



MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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OVERVIEW OF CONDITIONS FOR JANUARY

The weather conditions for January were mainly influenced by the Atlantic high pressure system. Weak unstable conditions generated by a trough system during the first week of the month and a southwards dipping frontal boundary during mid-month, contributed to the month's rainfall totals.

Canefield Airport: Below normal rainfall totals were recorded at the Canefield Airport. A total of 66.4mm was recorded and this is approximately 61% of the monthly mean. The highest daily rainfall total of 22.9mm was recorded on the 4th. There were 9 rainfall days and that is 7 days below the normal. A 17 days dry spell occurred during the second and third dekads (10 days period).

Douglas-Charles: A trough system on the 4th produced the highest daily total of 82.4mm which lead to above normal rainfall total at the Douglas-Charles Airport. A total of 155.2mm was recorded for the month and that is 1.3mm above the normal range. Fifteen rainfall days were recorded and that is 4 days below normal.

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Douglas-Charles Airport
Rainfall Total	66.4mm	155.2mm
normal	81.6 to 138.2mm	97.0 to 153.9mm
Wet Days (≥ 1.0 mm)	9 (below normal)	15 (below normal)
Temperature	26.5°C	26.1°C
30 year average	26.4°C	26.1°C
Maximum Temperature	32.0°C (17th)	29.3°C (1st, 9th, 25th)
Minimum Temperature	19.7°C (11th)	19.5°C (11th)
Relative Humidity	68%	75%
Maximum wind gust	57km/h	46km/h
Average daily sunshine hours	-	6hrs 30mins

Table 1 Monthly weather parameters

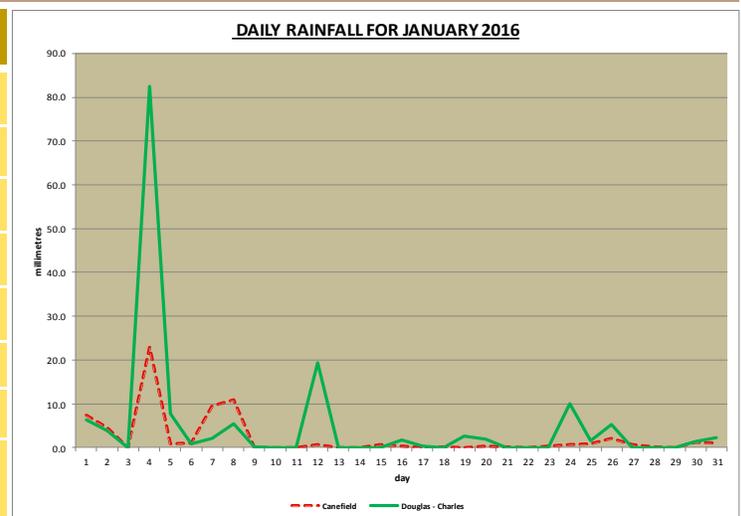
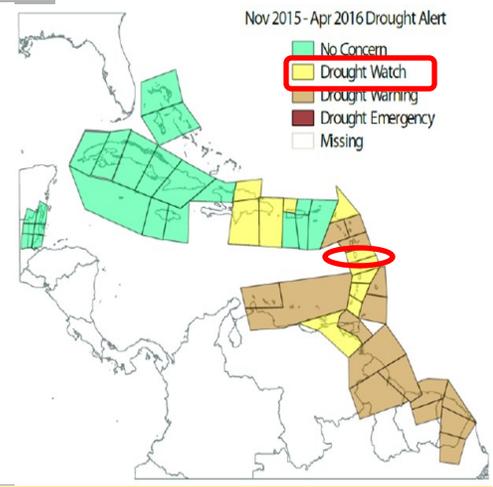
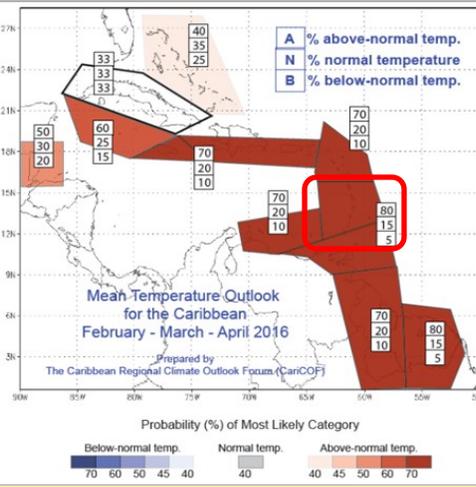
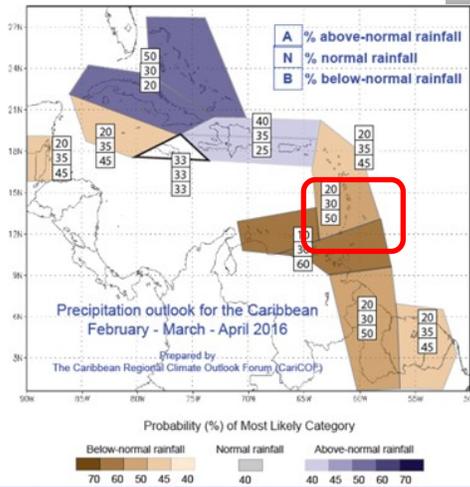


Figure 1 Daily rainfall at Canefield and Douglas-Charles Airports

Farming community

- ◆ The weather conditions varied from wet to dry days, windy conditions and varying temperatures. The wet days were more predominant in the higher elevated agro-ecological areas than the low lying coastal areas.
- ◆ Farmers continued to establish potatoes, yams and other root crops. Ginger, vegetables and other root crops are being harvested. The vegetative growth of crops being established is showing positive signs of good crop development. Citrus crops have began flowering.
- ◆ Favourable weather conditions being experienced by the Giant African snails resulted in an increase in its population. Baiting activity as a control measure is ongoing.
- ◆ The Black sigatoka management cronshaw data have shown low infestation levels in areas with low moisture regime and where spray cycles have been completed. Infestation levels are above the recommended threshold level in farming communities with high moisture regime.

REGIONAL OVERVIEW ON SEASONAL FORECASTS



- Recent observations showed trade wind speeds are stronger than average and upper level winds stronger than usual in the southern Caribbean and weaker in the north.
- This is expected to reduce shower activity from the Leewards southward by prohibiting vertical growth of clouds. The forecast is 80% confident that rainfall totals will be below to normal and 95% confident that temperatures will be above to normal between the months of February to April.
- However, models are 99% confident that El Niño conditions will weaken and a possible disappearance is forecast towards the end of the transition period from dry to wet season. This is expected to result in a shift towards above-normal rainfall.
- The drought alert for Dominica has been downgraded from a warning to a watch. This means that drought like conditions are possible. Please continue to protect resources and conserve water.

CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Douglas-Charles Airport
Rainfall normals	45.8 to 81.7mm	77.2 to 106.7mm
-highest total	131.5mm (1982)	196.6mm (1989)
-lowest total	0.4mm (2010)	4.2mm (2010)
Temperature	26.4°C	25.9°C
-maximum	32.5°C (2010)	31.9°C (1998)
-minimum	18.0°C (2008)	17.0°C (1988))
Chance of 5 day dry spell	97%	40%
Chance of 10 day dry spell	37%	17%

FARMERS OUTLOOK

- ⇒ Farmers should keep an eye on the sky and an ear on the weather reports for their daily and monthly farm planning activities.
- ⇒ Predictions of low moisture regime should encourage farmers to plan water management for their farms.
- ⇒ It is imperative that farmers, farm workers, technicians and researchers operating the black sigatoka management program pay close attention to the prevailing weather conditions. Spray teams should ensure that when applying the chemical treatment the weather is appropriate. Spray applications under high moisture regime or high rainfall amounts are not as effective as in the low rainfall areas. Strong winds can also result in the spread of spores.

☐ LQ: 1st ● NM: 8th ● FQ: 15th ○ FM: 22nd

Agromet bulletins from across the region can be accessed via http://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/climate-bulletins/agriculture/http://63.175.159.26/cami/regional_bulletin.html.

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