

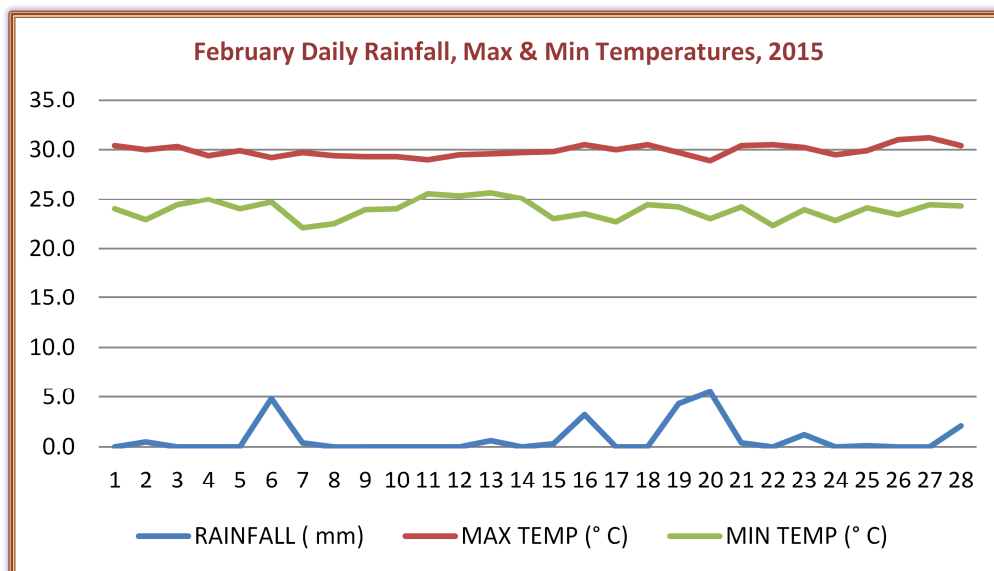


February 2015 Agro-Met Report



Below normal rainfall was recorded for the month of February 2015. Rainfall was 62.07% less than that of February 2014 measuring only 23.4mm; which was approximately 65.36% of the 30year average of 35.8mm.

Mostly fair and windy conditions prevailed during the month with the occasional showers produced mainly by low level moisture surge in the atmosphere. There was no 24hour period of rainfall above 10.0mm during the month. The twelve (12) days of measurable rainfall was between 0.1mm and 5.5mm which was recorded on the 20th of the month. There were eight (8) days with a trace and also eight (8) days with no rainfall at all.



Graph for February 2015 showing rainfall (mm), Max and Min temperatures (°C)

Mean daily temperatures for the month of February was higher than last years by an average 0.2°C reaching a mean of 26.9°C. The mean maximum temperature was 1.0°C higher than that of February 2014 reading 29.9°C and 0.2°C higher than the 30year average of 29.7°C. The mean minimum temperature was 23.9°C which was 0.8°C higher than 2014 and 0.7°C higher than the 30year average. The highest maximum temperature recorded was 31.2°C on the 27th of the month, compared with 30.0°C for 2014 and 30.8°C for the LTA. The lowest minimum was 22.1°C recorded on the 7th, compared with 21.0°C for 2014 and 21.2°C for the LTA (30yrs).



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The Bermuda Azores High peaked at 1043mb on the 17th and 22nd and was lowest on the 7th of the month reading 1020mb. Tight pressure gradients produced winds which were generally from ENE'ly-SSE'ly with wind speeds reaching up to 25kts at times. The strong winds generated moderate to rough seas and marine advisories were issued on the 4th, 15th -16th, 19th -24th and 27th – 28th of the month.

As a result of the Cold Fronts from the North American coast, the sea water in the region was rather cold and this coupled with the moderate to rough seas, made fishing a difficult one. Fishermen were only able to have limited catches in Yellow fin tuna and Dolphin.

The farming community was not severely affected by the below average rainfall during the month of February. However, some farmers have begun to improve on their existing irrigation systems while others are ordering new systems to face the dry season. Farmers continued to have good crop production in Pumpkins, Citrus (all kinds), Green peas, White Sorrel, Yams, Sweet Potatoes and crops like Lettuce, Tomatoes and Pakchoi have begun to flood the market.

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