

#### Dear CliSec Friends:

We'd like to present you with our January 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? October-November-December 2015 (OND)

**Very warm temperatures and below normal rainfall**

**+ Impacts**  
Raised public awareness on drought and the impact of El Nino on our climate

**- Impacts**  
Drought has reintensified; insufficient water to support livestock; some households without pipe-borne water for weeks

#### Notable climate events - OND

- Drought reintensified
- 9<sup>th</sup> driest OND & 10<sup>th</sup> driest December
- Very warm December

#### Summary

The mean temperature recorded at the V. C Bird International Airport (VCBIA) during December was 26.4 °C, the fifth warmest dating back to 1971. Additionally, the mean daily maximum temperature measured – 29.0 °C, was the seventh highest since 1969, tying with 2005, 2000, 1994 and 1992. The daily minimum temperature – 24.0 °C, was well above normal, ranking as the second warmest on record. At VCBIA, the coolest day was December 6 with 25.2 °C and the warmest was December 4 with 27.3 °C. [Read more...](#)

#### Headline Impacts

- Still no potable surface water
- Livestock conditions improved
- Favourable farming weather in few areas

#### December Rainfall



#### OND Rainfall



## What Next? January-February-March (JFM) 2016

**Consensus Outlook**  
Below to near normal rainfall and higher than normal temperature

**+ Impacts**  
Reduced potential for vector-borne diseases and epidemics; favourable conditions for outdoor activities

**- Impacts**  
Continuation of drought, empty surface catchments and expensive (92%) potable water from desalination

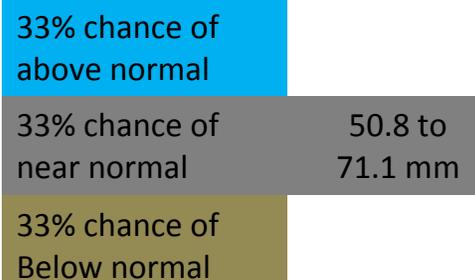
#### Our Typical January Weather

January is the middle of the meteorological winter and the first month of our dry season, which runs until the end of June. Most rainfall during the month comes from low level troughs, advection, low level convergence and the occasional cold front. The rainfall average is 68.6 mm (2.70 in). However, January has had as much as 217.7 mm (8.55 in) and as little as 16.3 mm (0.65 in). Usually, the number of wet days is around 14. The mean temperature is 25.4 °C (77.7 °F).

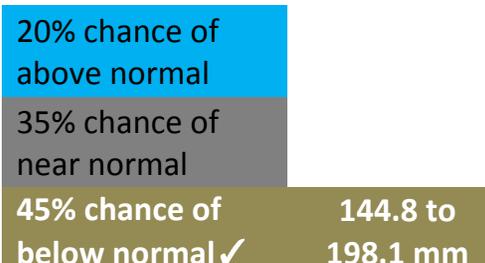
#### Our Typical JFM Weather

JFM is the driest "season" of the year. Further, March is the driest month followed by February and then January. The normal rainfall total for JFM is 176 mm (6.93 in) but has ranged from 45.5 to 328.9 mm (1.79 to 12.95 in). Precipitation generally comes from cold fronts and other surface/low level troughs, convergence and advection. There're normally around 33 wet days. The mean temperature is also 25.4 °C (77.7 °F).

#### January 2016 Rainfall Outlook



#### JFM 2016 Rainfall Outlook



## Climate Outlook

### January to March

**Rainfall:** There is 80% confidence of lower than normal to normal rainfall

**Temperature:** There is 55% confidence of higher than normal temperature. [Read more...](#)

### April to June

**Rainfall:** There is 75% confidence of above to near normal rainfall

**Temperature:** There is 55% confidence of above normal temperature. [Read more...](#)

### Drought

**Drought Situation:** A number of rainfall records were again broken over the past 30 months, since the drought started. Specifically, there has been record low rainfall over the past 7, 8, 9...14, and 18, 19, 20...30 months [Read more...](#)

**October 2015 to March 2016 Projection:** Based on the rainfall experienced in October and November (196.3 mm or 7.73 in) and the outlook for December to March, a **moderate drought or worse is possible** over the October 2015-March 2016 (OM) period; hence, a **drought watch** is in effect for the OM period. The probability of a **moderate drought or worse** is 49%. [Read more...](#)

**August 2015 to April 2016 Projection:** Based on the rainfall experienced August to November (331.2 mm or 13.04 in) and the outlook for December to April, a **severe drought is evolving** over the August 2015-April 2016 (AA) period; hence, a **drought warning** is in effect for the AA period. The probability of a **moderate drought or worse** is 70%. [Read more...](#)

**July 2015 to June 2016 Projection:** Based on the rainfall experienced July to November (364.5 mm or 14.35 in) and the outlook for December to June, a **serious drought is evolving** over the July 2015-June 2016 (JJ) period; hence, a **drought warning** is in effect for the JJ period. The probability of a **moderate drought or worse** is 71%. [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 for the JFM period. For AMJ, warmer than normal TNA is forecast; for our area, warmer than normal TNA is usually associated with wetter than normal weather.

## Agromet Bulletin Highlights

According to extension officers of the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), most, if not all, farmers have completed land preparation activities. Conditions across the major growing regions were generally good throughout December. Soil moisture levels remained adequate thanks to the periodic showers that fell during the Month. [Read more...](#)

## Is hurricane Alex a sign?

By now you may have heard of [Hurricane Alex](#), the [first Atlantic hurricane to form in January](#) since the only other one in 1938, according to [HURDAT2](#). Alex is also only the [third hurricane](#) to exist over the Atlantic in January. There was Alice2 which formed late December 1954 and continued over into January 1955. [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 past. The country is on its way to having the driest year on record dating back to at least 1871 or 145 years ago. [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](#). 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.

## Upcoming Events

Feb 15 - 19 | ClimPACT Workshop, CIMH, St. James, Barbados.

## Other Products

[Dry Season Statement](#) | [Wet Season Statement](#) | [Yearly Weather Summary](#) | [Hurricane Season Summary](#) | [Droughts ABC Reef Watch](#) | [Drought Outlook](#) | [Normals and Averages](#) | [Climate Data](#) | [Antigua Hurricanes and Storms](#)

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