



# MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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November 2015

## OVERVIEW OF CONDITIONS FOR NOVEMBER

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Douglas-Charles Airport
<b>Rainfall Total</b>	221.2mm	293.0mm
<b>30 year normal</b>	127.5 to 252.6mm	241.9 to 376.3mm
<b>Wet Days (≥1.0mm)</b>	21 ( above normal)	24 ( normal)
<b>Temperature</b>	27.8°C	27.8°C
<b>30 year average</b>	27.8°C	27.4°C
<b>Maximum Temperature</b>	33.2°C (1 <sup>st</sup> )	31.1°C (4 <sup>th</sup> )
<b>Minimum Temperature</b>	21.7°C (21 <sup>st</sup> )	21.7°C (6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> )
<b>Relative Humidity</b>	73%	78%
<b>Maximum wind gust</b>	46km/h	54km/h
<b>Average daily sunshine hours</b>	-	6hrs 12mins

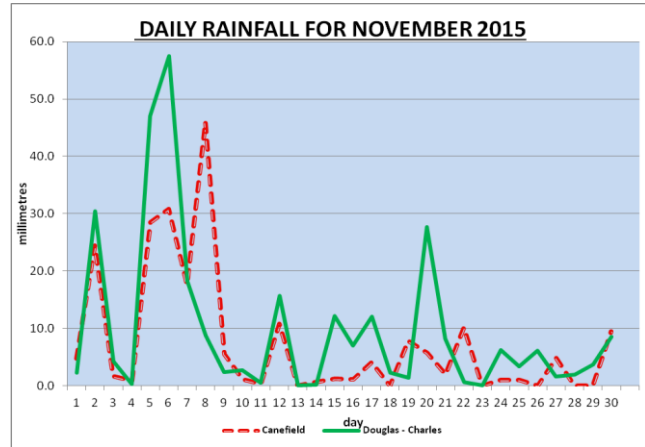


Figure 1 Daily rainfall at Canefield and Douglas-Charles Airports

Table 1 Monthly weather parameters

Though the island saw an increase in its rainfall amounts and recorded its second wettest month for the year, moderate to severe dry conditions were experienced. Weak unstable conditions associated with southwards dipping frontal boundaries, shearlines and trough systems dominated the weather conditions for November 2015.

Rainfall totals were normal at both the Canefield and Douglas-Charles Airports. Trough systems produced the highest daily rainfall total of 57.5mm on the 6<sup>th</sup> at the Douglas-Charles Airport and 46.0mm on the 8<sup>th</sup> at Canefield.

## THE FARMING COMMUNITY

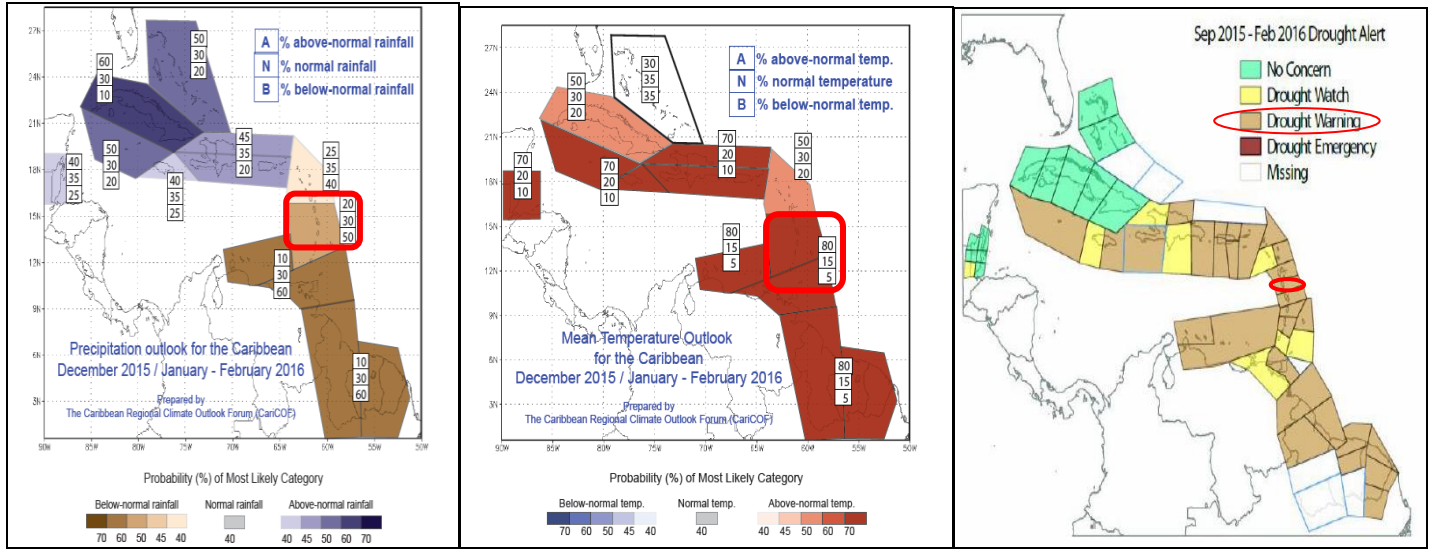
Apart for the first week of the month when rainfall amounts were high and hindered farmers from conducting farm operations, the weather in general was favorable for planting and for other agricultural activities. Land preparation activities such as weeding and planting are ongoing with farmers who were able to recuperate from Tropical storm Erika. Plantain crop is being established along with other root crops such as dasheen, tannia, sweet potatoes and yams. The Ministry of Agriculture is working with pineapple farmers with the introduction of a new pineapple variety.

Dipel, Agaclin, or Xentari was recommended for the treatment of the infestation of the caterpillar pest now affecting tolima. There were farm reports which made indications of infestations of the Tannia Burning Disease in parts of the south east.

## 2015 HURRICANE SEASON

The Atlantic hurricane seasons officially ended on November 30<sup>th</sup>. The season was below normal with 11 named storms, four of which became hurricanes (two major). El Niño was the leading climate factor which influenced the season this year. Tropical Storm Erika produced roughly 18in of rainfall in less than 12 hours. This resulted in flash floods, landslides, damages to infrastructures and properties and loss of lives (14 confirmed and 16 missing).

**REGIONAL OVERVIEW ON SEASONAL FORECASTS**



The forecast for December 2015 to February 2016 is 80% confident that rainfall totals will be below to normal with fewer wet days (days with at least 1mm rainfall) and wet spells than usual. The forecast is also 60% confident that air temperature will be above normal with record breaking maximum temperatures.

Despite an increase in rainfall frequency over the past few months, rainfall totals remained below normal for 2015 thus far. The dry season will commence on December 1<sup>st</sup>. In addition to this, one of the strongest El Niño on record is presently being experienced and is expected to last until the end of the dry season. Thus, drier and hotter than usual conditions are expected to continue. As a result, the island is under a long term drought warning. Please continue to conserve water.

**CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER**

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Douglas-Charles Airport
Average Rainfall	76.7mm – 113.6mm	140.7mm – 209.6mm
-highest total	294.2mm (2013)	631.4mm (2001)
-lowest total	23.8mm (2010)	91.2mm (2009)
Average Temperature	26.9°C	26.6°C
-maximum	32.4°C (1997, 2003)	31.1°C (1987)
-minimum	18.0°C (1991)	16.9°C (1991)
Chance of 5 day dry spell	93%	31%
Chance of 10 day dry spell	25%	7%

Table 2 Climate summary for December

**FARMER'S OUTLOOK**

Black Sigatoka training is scheduled for the upcoming month. The white potato crop program is scheduled to commence in December. Farmer's sensitization has started and is ongoing.

Potato farmers should be reminded of the following crop characteristics: Potatoes produce a fibrous root system. They are shallow rooted and can penetrate to at least 120cm in depth. As a result, potatoes are often unable to exploit nutrients and soil moisture within a soil profile. While root growth occurs when soil temperatures are between 50 to 95°F (10 to 35°C) best, most active root development is at soil temperatures of between 59 and 68°F (15 and 20°C).

One of the basic agronomic principles of growing potatoes is to produce a high-yielding, quality crop.



Agromet bulletins from across the region can be accessed via [http://63.175.159.26/cami/regional\\_bulletin.html](http://63.175.159.26/cami/regional_bulletin.html).

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