

AGROMET BULLETIN



HIGHLIGHTS FOR FEBRUARY

- ✚ Stations in ten of 13 parishes received below-normal rainfall.
- ✚ Five parishes experienced meteorological drought conditions.
- ✚ Near-normal rainfall is forecast for March to May 2021.
- ✚ Above-normal temperatures are expected for the next three months.

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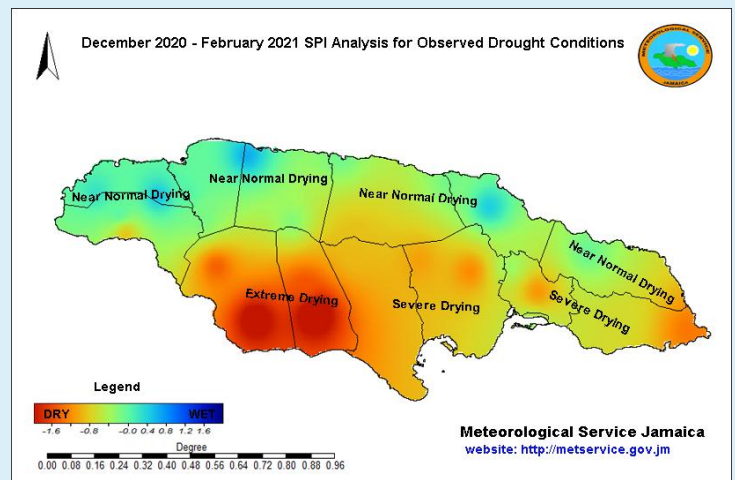
What Happened: December 2020 – February 2021

Based on analysis done (image to the right) varying levels of dryness were observed across sections of the island particularly along southern parishes, with severely dry conditions being experienced across St. Elizabeth and Manchester.

St. Elizabeth, Manchester, St. Catherine, Kingston & St. Andrew and Portland all recorded drought conditions. Sections of mainly northern parishes experienced near-normal drying. There were no concerns, however, for farming communities in Hanover and bordering areas of St. James into Trelawny.

Temperatures, ranging from 1-2°C cooler, were recorded in some areas across the island for the month of February 2021, when compared to February 2020.

Wet and Dry Conditions, December 2020 - February 2021



Read more by visiting our website:

<https://www.metservice.gov.jm/climate-products>

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 2021

For the March to May period, rainfall amounts for Jamaica are likely to be near-normal during the transition from the dry season to the early wet season. Based on this projection, there is a possibility that some levels of drying could continue across the island with moderately dry conditions across St. Mary and eastern St. Ann. The expectations are that sections of western parishes, especially the cockpit area, could mostly benefit from the rainfall over the next three months.

Temperatures for the next three months are likely to be above-normal but comfortable, especially during March.

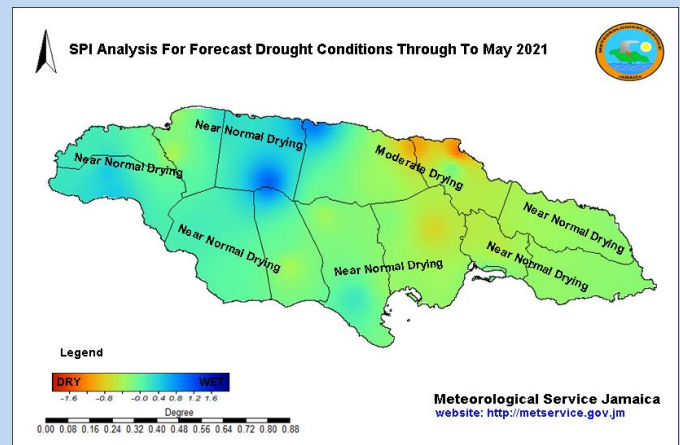
Possible Impacts

The forecast for near-normal rainfall could result in some relief from the dry conditions even though not a total reversal but which should still be welcomed by farming communities, especially in central and western parishes. Wet conditions are likely to prevail in Trelawny.

As the Meteorological Service continues to monitor drought conditions across the island, the advice is for stakeholders, 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 2021



Seasonal Outlook, March – May 2021

JAMAICA	Below-Normal (%)	Normal (%)	Above-Normal (%)
Rainfall Outlook	33	33	33
Temperature Outlook	20	30	50

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