



# MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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## OVERVIEW OF CONDITIONS FOR AUGUST

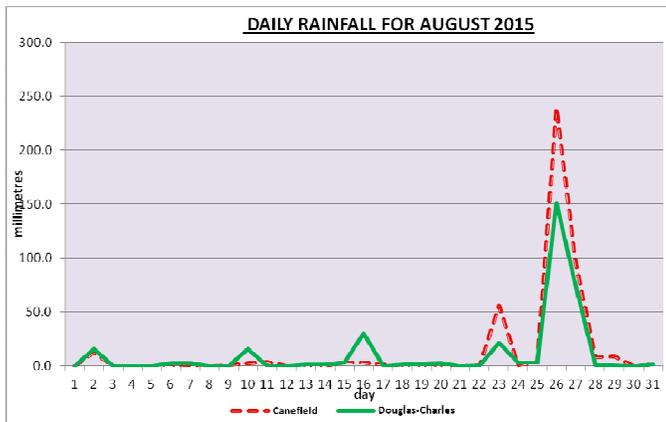


Figure 1 Daily rainfall at Canefield and Douglas-Charles Airports

At Canefield, 335.0mm was recorded during Erika’s passage and 225.2mm at Douglas-Charles.

The drought conditions persisted into the first 3 weeks of the month, however, these became a distant memory as the chaos wrought by Erika was revealed on the morning of the 27<sup>th</sup>.

The agricultural community saw complete destruction of main feeder roads and public bridges which have disconnected farmers from their farms. Large sections of property were lost to landslides and swollen rivers. Healthy top spoils were washed away leaving a layer of sand unsuitable for planting. The essential oil industry has taken a hit with the death of key employees and the destruction of processing plants in Petite Savanne, Boetica and Delices.

Erika was primarily a rainfall event and 80% of crops were spared due to the lack of wind. However, the Belles catchment area saw major losses in dasheen and tree crops. The north region was not significantly impacted by the storm.

Livestock and livestock infrastructure were impacted severely as goats, cows, pigs and chickens which were near rivers and streams were washed away.

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Douglas-Charles Airport
Rainfall Total	440.8mm	334.8mm
30 year normal	181.1 to 271.5mm	203.6 to 257.2mm
Wet Days (≥1.0mm)	13	17
Temperature	29.4°C	28.6°C
30 year average	28.9°C	28.8°C
Maximum Temperature	34.3°C (12 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> )	31.9°C (25 <sup>th</sup> )
Minimum Temperature	22.5°C (17 <sup>th</sup> , 27 <sup>th</sup> )	22.7°C (27 <sup>th</sup> )
Relative Humidity	68%	76%
Maximum wind gust	54km/h	63km/h
Average daily sunshine hours	-	8hrs 30mins

Table 1 Monthly weather parameters

The first 20 days of the month were very dry with about 6% and 24% of the month’s rainfall total being measured at the Canefield and Douglas-Charles Airports, respectively. TS Danny on the 23<sup>rd</sup> brought much relief to the drought being experienced while continuous, torrential rains during TS Erika on the 26<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>, resulted in the loss of lives and property.

**2015 HURRICANE NAMES:** Ana, Bill, Claudette, Danny, Erika, Fred, Grace, Henri, Ida, Joaquin, Kate, Larry, Mindy, Nicholas, Odette, Peter, Rose, Sam, Teresa, Victor, Wanda

*Heartfelt sympathies to all of you who have lost loved ones, property, livelihoods or been impacted in any way during Erika!!!*

**CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER**

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Douglas-Charles Airport
<b>Rainfall</b>	253.7mm	319.1mm
<b>-highest total</b>	434.4mm (1996)	744.5mm (2004)
<b>-lowest total</b>	31.9mm (2012)	94.3mm (2012)
<b>Temperature</b>	28.7°C	28.6°C
<b>-maximum</b>	34.9°C (2005)	34.3°C (2012)
<b>-minimum</b>	20.7°C (1997)	20.0°C (1992)
<b>Chance of 5 day dry spell</b>	53%	33%
<b>Chance of 10 day dry spell</b>	7%	0%

Table 2 Climate summary for September

**REGIONAL OVERVIEW ON SEASONAL FORECASTS**

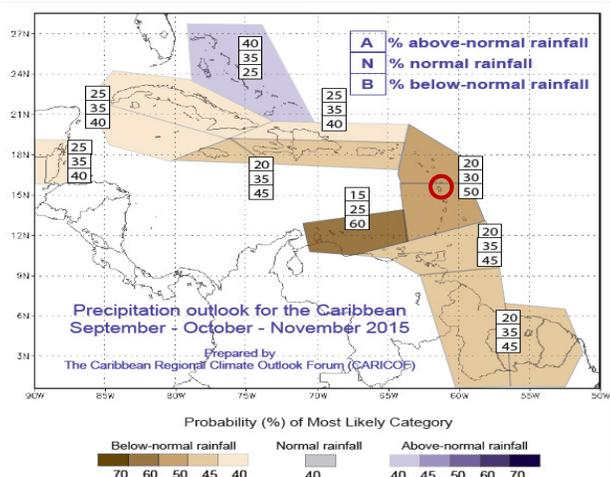


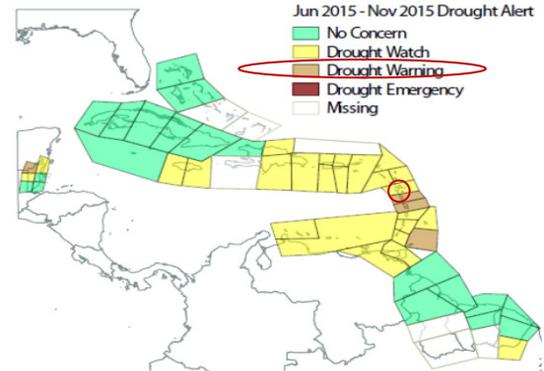
Figure 2 Precipitation outlook for the Caribbean: Sep-Oct-Nov 2015

- Dry conditions with fewer wet days and wet spells than normal are expected to continue towards the end of October. There is 20% chance of above normal, 30% normal and 50% below normal rainfall amounts
- Air temperature expected to be above normal

LQ: 5<sup>th</sup>
NM: 12<sup>th</sup>
FQ: 21<sup>st</sup>
FM: 27<sup>th</sup>

**DROUGHT OUTLOOK**

While the drought conditions have eased, concern still exists for the dry conditions to resurface as the 'ingredients' still persist. Protect your resources, conserve water.



**OUTLOOK FOR THE FARMING COMMUNITY**

Poor agricultural practices on slopes were major contributors to the significant soil erosion which occurred on farms during Erika.

Farmers should refrain from clearing and planting on slopes which are prone to landslides. Storm drains should be maintained and contour planting employed to remove excess water from farmlands.

Farmers should pay attention to weather forecasts and move livestock to higher ground when high rainfall events are expected.

Farmers who have been affected should contact their extension officer and complete the Division of Agriculture's Assessment of Agriculture Enterprise form.

Precaution must be taken when visiting areas affected by land and mud slides because grounds are unstable and prone to further erosion.

Good agricultural practices and disaster risk management techniques must be performed at all times.

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).

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 [metoffice@cwdom.dm](mailto:metoffice@cwdom.dm) or [aictudoa@gmail.com](mailto:aictudoa@gmail.com)

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