



MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

OVERVIEW OF CONDITIONS FOR JANUARY 2013

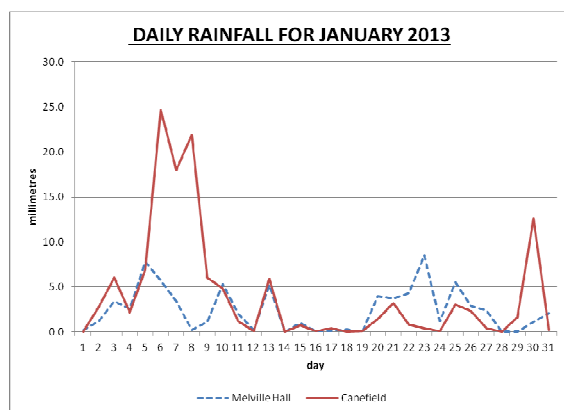


Figure 1: Daily Rainfall at Canefield and Melville-Hall Airports

Generally, the month of January saw the predominance of the Atlantic High pressure which resulted in the passage of low level clouds with some passing showers and breezy conditions occurring at times across the region.

127.8mm of rainfall fell at the Canefield Airport which is just about 20% above the monthly mean. 24.7mm was the highest daily total and was recorded on the 6th. Dry days were normal with 14 days being recorded, of which a 6 days dry spell occurred during mid month.

75.5mm was measured at Melville Hall representing about 56% of the monthly mean. The highest daily total was 8.5mm recorded on the 23rd. There were 10 dry days which is slightly below the monthly mean.

There was wide variability in the distribution of rainfall across the island. The north-east and west regions reported dry conditions continued from December, restricting cultivation of new plants. On the other hand, the east, south and central regions reported that there was adequate moisture from rainfall which allowed farmers to establish new crops.

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Melville-Hall Airport
Rainfall Total	127.8mm	75.5mm
30 year average	108.3mm	136.0mm
No. dry days (<1.0mm)	14	10
Temperature	26.2°C	26.1°C
30 year average	26.4°C	26.1°C
Maximum Temperature	31.8°C (24 th)	30.9°C (3 rd)
Minimum Temperature	19.0°C (15 th)	19.4°C (15 th)
Relative Humidity	63%	72%
Maximum wind gust	52km/h	67km/h

Table 1: Monthly Weather Parameters

CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Melville Hall Airport
Rainfall	62.1mm	97.5mm
-highest total	131.5mm (1982)	196.6mm (1989)
-lowest total	0.4mm (2010)	4.2mm (2010)
Temperature	26.4C	25.9C
-maximum	32.5C (2010)	31.9C (1998)
-minimum	18.0C (2008)	17.0C (1988)
Chance of 5 day dry spell	100%	36%
Chance of 10 day dry spell	37%	11%

Table 2: Climate summary for February

REGIONAL OVERVIEW ON SEASONAL CLIMATE FORECASTS

- Generally, confidence in seasonal outlook is low
- Rainfall is forecast to be normal to below normal from February to April 2013.
- There is a 30% chance that rainfall total will be above normal, a 35% chance of being near normal and a 35% chance of being below normal.
- Slightly above normal air temperatures is likely along with reduced local air humidity.

OUTLOOK FOR THE FARMING COMMUNITY

Dry conditions within the forecast period will necessitate strict management of irrigation, whether using irrigation systems or manual watering. This will maintain the soil moisture for crop growth and development.

The use of compost and plastic or grass mulches will reduce soil water evaporation.

Farmers now establishing crops should employ the methods above better survival of seedlings.

Livestock should be supplied with sufficient water to prevent dehydration especially on days when temperatures are high and humidity is low. Animals in pasture should not remain exposed to direct sunlight for excessive periods and need to be provided with some sort of shelter. Grazing animals such as goat, sheep and rabbits need alternative feeding as grass yields may be low.

Nutrient management of animals is also important in order to reduce stress and to facilitate growth and development.

In planning daily activities, farmers should pay attention to the daily and extended three-day weather forecasts to maximize the use of their time and resources.

Farmers need to remain vigilant for any outbreaks in pest and diseases in particular those growing banana, plantain and citrus.

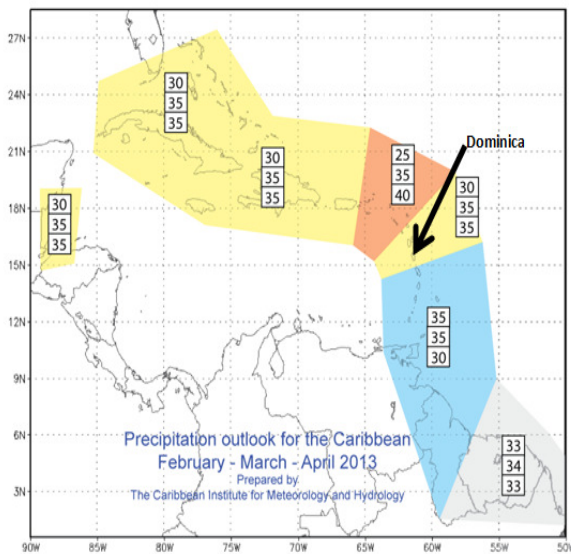


Figure 2: Precipitation outlook for the Caribbean: February-April 2013 (colored areas represent sub-regions in which the probabilities fall).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The tripartite committee met again in January to engage in feedback on the bulletin. Such feedback is also welcome from farmers and the wider agricultural community on this bulletin. We are also looking forward to engaging more farmers at our next farmers' forum leading up to the 2013 hurricane season. Agromet bulletins from across the region can be accessed via <http://63.175.159.26/~cimh/cami/>

Moon Phases: ● **NM: Feb 10** ● **FQ: Feb 17** ● **FM: Feb 25** ● **LQ: Mar 4**

This bulletin is prepared by the Dominica Meteorological Service with support from the CAMI project and the Ministry of Agriculture. Feedback on this bulletin should be forwarded to The Senior Meteorological Officer at metoffice@cwdom.dm Tele: 767 445 7878, 767 449 1990. Website: www.weather.gov.dm Hotline: 447 5555