

Agromet Bulletin

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Agro-meteorological Bulletin and Assessment for Farmers and Livestock Producers of Trinidad and Tobago for the Third Dekad (21st -28th) of February 2017.

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 Second Dakad (11th -20th) of February, 2017.

Mostly dry and breezy conditions dominated Trinidad and Tobago, however days 13th, 14th, 18th and 19th experienced intermittent cloudy periods over both islands. On days 13th, 18th and 19th, Trinidad experienced some scanty to moderate rainfall over most areas. The ten-day rainfall totals for Trinidad range between 3.0 mm to 23.0 mm. Tobago experienced scanty to moderate rainfall during days 13th and 14th of the dekad, where their ten-day rainfall totals ranging between 10.0 mm to 15.0 mm. Accompanying these conditions maximum temperatures in Trinidad got up to 32.9 °C and minimum temperatures of 17.8 °C. Whereas, Tobago's temperatures went up to a maximum of 30.7 °C and minimum temperature of 21.7 °C. Both islands had mostly clear and cool nights which assisted in producing lower temperatures.

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Expected Weather for Third Dekad $(21^{st}$ - $28^{th})$ of February, 2017 and Likely Impact on Agriculture.

Over the next four consecutive days, farmers in both Trinidad and Tobago should expect infrequent cloudy patches and brief light showers, producing scanty rainfall amounts. This is due to shallow patches of low level moisture associated with convergent bands along the northeast trade-wind flow. The cloudiness will disperse to give breezy and sunny conditions with high temperatures of 32.8 °C in Trinidad and 31.4°C in Tobago. Generally clear nights will give low temperatures of 20.2 °C in Trinidad and 22.2 °C in Tobago with the slight chance of possible early morning shallow patches of mist that will disintegrate just after dawn.

On day 25th, there is the 55% chance of a tongue of low level moist air flowing over both islands producing cloudy patches and light to moderate showers. On days 27th and 28th, there is a 65% chance of a moist wind flow establishing itself upon both islands and resulting in cloudy periods with light to moderate showers. Both islands highest possible daily rainfall totals will range between 2.0 mm and 7.0 mm. Over these two consecutive days, forecast temperatures in Trinidad will be near 31.8 °C while Tobago forecast maximum will near 30.2°C with minimums of 22.2 °C in Trinidad and 23.2 °C in Tobago. The wet and humid conditions during days 25th, 27th and 28th will lend itself to greening-up of pastures for livestock, improve water flow in streams, rivers and ponds. It will also support healthier looking crops and newly transplanted seedling may have a good chance at survival.

Trinidad Mean Daily Rainfall Forecast for Third Dekad of February (21st -28th) 2017.

Northern & Northwestern areas:

Moderate chance of (66%) of mean daily rainfall up to 1.8 mm.

North-Eastern and Eastern areas:

Moderate chance of (70%) of mean daily rainfall up to 2.5 mm.

Central, West-Central and inland areas:

Moderate chance of (63%) of mean daily rainfall up to 2.0 mm.

South-Eastern areas:

Moderate chance of (70%) of mean daily rainfall up to 2.5 mm.

Southern areas:

Moderate chance of (65%) of mean daily rainfall up to 2.2 mm.

South-Western areas:

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Moderate chance of (60%) of mean daily rainfall up to 1.0 mm.

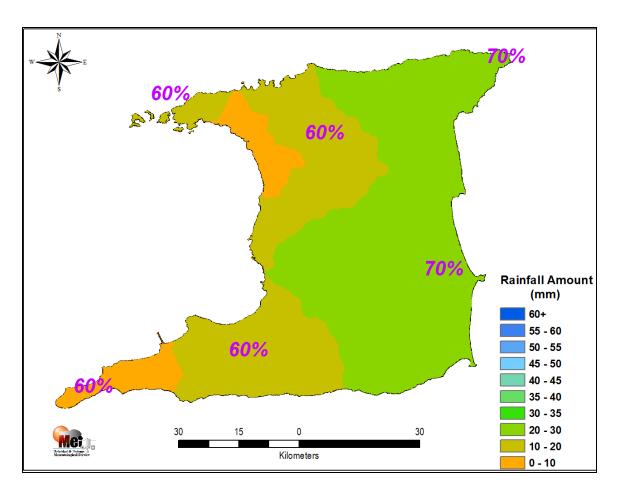


Figure 1. Rainfall Map of Trinidad showing possible rainfall totals for varying districts during Third dekad of February, 2017 and percentage probability of occurrence.

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Tobago Mean Daily Rainfall Forecast for Third Dekad of February (21st -28th) 2017.

Northeastern areas:

Moderate chance (60%) of mean daily rainfall up to 1.8 mm.

Southwestern areas:

Moderate chance (70%) of mean daily rainfall up to 0.8 mm.

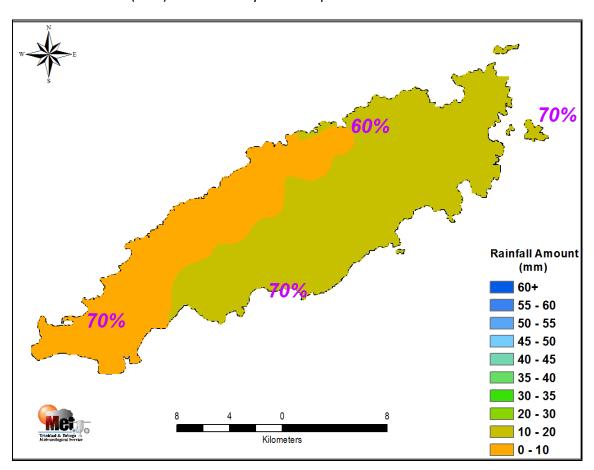


Figure 2. Rainfall Map of Tobago showing possible rainfall totals for varying districts during Third dekad of February, 2017 and percentage probability of occurrence.

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Temperatures:

Trinidad Temperature Forecast for Third Dekad of February (21st -28th) 2017.

Moderate chance (70%) of daily maximum temperatures to exceed 32.0 °C, peaking near 32.8 °C.

Moderate chance (70%) of daily minimum temperatures to be below 22.3 $^{\circ}$ C, dropping as low as 20.4 $^{\circ}$ C.

Tobago Temperature Forecast for Third Dekad of February (21st -28th) 2017.

Moderate chance (70%) of daily maximum temperatures to exceed 29.5 °C, peaking near 31.4°C.

Moderate chance (70%) of daily minimum temperatures to be below 23.6° C, dropping as low as 22.4° C.

Summary:

The forecast for the Third dekad of February (21st -28th) 2017, favours initially mostly dry weather. However, days 25th, 27th and 28th there is a moderate probability of weather favouring light to moderate rainfall with daily amounts ranging from 2.0 mm to 7.0 mm. There is a 65% chance that the possible ten-day rainfall totals be between 8.0 mm and 18.0 mm across Tobago and a 65% chance the possible ten-day rainfall totals be between 10.0 mm and 25.0 mm across Trinidad. Temperatures are set to peak near 32.8°C in Trinidad and near 31.4°C in Tobago. Farmers are encouraged to practice mulching after wet days to retain the moisture gained for longer periods and improve irrigation practices for drier days.