



February 2016 Agro-Met Report



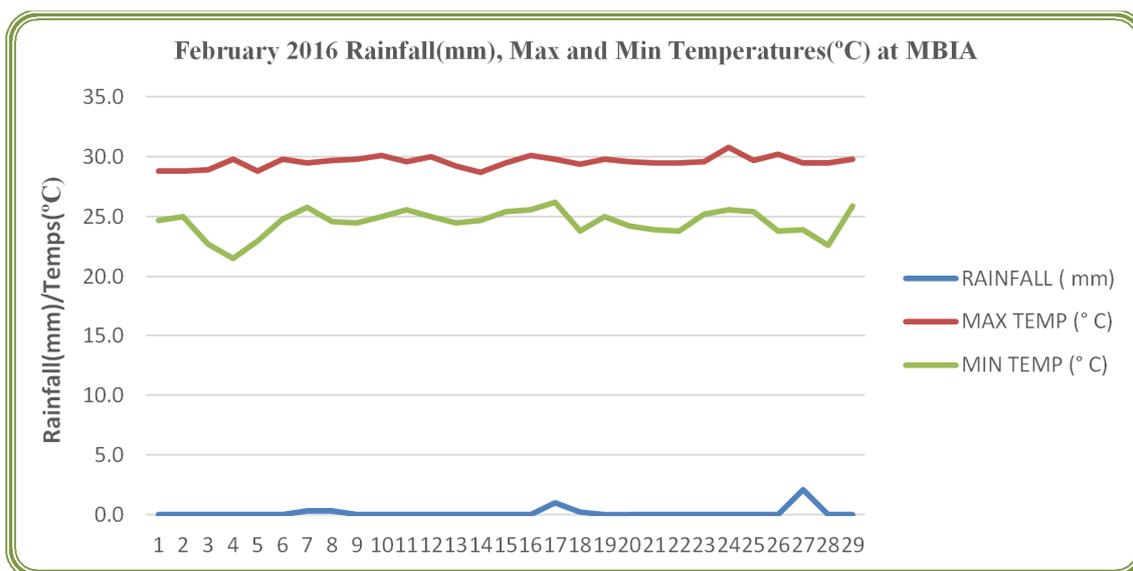
Dry air and strong subsidence dominated the weather for almost the entire month of February. As a result of this, February experienced a mere 3.9mm of rainfall which was the fourth lowest on record, and 88.79% below the LTA of 34.8mm, 89.26% below the 30-year average of 36.3mm and 83.33% below last year's 23.4mm. The lack of rainfall led to the ground being dry and hard and cracking up in some places, as shown in *Fig. 1*.



Fig. 1

A moisture surge at the low levels produced 2.1mm of rainfall on the 27th to record the highest 24hour

period for the month. This was the last of five days with measurable rainfall for the month of February.



Graph for February 2016 showing rainfall (mm), Max and Min temperatures (°C)

Accompanying the dry and hot weather conditions, were higher than average temperatures. Mean daily temperatures exceeded that of last years by an average of 0.2°C to reach a mean of 27.1°C, while the mean maximum and minimum temperatures were 29.6°C and 24.5°C respectfully. The highest maximum temperature was 30.8°C and occurred on the 24th while the lowest minimum temperature was 21.5°C and occurred on the 4th of the month.



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Although there were a few calm spells, the winds were mostly strong as a result of the tight pressure gradients from the Bermuda Azores High which peaked at 1049mb on the 17th. These strong winds generated moderate to rough seas and marine advisories were issued on the 5th-7th, 9th –19th, 22nd-23rd, 25th and 28th of the month. The choppy seas made fishing difficult and hence fishermen were only able to have limited catches in Bonito and Barracuda on the east coast and some Hinds and big Jacks from the south, and Ocean gar on the west coast.

The lack of rainfall has had its serious effect on the farming community; farmers had losses in their Clove seedlings and other spices due to wilting. In some areas where irrigation was possible, farmers had good production of Lettuce, Pak Choi and Christophine. Other crops that were in abundance on the market were Dasheen, Yams, Ginger, Grapefruit, Ugly fruit and Green peas.

N.B: - LTA – Long Term Average.

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