

Dear CliSec Friends:

We'd like to present you with our December newsletter. In it, you'll find highlights of recent weather and climate news and events. Further, there're climate outlooks for the next six months. Links are also provided for further information. Share your **feedback** with us.

Thanks!
Staff of ABMS CliSec



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What Happened?

September to November 2015 (SON)

Warmer than usual nights and normal wetness

+ Impacts

Drought eased to moderate levels; good soil moisture leading to increased farming activities and much need food for livestock

- Impacts

Resurgence of the Giant African Snail and increase in plant pests and diseases

Notable climate events - SON

- **Drought eased**
- **6th warmest night-time temperature**
- **10th driest autumn**

Summary

Warm nights and **normal wetness** prevailed through November. The mean minimum temperature, an indicator (proxy) of night-time temperature, was above normal. At the V. C. Bird International Airport (VCBIA) it was 24.4 °C (75.9 °F), the sixth highest on record, tying Novembers 2012, 2009 and 1992. Overall, the mean temperature for November was near normal – 27.0 °C (80.6 °F). However, it tied with 2012 for the warmest November since 2009 and second warmest November since 2002. [Read more...](#)

Headline Impacts

- Continued dry surface catchments
- Livestock regaining weight
- Improved soil moisture for farming

November Rainfall



SON Rainfall



What Next?

December 2015 to February 2016 (DJF)

Consensus Outlook
Near to below normal rainfall and higher than normal temperature

+ Impacts

Enough rainfall for some agricultural activities and replenishment of household catchments

- Impacts

Surface catchments likely to remain dry or below extraction levels

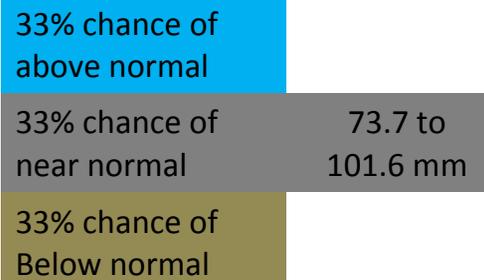
Our Typical December Weather

December is the last month of the wet season with a rainfall average of 101.1 mm (3.98 in) and a range of 24.4 to 279.9 mm (0.96 to 11.02 in). December's rainfall is the third most variable of all the months. The month owes its rainfall to various types of trough systems, including fronts. A large portion of rainfall also comes from low level (moisture) convergence and moisture brought by the trade winds. The mean temperature for the month is 25.9 °C (78.6 °F). The absolute max and min temperatures for December are 31.5 °C (88.7 °F) and 16.1 °C (61.0 °F) respectively.

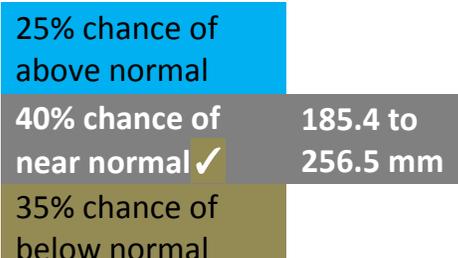
Our Typical DJF Weather

DJF, the meteorological winter, is the driest of the four seasons with an average of 225.8 mm (8.89 in). The min and max rainfall totals are 83.3 mm (3.28 in) and 435.9 mm (17.16 in) respectively. Rainfall over this period is mainly due to low level troughs, advection and cold fronts. The mean temperature is a comfortable 25.5 °C (77.9 °F).

December 2015 Rainfall Outlook



DJF 2015/2016 Rainfall Outlook



Climate Outlook

December to February

Rainfall: There is 75% confidence of normal to lower than normal rainfall

Temperature: There is 75% confidence of above normal temperature. [Read more...](#)

March to May

Rainfall: Equal chance of below, near or above normal rainfall

Temperature: There is 75% confidence of above normal temperature. [Read more...](#)

Drought

Drought Situation: Near normal rainfall for November has eased the drought from serious to moderate levels. The island-average rainfall for the month was 4.16 inches. Easily, this has been the wettest month of the year, thus far. It is also only one of four months with more than four inches of rain since December 2013. [Read more...](#)

September 2015 to February 2016 Projection: Based on the rainfall experienced in September and October (184.7 mm or 7.27 in) and the outlook for November to February, a **moderate drought is evolving** over the September 2015-February 2016 (SF) period; hence, a **drought warning** is in effect for the SF period. [Read more...](#)

July 2015 to March 2016 Projection: Based on the rainfall experienced July to October (258.8 mm or 10.19 in) and the outlook for November to March, a **severe drought is evolving** over the July 2015-March 2016 (JM) period; hence, a **drought warning** is in effect for the JM period. The probability of a **moderate drought or worse** is 78%. [Read more...](#)

June 2015 to May 2016 Projection: Based on the rainfall experienced June to October (279.7 mm or 11.01 in) and the outlook for November to May, a **severe drought is evolving** over the June 2015-May 2016 (JunMay) period; hence, a **drought warning** is in effect for the JunMay period. The probability of a **moderate drought or worse** is 77%. [Read more...](#)

What Influences the Next Season?

The weather across the area is generally controlled by the sea surface temperatures (SSTs) of the tropical North Atlantic (TNA), and the tropical Pacific Ocean ([TPO](#)). However, during this time of the year, the TNA and TPO explains very little of the rainfall variability, in other words, these parameters are offering very little in forecasting the seasonal rainfall for the upcoming seasons.

Agromet Bulletin Highlights

Growing conditions across the major growing regions of the island were generally good throughout the month of November. As a result of the much-needed showers that fell, farmers took full advantage by moving forward with planting activities. However, many expressed that the rainfall was unevenly distributed with some areas benefitting more than others. Due to this, soil moisture reserves differed across the island. [Read more...](#)

The Driest Year for Antigua since at least 1871

[Earlier this year](#), we indicated that Antigua could see its driest year on record. Regrettably, this is coming to pass. The country is on its way to having the driest year on record dating back to at least 1871 or 144 years ago. Up to the end of November, the rainfall total stood at 525.8 mm (20.70 in). [Read more...](#)

A Memorable Below Average Hurricane Season

The 2015 hurricane season came to a quiet end November 30. Overall, it was a below average year, based on NOAA's criteria. However, for us in the Caribbean, it will live on in everlasting memory, due to the catastrophic impact of Erika on Dominica. [Read more...](#)

Rainfall and Temperature Outlook - Background

The outlooks are prepared by the CliSec, the Climate Section of the ABMS with support from the [CIMH](#) and [IRI](#). The outlooks are produced by combining global, regional and national forecasts and expert interpretation. National and region-wide outlooks, produced using the [Climate Prediction Tool](#), are considered together with global dynamical climate models. Models considered include those from the [IRI](#), the [U.K. Met Office](#), [ECMWF](#) and [EUROSIP](#).

Recent Events

Nov 23-27 | Dry Season [Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum](#), Basseterre, St. Kitts.

Nov 3-6 | Agri-Forum, Bridgetown, Barbados

Upcoming Events

None scheduled at the moment

Other Products

[ABC Reef Watch](#) | [Drought Outlook](#) | [Normals and Averages](#) | [Climate Data](#) | [Antigua Hurricanes and Storms](#)

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