



## HIGHLIGHTS FOR MARCH

- ✚ Several stations in nine parishes received below-normal rainfall.
- ✚ One (1) of thirteen (13) parishes recorded meteorological drought.
- ✚ Below-normal to near-normal rainfall is forecast for the island, for April to June.
- ✚ Above-normal temperatures are still expected for the next three months.

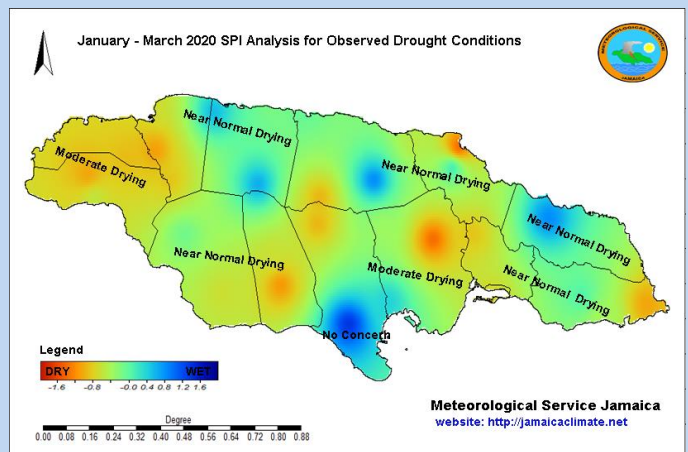
## SUMMARY

Several stations in nine of 13 parishes received below-normal rainfall in March. Wet conditions were observed in sections of Trelawny, Clarendon, Portland and St. Ann. Moderately dry conditions were observed in Hanover, Westmoreland and sections of St. Catherine and Kingston & St. Andrew (KSA). Near-normal drying conditions were observed in sections of several other parishes. Below-normal to near-normal rainfall is expected for Jamaica for the traditional early wet season of April to June and this could exacerbate drying conditions in several parishes

### What Happened: January – March 2020

Based on analysis done (image to the right) varying levels of dryness were observed across the island, with moderately dry conditions being experienced in Hanover and Westmoreland and sections of St. Catherine and into Kingston & St. Andrew (KSA). Sections of other parishes recorded near-normal drying conditions. There was no concern for farming communities in southern Clarendon along with sections of Trelawny, St. Ann and Portland, which experienced mild levels of wetness. Cooler than normal temperatures, ranging from 1-4 °C were recorded in some areas across the island for the month of March 2020, when compared to March 2019.

### Wet and Dry Conditions, January-March 2020



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<https://www.jamaicaclimate.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.

# AGROMET BULLETIN



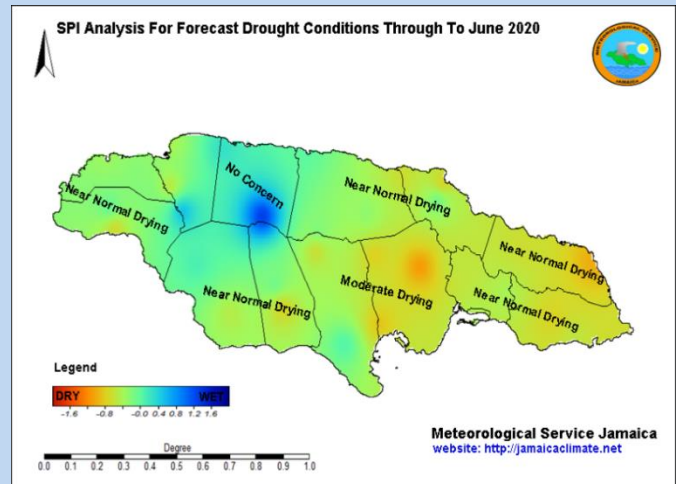
## Seasonal Forecast: April – June 2020

For the period of April to June 2020, rainfall amounts are likely to be below-normal to near-normal, during the traditional early wet season. Based on the projections, there is a possibility that some levels of drying could continue and/or return to many areas in several parishes especially those in the east and south of the island. The expectations are that Trelawny, and some bordering areas in other parishes comprising the Cockpit Country, could benefit the most from the rainfall over the next three months. Temperatures for the April to June period are likely to be above-normal as the Northern Hemisphere's Summer approaches.

## Possible Impacts

The forecast for below-normal to near-normal rainfall could present a challenge for the availability of water in farming communities being impacted by dry/drought conditions. These conditions could therefore, be exacerbated across the island. Mild levels of wetness could continue in Trelawny and in particular the Cockpit Country region. As the Meteorological Service continues to monitor drought conditions across the island, the advice is for stakeholders, in particular farmers, to continue employing rainwater harvesting solutions and other methods to retaining soil moisture. The forecast for warmer than normal temperatures could cause heat stress impacts; therefore, cooling solutions for livestock and other animals should be activated.

## Wet and Dry Conditions, April – June 2020



## Seasonal Outlook, April - June 2020

JAMAICA	Below %	Normal %	Above %
<b>Rainfall Outlook</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Temperature Outlook</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>50</b>

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