

December Agro-met Summary

December is normally considered the transition period between the wet and dry seasons. Our rainfall was dominated by trough systems as expected. One such system prompted the issuing of flood advisory on the 3th. The total recorded at M.B.I.A. was 89.4mm. This total is 15.9mm below the L.T.A. (107.3mm) and also 14.4mm below the 30yr average (103.8mm). The highest 24 hrs measurement (caused by low level moisture surge) was 24.2mm on the 31st & 23.2mm on the 30th.

With December's figures, the total rainfall for 2017 was 1,285.7mm. This is 120.4mm above the 30yr average, and 121.5mm above the Long Term Average. This also means that 2017 is the 9th wettest year on record. June was the wettest month, with 256.4mm followed by October with 204.5mm. April was the driest with 1.2mm making it the driest April on record.

Temperatures on the other hand increased slightly. Ave max. Temp: 30.2c°. This is above both the L.T. and 30 yrs aves (both 30.1c°). Highest max recorded was 31.2c° observed on the 26th. This was the 6th warmest December on record. The Ave min. Temp for the month was 24.1c°. This is above the L.T. and 30yrs average 23.8c°. The coolest nights were on the 11th & 12th with temperatures falling to 22.1c°. The nights of December 2017 were the third warmest on records.

As expected several mid latitude cyclones formed and or entered the Northern Atlantic and their associated frontal boundaries and shear lines impacted our region. Our office was forced to issue Marine Advisories on eleven days. This of course affected our fishing sector reducing the amount of finishing days, thus the catch.

The farming community feared well this month. Having only five dry days the equitable distribution produced good yields and farmers were happy with the average soil moisture levels. The traditional Christmas crops like sorrel and ground provisions were in good supply. Pigeon peas and breadfruit were considered late.

December 2017 Rainfall(mm), Max & Min Temperatures(°C) at MBIA

