

AGROMET BULLETIN



HIGHLIGHTS FOR FEBRUARY

- ✚ Several stations in eight parishes received below-normal rainfall.
- ✚ Two (2) of thirteen (13) parishes recorded meteorological drought.
- ✚ Near-normal to above-normal rainfall is forecast for the island, for March to May.
- ✚ Above-normal but comfortable temperatures are still expected for the next three months.

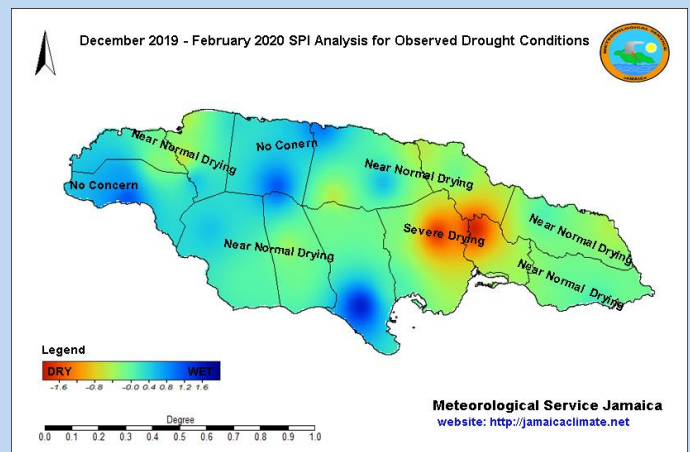
SUMMARY

Several stations in eight of 13 parishes received below-normal rainfall in February. Wet conditions were observed across Trelawny and into bordering areas of northern St. Elizabeth and Manchester as well as, sections of Westmoreland and Clarendon. Severely dry and drought conditions were observed in St. Catherine and Kingston & St. Andrew (KSA), with near-normal dry conditions in sections of several other parishes. Near-normal to above-normal rainfall is expected for Jamaica for the March to May period and could bring some relief from the dryness.

What Happened: December 2019 – February 2020

Based on analysis done (image to the right) varying levels of dryness were observed across the island, with severely dry conditions along with meteorological drought conditions were being experienced in St. Catherine and Kingston & St. Andrew (KSA). Sections of most other parishes, experienced near-normal drying conditions. There were no concerns, however, for farming communities in Trelawny and into bordering areas of northern St. Elizabeth and Manchester, as well as sections of Westmoreland and Clarendon, which experienced wet conditions. Warmer than normal temperatures, ranging from 1-2 °C were recorded in some areas across the island for the month of February 2020, when compared to February 2019.

Wet and Dry Conditions, December 2019-February 2020



Read more by visiting our website:
<https://www.jamaicacclimate.net/farmers-bulletin>

ABOUT US: This report provides short term precipitation forecasts, as well as drought monitoring products that will assist in making critical decisions about the growing season for crops, as well as irrigation scheduling and water management.

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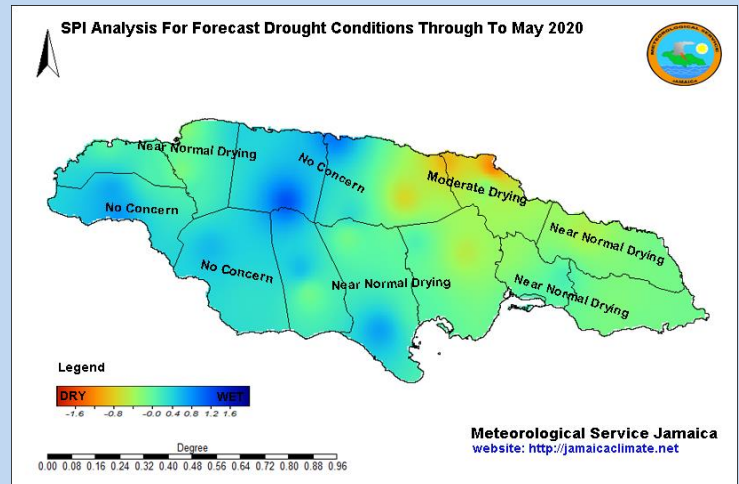
Seasonal Forecast: March - May 2020

For the period of March to May 2020, rainfall amounts are likely to be near-normal to above-normal, during the transition from the dry season to the early wet season. Based on the projections, there is a possibility that some levels of drying could continue over eastern and some central parishes, along with sections of Hanover and St. James. The expectations are that sections of some parishes over the western half of the island, especially the Cockpit Country region, could benefit the most from the rainfall over the next three months. Temperatures for the March to May period are likely to be above normal but, comfortable especially during March.

Possible Impacts

The forecast for near-normal to above-normal rainfall could result in some relief from the dry conditions but not a total reversal which should still be welcomed by farming communities especially in eastern and some central parishes. Wet conditions could continue in Trelawny along with western Westmoreland. As the Meteorological Service continues to monitor drought conditions across the island, the advice is for stakeholders, in particularly farmers, to continue employing rainwater harvesting solutions and to put in place other methods to retain soil moisture. The forecast for warmer than normal temperatures should not cause heat stress during the daytime, especially in March/April however, this is expected to change as the Northern Hemisphere approaches Summer.

Wet and Dry Conditions, March - May 2020



Seasonal Outlook, March - May 2020

JAMAICA	Below (B) %	Normal (N) %	Above (A) %
Rainfall Outlook	30	30	40
Temperature Outlook	15	25	60

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