

### **Grenada's Agromet Summary July 2013**

Within the first week and a half of July the Bermuda/Azores High was constantly above 1030mb. This produced a steep pressure gradient which supplied the Eastern Caribbean with fresh to strong trades. Such trades kept conditions generally fair as the clouds were moved along very briskly.

A mid level anticyclone was very prominent over our region this month. It produced continuous subsidence which was largely responsible for the low rainfall experienced. Additionally the Sara Air layer provided dry air and dust haze through the month further implied condensation. As a result the rainfall for the month as recorded at the Meteorological office at the Maurice Bishop Int'l Airport was a mere 48mm making it the driest July on record. There were sixteen (16) days either of insignificant or no rainfall, including a five day period from the 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> with only a trace recorded.

The highest temperature recorded was 31.6c° while the lowest was experienced on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 23.2c°. Of interest to note there were four nights when the minimum temperature was above 26c°.

The Atlantic hurricane season was in full bloom this month with the formation of two cyclones. First there was Tropical storm Chantal formed on the 8<sup>th</sup>. This minimal storm posed no threat to Grenada and its dependencies as it crossed the island of the Eastern Caribbean with little or no damage to Dominica, Martinique and St.Lucia with maximum wind of 65mph. The second cyclone was tropical storm Dorian formed on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Again this system was of no threat to Grenada or other island of the Eastern Caribbean. Maximum sustained winds reached 60mph.

Marine advisories were twice issued by the local Met. Office. First on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> for the passage of T.S. Chantal and on the 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> as a thigh pressure gradient developed over the Atlantic and Caribbean producing brisk wind which in turned resulted in abnormal surfs.

The low rainfall resulted in lower this month of watermelon, and pumpkins while the corn crop is having a disastrous season. There was also a significant reduction in the available quantity of mangoes and wax apples but this might be more seasonal variation than climatic.

The fisheries sector held its own with regular turnover of stock. One retailer had to sell Tuna, Kingfish and other species at very low prices in order to get rid of old stock. There was an abundance of "small jacks" (*Secrurumenonophpamus*) at all major fishing centers.