

AGROMET BULLETIN



HIGHLIGHTS FOR DECEMBER

- ✚ Stations in 12 of thirteen (13) parishes received below-normal rainfall.
- ✚ Seven parishes experienced meteorological drought conditions.
- ✚ Below-normal to near-normal rainfall is forecast for January to March 2022.
- ✚ Near-normal to above-normal temperatures are expected for the next three months.

What Happened: October – December 2021

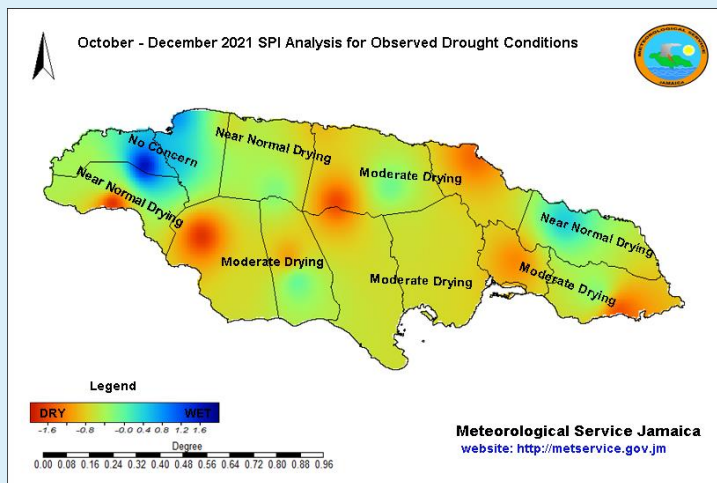
Based on analysis (image to the right) very dry conditions were noted in sections of most parishes, with the exception being in sections of St. James into Hanover and western sections of Portland, where mild levels of wetness were experienced.

The below-normal rainfall received across the island, during the transition from the wet season to the start of the dry season (December) has made conditions become drier in many farming communities.

Seven parishes; namely Manchester, Clarendon, St. Catherine, St. Thomas, St. Mary, St. Ann and Trelawny experienced meteorological drought conditions in the November/December bi-monthly period.

Extreme high temperatures, ranging from 1-3°C warmer, were recorded in several locations across the island for the month of December 2021, when compared to December 2020.

Wet and Dry Conditions, October – December 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: January – March 2022

Rainfall amounts for Jamaica are likely to be below-normal to near-normal, during the dry season which began in December. Based on the forecast (map insert) varying levels of dryness are likely for farming communities in nearly all parishes with the exception being in Hanover and St. James where, mild levels of wetness should prevail. With drought conditions being experienced in seven parishes, there should be concerns in farming communities dependent on rainfall for irrigation.

Temperatures for the next three months are likely to be near-normal to above-normal during the northern hemisphere's winter when cooler temperatures are expected.

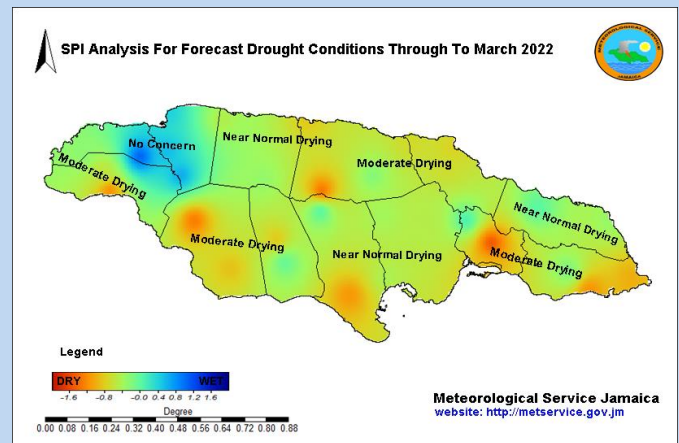
Possible Impacts

With farming communities receiving below-normal rainfall during the past 3 months and with no appreciable change expected for the next three months, it could exacerbate dry conditions in many farming communities especially, with the potential of more parishes experiencing meteorological drought.

As the Meteorological Service continues to monitor conditions across the island, the advice is for stakeholders, be prudent in the use of available water, along with, employing rainwater harvesting solutions and to ensure that animals are properly hydrated and are staying warm during the nights.

With the forecast for near-normal to above-normal temperatures, condition`s should be tolerable, with cooler temperatures expected at this time of the year.

Wet and Dry Conditions, January – March 2022



Seasonal Outlook, January – March 2022

JAMAICA	Below-Normal (%)	Normal (%)	Above-Normal (%)
Rainfall Outlook	40	30	30
Temperature Outlook	25	35	40

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