



GRENADA'S AGRO -MET REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2015

After 5 months of below average rainfall, the month of October commenced with a rather gloomy outlook as the threat of further water depravity loomed on the horizon. Serious concerns over the lack of rainfall were echoed across every sector and the evidence of a meteorological, and agricultural drought was strongly seen by the widespread arid conditions, the scarcity of many vegetables on the market and the dwindling water supply in NAWASA's (National Water and Sewerage Authority) dams.

By the first week of the beginning of the last quarter, fears were abated as some much need rains watered the parched earth. The synoptic and dynamic forcing mechanisms that contributed to the increased convective activity and subsequent precipitation were surface troughs and ITCZ in conjunction with a divergent environment aloft, a series of robust tropical waves embedded in a deep moisture surge, enhanced by interaction with the upper level trough.

Total rainfall recorded for the month of October was 162.9mm, which translates to about 14% or 20.2mm above the long term mean. Ninety percent (90%) or 146.3mm of this amount was recorded during 10 consecutive days dating from the 5th to the 14th while the remaining 10 % fell within the last week of the month. Of this amount, 71.2mm which equates to 43.7% of the total, represents the highest rainfall accumulation within a 24 hour period from 2pm on the 10th to 2pm on the 11th. In this regard, October is therefore marked as very significant since it is the first month that recorded above average rainfall after the 5 month dry spell, coupled with the highest 24hour rainfall. The graph (Fig 1) hereunder illustrates

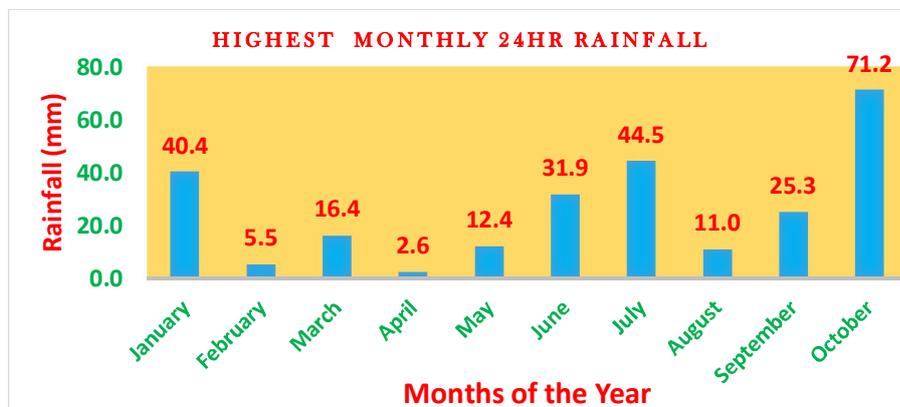


Fig 1 Monthly 24hr rainfall comparison (Jan to Oct 2015)

The rainfall events were also marked with significant gusts. These were recorded on the 8th, 11th and 13th where winds increased to 39, 45 and 40 knots respectively.

The maximum temperature for the month was 31.0 °C reported on the 31st while the minimum was 23.0 °C, reported on the 26th day of the month. Both temperatures were 1 degree less than the mean monthly long term average.



Fig 2 depicts the Daily rainfall, max and minimum temperature.

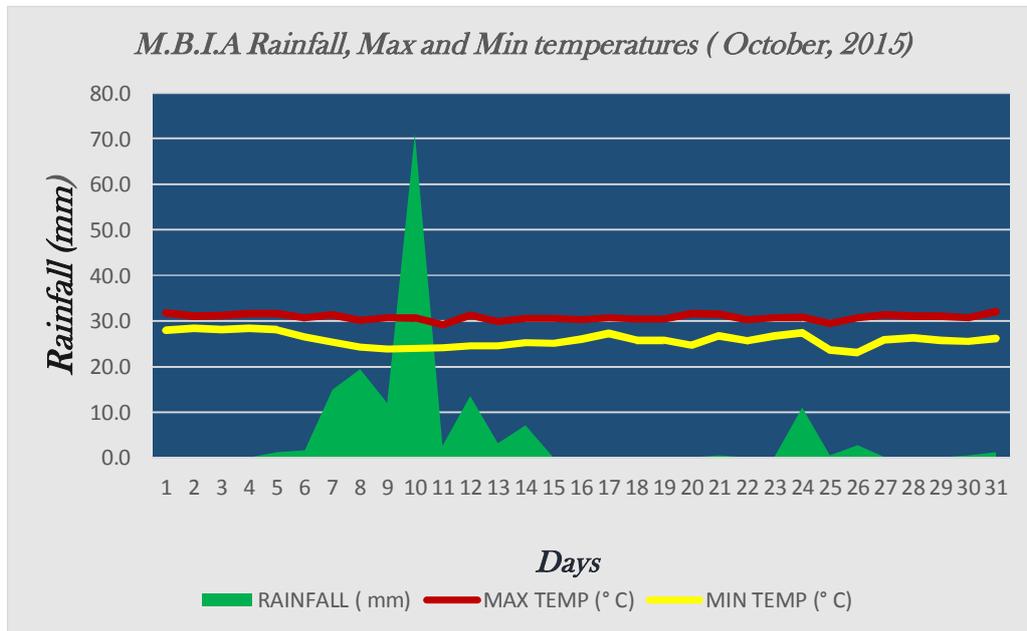


Fig 2

While farmers welcomed the increased rainfall, they did encounter some hurdles. The frequency and intensity of the rainfall events occurred in most instances as downpours resulting in less infiltration and percolation, and greater runoff and erosion. Some vegetables like cabbage, lettuce, tomatoes and ground provisions were very scarce on the market since the prolonged dry spell retarded the planting season. In contrast, some other crops like seasoning peppers, breadfruit, and citrus flourished.

Fishermen experienced moderate to rough seas on occasions of gusty winds and small craft and marine advisories were issued on two occasions. The monthly catch included small and big Jacks, Tuna, Hind, Marlin, Ocean Gear and Bonita.