

# AGROMET BULLETIN



## HIGHLIGHTS FOR MARCH

- ✚ Stations in six of 13 parishes received below-normal rainfall.
- ✚ No parish reported meteorological drought for the February/March period.
- ✚ Below-normal rainfall is forecast for April to June 2021.
- ✚ Near-normal temperatures are expected for the next three months.

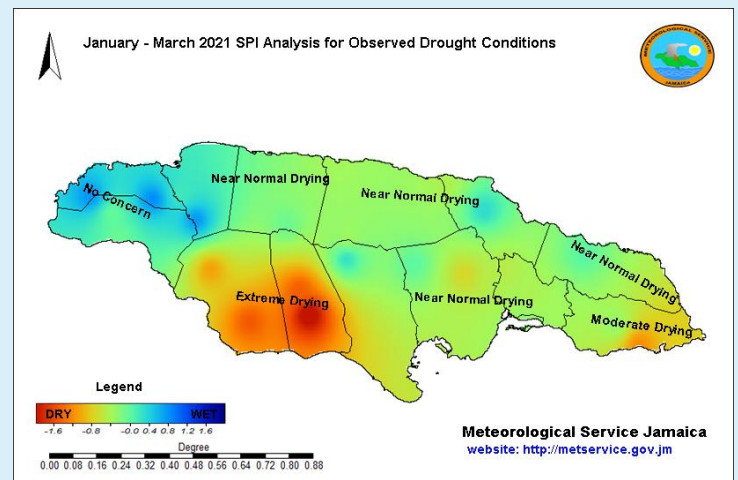
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### **What Happened: January – March 2021**

Based on analysis done (image to the right) varying levels of dryness were observed across sections of the island especially along southeastern and south-central parishes, with extremely dry conditions being experienced across St. Elizabeth and Manchester. Despite a variation in the levels of dryness no parish recorded meteorological drought conditions. Sections of mainly northern parishes experienced near-normal drying. There were no concerns, however, for farming communities in Westmoreland, Hanover and St. James.

Temperatures, ranging from 1-3°C warmer, were recorded in some areas across the island for the month of March 2021, when compared to March 2020.

### **Wet and Dry Conditions, January - March 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: April – June 2021

For the April to June period, rainfall amounts for Jamaica are likely to be below-normal during the traditional early wet season. Based on this projection, there is a possibility that some levels of drying could continue across the island with severe drying across St. Ann, St. Mary, Portland, St. Thomas, KSA and St. Catherine. While, moderate drying is likely mainly across coastal areas of western parishes. The expectations are that sections of St. James, Trelawny and bordering areas of other parishes including the Cockpit area, could mostly benefit from any rainfall over the next three months.

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

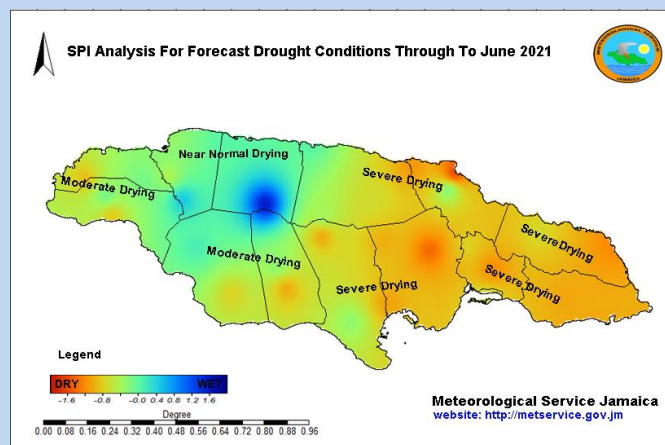
## Possible Impacts

The forecast for below-normal rainfall could present a challenge for the availability of water in farming communities being impacted by dry conditions. Wet conditions are likely to prevail in Trelawny and the Cockpit area.

As the Meteorological Service continues to monitor the drying trend in conditions across the island, the advice is for stakeholders, particularly farmers, to continue employing rainwater harvesting solutions and other methods to retain soil moisture.

The forecast for near-normal temperatures should result in comfortable temperatures especially during April.

## Wet and Dry Conditions, April – June 2021



## Seasonal Outlook, April – June 2021

JAMAICA	Below-Normal (%)	Normal (%)	Above-Normal (%)
<b>Rainfall Outlook</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Temperature Outlook</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>

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