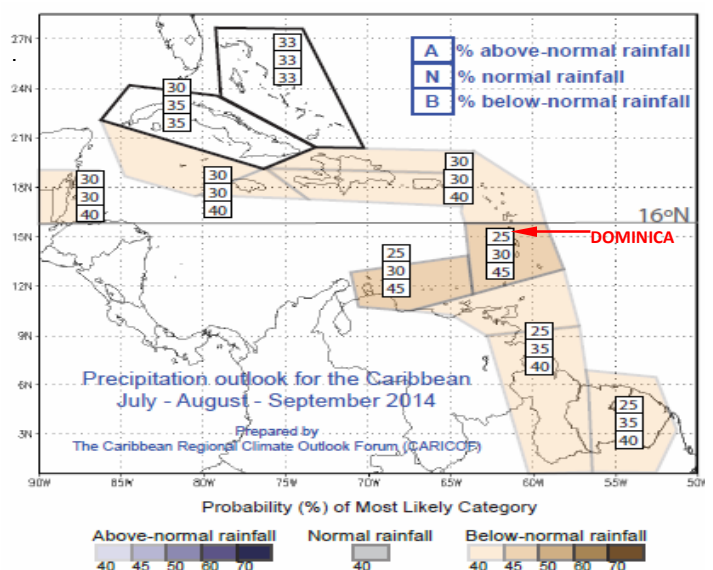
REGIONAL OVERVIEW ON SEASONAL CLIMATE FORECASTS

Figure 2 Precipitation outlook for the Caribbean: July-August-September 2014 (colored areas represent sub-regions in which the probabilities fall).

DROUGHT WATCH FOR DOMINICA

CariCOF drought alert
at end of September 2014
(issued Jun 2014)

● No Concern   ● Drought Warning
● Drought Watch   ● Drought Alert

← DOMINICA

Drought imminent in parts of Southern Caribbean

- Below- to normal rainfall and air temperature is expected with a 75% confidence.

- There is 25% chance that rainfall total will be above normal, 30% chance of being normal and 45% chance of being below normal.

- Presently El Niño is at neutral. There is a 70% chance of its manifestation between July – September and reaches 80% between October – December.

- El Niño is associated with a drier wet season. This means that less water will be stored during the wet season and by consequence, less water would be available for use in the dry season.

OUTLOOK FOR THE FARMING COMMUNITY

Farmers are encouraged to continue crop establishments despite the forecast for below to normal rainfall. It is forecast for a delay to the start of the wet season; therefore less rainfall could lead to low water storage. Water conservation is key at this time.

Water Saving Tips

Use correct watering techniques: Water early in the day to reduce evaporation loss. Water less frequently, but for longer lengths of time, to encourage deep root growth. Check hoses for leaks before watering plants, and position sprinklers so they water only plants -- not the road or house.

Mulch the soil surface: This helps cut down on water loss due to evaporation.

Collect compost for mulching: Use food scraps, yard trimmings, and other organic waste to create compost

pile. Compost is a rich soil amendment that can help increase water retention, decrease erosion and replace chemical fertilizers.

Discourage competition: Eliminate weeds to discourage competition for water.

Use barrels to collect rainwater: Use it to water plants. Cover properly to help prevent the breeding of mosquitoes.

Continue to harvest rain water and put in place an irrigation system.

HURRICANE TIP

Keep drains free of debris. Avoid planting temporary crops on steep slopes (30°).Keep trees well pruned. Harvest crops that are ready for the market. Retrofit all farm structures.

If your animals are not housed move them to elevated regions, store at least one week's supply of feed, medication and clean fresh water.

Stay tuned for updated weather information given by your local meteorological service.

2014 HURRICANE NAMES ~~Arthur~~, Bertha, Cristobal, Dolly, Edouard, Fay, Gonzalo, Hanna, Isaias, Josephine, Kyle, Laura, Marco, Nana, Omar, Paulette, Rene, Sally, Teddy, Vicky, Wilfred

●FQ: 5th   ○FM: 12th ◐LQ: 19th   ●NM: 26th