



HIGHLIGHTS FOR DECEMBER

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

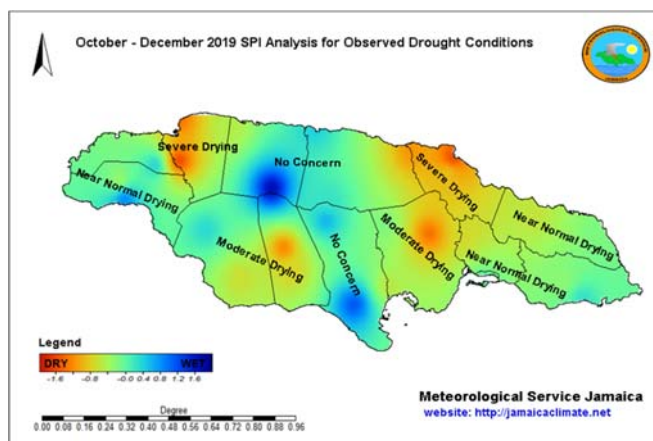
SUMMARY

Several stations in four of 13 parishes received above-normal rainfall in December. Wet conditions were observed across Trelawny and bordering areas of northern Manchester as well as, southern Clarendon. Severely dry conditions were observed in St. Mary and St. James, with moderately dry conditions in sections of St. Elizabeth, central Manchester, and most areas of St. Catherine. Portland and St. Mary recorded meteorological drought conditions, in the November/December period.

What Happened: October- December 2019

Based on analysis done (image to the right) varying levels of dryness were observed across eastern and western parishes, along with sections of St. Catherine and Manchester; with severely dry conditions being experienced in most areas of St. James and St. Mary. Portland and St. Mary recorded meteorological drought conditions. There were no concerns, however, for farming communities in southern Trelawny and into bordering areas of northern Manchester, as well as southern 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 December 2019, when compared to December 2018.

Wet and Dry Conditions, October-December 2019



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.

AGROMET BULLETIN



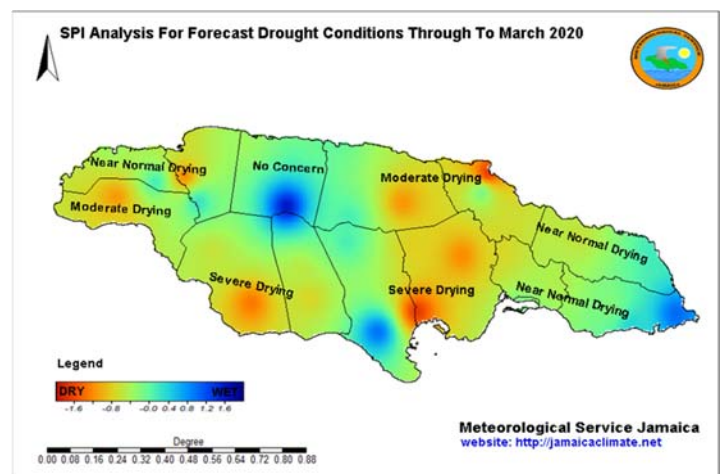
Seasonal Forecast: January- March 2020

For the period of January to March 2020, rainfall amounts are likely to be below-normal to near-normal, during the traditional dry season. Based on the projected decrease in rainfall amounts, drying /drought conditions could become worse in several areas across many parishes; the exception being southern Trelawny into northern Manchester, southern Clarendon and the extreme eastern sections of Portland and St. Thomas where some levels of wetness should continue. Temperatures for January to March are likely to be above normal but comfortable during the day time.

Possible Impacts

The forecast for below normal to near-normal rainfall could result in conditions becoming drier across many areas, especially, in eastern and western parishes, along with St. Ann and St. Catherine. As the Meteorological Service continues to monitor drought conditions across the island, the advice is for stakeholders, in particularly farmers, to employ rainwater harvesting solutions and to put in place methods to retain soil moisture. The forecast for warmer than normal temperatures should not cause heat stress during the daytime, however, cooler nights could have an impact on livestock and other animals.

Wet and Dry Conditions, January - March 2020



Seasonal Outlook, January- March 2020

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

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