

Grenada's October Agro-met Summary

For the tri-island state of Grenada Carriacou and Pettie Martinique October was an eventful month. Firstly, it was the wettest month of the year thus far with 136.3mm, 2.9mm below our October average. Rainfall measurements this month were doubled that of the previous three months. The highest rainfall period was recorded on Monday 21st when the I.T.C.Z. dumped 27.6mm. Similarly, on Thursday 31st a surface trough left 21.8mm on the island. That same trough produced 12.3mm on the 30th. There were two other significant rain events- on the 13th trough system delivered 13.9mm and tropical wave was responsible for 10.2mm on the 19th in only 6hr. In contrast to previous months there were only eight (8) days of no or insignificant rainfall in the month.

The second hottest day on record occurred on the 1st, 33.5°C. The mean max for the month was 30.8°C while the lowest max occurred on the 30th. Whereas the hottest day was on the 1st the coolest was on the 31st. The lowest min was 22.6°C, and 24.9°C was calculated as the month's mean, while the highest min. of 26.8°C occurred four times on the 1st, 4th, 7th & 16th.

The year's hurricane season activities continued in October with Tropical Storm Jerry weakening to a tropical depression on the 2nd and dissipated on the 3rd. Tropical Storm Karen was formed in the Gulf of Mexico on the 3rd and was downgraded to a tropical depression on the 5th and dissipated to a low on the 6th. Tropical depression No. 13 was formed on the 21st then upgraded to Tropical Storm Lorenzo latter that day at 5:00pm. Lorenzo was downgraded to tropical depression status on the 23rd. None of these systems affected our island.

October, like September, had generally flat seas, varying between slight to moderate. A surface trough caused the only blemish causing the Meteorological office to issue a marine advisory on the 25th and 26th as above normal surf affected the northern coastline. Despite this disturbance the month was good for the fishing industry. This was evident by the constant availability of numerous varieties of fish on the market.

The farming community was relieved to finally have a 'wet' month. The short cash crops such as cabbage, lettuce and okras bloomed. They are expected to have good numbers for the festive season. There are still noticeable low numbers of citrus but pumpkin are doing well.

The most talked about event for the month was the earthquake which occurred at 0200UTC on the 11th. The tremor, which was felt in Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada and Venezuela was of magnitude 6.1, with its epicenter at 10.87°N 61.27°W. No damage or fatalities were recorded.

