



December 2015 Agro-Met Report

After having six consecutive months of below average rainfall and being plunged into an Agricultural and Meteorological drought, Grenada has had above normal rainfall for the third month running. A total of 139.5mm of rainfall was recorded for December 2015 which was 132.86% of the Long term average(Lta) of 105mm, 134.39% of the 30-year average of 103.8mm and 347.88% of December 2014 40.1mm. See fig.1 below.

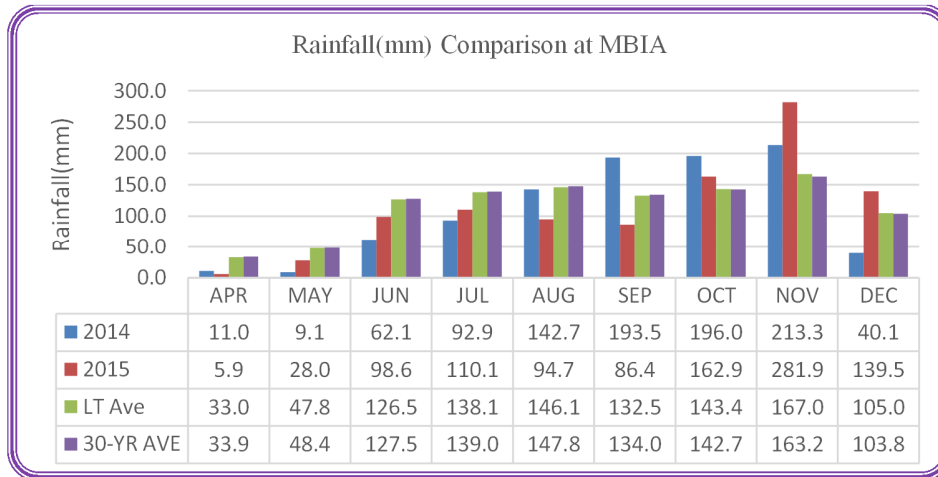


Fig.1 shows the six (6) months of 2015 with below average rainfall from April to September in brick red, followed by the three (3) months from October to December, of above normal rainfall.

Fig.1

Chart showing rainfall comparison between 2015, the Long Term Ave., 30-year average and 2014

Only two days during the month of December didn't have any rainfall at all and four other days with only a trace. Although the rainfall was frequent during the month, there were four (4) 24hour periods with totals over 10.0mm. Those were 12.4mm on the 12th and 26th, 19.9mm on the 18th and 38.3mm on the 24th. See fig.2 below.

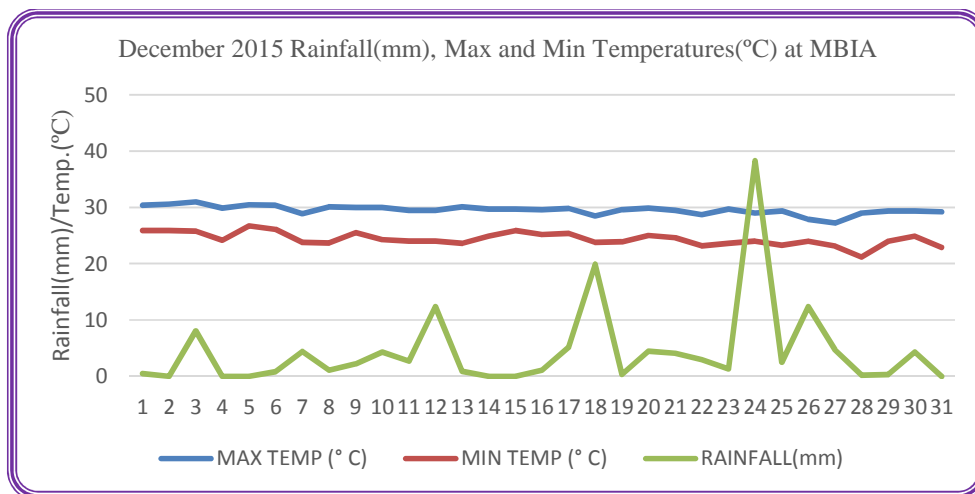


Fig.2 shows the Graph of December 2015 showing daily rainfall (mm), Maximum and Minimum temperatures (°C)

Fig.2



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Most of the precipitation received during the month of December, were as a result of bands of cumulus and stratocumulus clouds pushed across the Atlantic by the trade winds and pushed to the islands by the subtropical ridge and also localized conditions due to orographic lifting. As a result of the consistent rainfall throughout, landslide warnings were issued on the 22nd, 24th -25th and the 27th.

Mean daily temperatures were lower than last year's by an average of 0.1°C reaching a mean of 27.0°C. The mean maximum temperature was 29.6°C while the mean minimum temperature was 24.4°C. The highest maximum temperature of 31.0°C was recorded on the 3rd of the month and was lower than that of 2014 and the Lta by 0.2 and 0.3°C respectively. The lowest minimum temperature of 21.2 °C occurred on the 28th and was 1.3 °C and 0.4 °C lower than 2014 and the Lta.

The Bermuda/Azores High measured 1030mb for more than half the month and peaked on the 5th and 27th measuring 1038mb resulting in tight pressure gradients. This generated strong winds mainly from the ENE-E at 15 to 20 knots with gust up to 31kts and moderate to rough seas. Marine advisories were issued on the 1st to the 8th and 19th to 31st. Despite the moderate to rough seas, fishermen were able to enjoy catches in Black and Yellow fin Tuna, Sail fish, Ocean Gar and Bonito.

While the increased rainfall would have been welcomed by the National Water and Sewage Authority (NAWASA) and the farming community, farmers encountered some problems. As a result of the frequency and intensity of the rainfall, Pigeon peas did not do well due to flower droppings; Sweet potatoes produced more vines instead of rooting and some farmers had great losses in Corn. Despite some of these hurdles, crops like Lettuce, Tomatoes, Sorrel, Ginger, Pumpkin, Butternut Squash and Okra flourished on the market.

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