



Agro-meteorological Bulletin and Assessment for Farmers and Livestock Producers of Trinidad and Tobago for the First dekad (11th to 20th) of July 2015

Definitions used in the forecast and bulletin:

| Term | Meaning | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| Dekad | 10 day rainfall measuring period | |
| Rain Day | A day with 1.0 mm or more of rainfall amount | |
| Wet Day | A day with 10.0 mm or more of rainfall amount | |
| Extremely Wet Day | A day with 25.0 mm or more of rainfall amount | |
| Normal Rainfall | Between 75% and 125 % of the average | |
| Below Normal Rainfall | Rainfall below 75% of the average | |
| Above Normal Rainfall | Rainfall in excess of 125 % of the average | |
| Much below Normal Rainfall | Rainfall below 50% of the average | |
| Much above Normal Rainfall | Rainfall above 150% of the average | |
| Scanty Rainfall | Less than 1 mm | |
| Moderate Rainfall | 1-10 mm | |
| Heavy Rainfall | 10-50 mm | |
| Very heavy Rainfall | Greater than 50 mm | |
| Probability of 1-30 % | Low Chance | |
| Probability of 30-70 % | Moderate Chance | |
| Probability greater than 70% | High Chance | |
| Term | Amount of Rain | Type of day |
| Scanty Rainfall | Less than 1 mm | Relatively dry day |
| Moderate Rainfall | 1-10 mm | Relatively wet day |
| Heavy Rainfall | 10-50 mm | Wet day |
| Very heavy Rainfall | Greater than 50 mm | Excessively wet day |

Weather Assessment for the First dekad of July (1st to 10th) 2015

Scanty to very heavy rainfall occurred over Trinidad during the first dekad of July, while scanty to moderate rainfall occurred over Tobago. This improved the rain fed water availability to the farming community in Tobago. In Trinidad, rainfall amounts during the first seven days of the dekad varied from moderate to very heavy rainfall from day two to seven, with day four recording 90.9 mm of rainfall at

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Piarco, Trinidad. In Tobago, scanty to moderate rainfall occurred throughout the dekad with day six recording 8.7 mm at Crown Point, Tobago.

The average maximum temperature increased by 0.9°C, while minimum temperatures increased by 0.8°C in Trinidad. In Tobago, maximum temperature increased slightly while minimum temperature decreased slightly. Maximum temperatures peaked at 33.1 °C at Piarco and at 31.8 °C at Crown Point. Rain fall during the period would have significantly improved the agriculture water shortage in Tobago which was experienced during the last few months. However day four in Trinidad would have been cause for concern since the soil would have been saturated and cause excessive water stress.

Expected Weather for the Second Dekad (11th to 20th) of July, 2015 and Likely Impact on Agriculture

The forecast for the second ten days of July shows strong possibilities for weather which will be favourable for rain-fed agriculture with days one, two and six to nine experiencing the most rainfall amounts. Overall, there is a 75% to 80% chance for the total rainfall of the last ten days to range between 10.0 mm and 50.0 mm across varying districts of the country, with northwest Tobago and parts of north-eastern Trinidad likely to receive the highest rainfall amounts. However, there is still a small chance (20% to 25%) for the total rainfall to be below 10 mm in some parts.

Throughout the dekad, average temperatures are not expected to vary much and to be near 28.0 °C in Trinidad and Tobago. Maximum temperatures are likely to be near 33.0 °C in Trinidad and near 31.5 °C in Tobago. Minimum temperatures are likely to be above 23.8 °C for both Trinidad and Tobago. Average relative humidity values are expected to range between the low seventies (70's) to high eighties (80's) percentage in both island during daylight hours, with higher values during rainfall occurrence. Wind speeds are expected to be a gentle breeze (2 – 5 meters per second) at 2.0 meters from the surface.

During the second dekad, conditions continue to be sufficient to meet crop water requirements. The rainfall, while assisting in the green-up process of pastures, also has the potential to encourage weeds to grow. While the expected rainfall will continue to decrease the need for irrigation, attention should be given to drainage in areas which may experience soil saturation. Crops differ in tolerating and adapting to water logging and some crops may not be able to cope with excessive water stress. With the continued increase in water availability, there is the likelihood of fungal growth and development of pest and diseases.

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Preliminary Rainfall and Temperature Outlook for Third Ten Days of July 2015

The third dekad of July favour moderate to heavy rainfall for the first five days. Maximum temperatures will vary slightly.

Trinidad Rainfall Forecast for the Second Dekad of July (11th to 20th) 2015

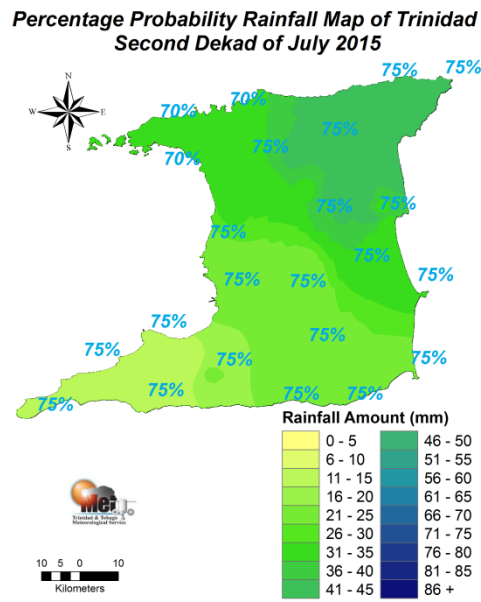


Figure 1. Rainfall Map of Trinidad showing expected mean rainfall totals for districts across Trinidad during the second ten days of July 2015 and percentage probability of occurrence.

Eastern and North-Eastern areas

High chance (80 %) of mean daily rainfall up to 4.0 mm.

South-Eastern areas

High chance (75 %) of mean daily rainfall up to 3.0 mm.

Southern areas

High chance (75 %) of mean daily rainfall up to 3.0 mm.

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South-Western areas

High chance (75%) of mean daily rainfall up to 1.0 mm.

Northern, North-Western areas

High chance (70 %) of mean daily rainfall up to 3.0 mm.

Central, West-Central and inland areas

High chance (75 %) of mean daily rainfall up to 2.0 mm.

Tobago Rainfall Forecast for the Second Dekad of July (11th to 20th) 2015

Percentage Probability Rainfall Map of Tobago
Second Dekad of July 2015

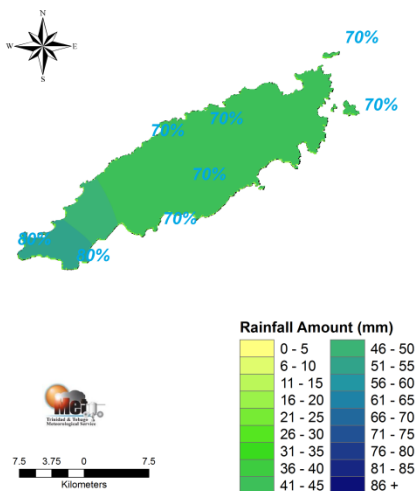


Figure 2. Rainfall Map of Tobago showing expected mean rainfall totals for districts across Tobago during the first ten days July 2015 and percentage probability of occurrence.

North-Eastern areas

High chance (70 %) of mean daily rainfall up to 4.0 mm.

South-Western areas

High chance (80%) of mean daily rainfall up to 5.0 mm.

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Temperatures

Trinidad Temperature Forecast for the second dekad of July (11th to 20th) 2015

High chance (75 % chance) for above normal mean daily temperatures (warmer than 28.0 °C).

High chance (75 % chance) for the daily maximum temperature to exceed 31.8 °C.

High chance (70 % chance) for the minimum night-time temperature to remain above 24.0 °C.

Tobago Temperature Forecast for the second dekad of July (11th to 20th) 2015

High chance (75 % chance) for above normal mean daily temperatures (warmer than 28.0 °C).

High chance (75 % chance) for the daily maximum temperatures to exceed 31.0 °C.

High chance (70 % chance) of the minimum night-time temperatures remaining above 24.0 °C.

Summary

The forecast for the second ten days of July shows strong possibilities for weather which will be favourable for rain-fed agriculture with days one, two and six to nine experiencing the most rainfall amounts. Overall, there is a 75% to 80% chance for the total rainfall of the last ten days to range between 10.0 mm and 50.0 mm across varying districts of the country, with northwest Tobago and parts of north-eastern Trinidad likely to receive the highest rainfall amounts. Throughout the dekad, average temperatures are not expected to vary much and to be near 28.0 °C in Trinidad and Tobago. Maximum temperatures are likely to be near 33.0 °C in Trinidad and near 31.5 °C in Tobago. Minimum temperatures are likely to be above 23.8 °C for both Trinidad and Tobago. While the expected rainfall will continue to decrease the need for irrigation, attention should be given to drainage in areas which may experience soil saturation. Some crops may not be able to cope with excessive water stress.

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