



March 2017 Agro-Met Report

Dry conditions continued across the Southern sector of Grenada. At MBIA, March's precipitation was below normal for the third consecutive month. In addition, the Cumulative precipitation for the Drought year (June 2016 – May 2017) has been lower than the Climatological period (30-year average) since September 2016. *See Figure 1. below.*

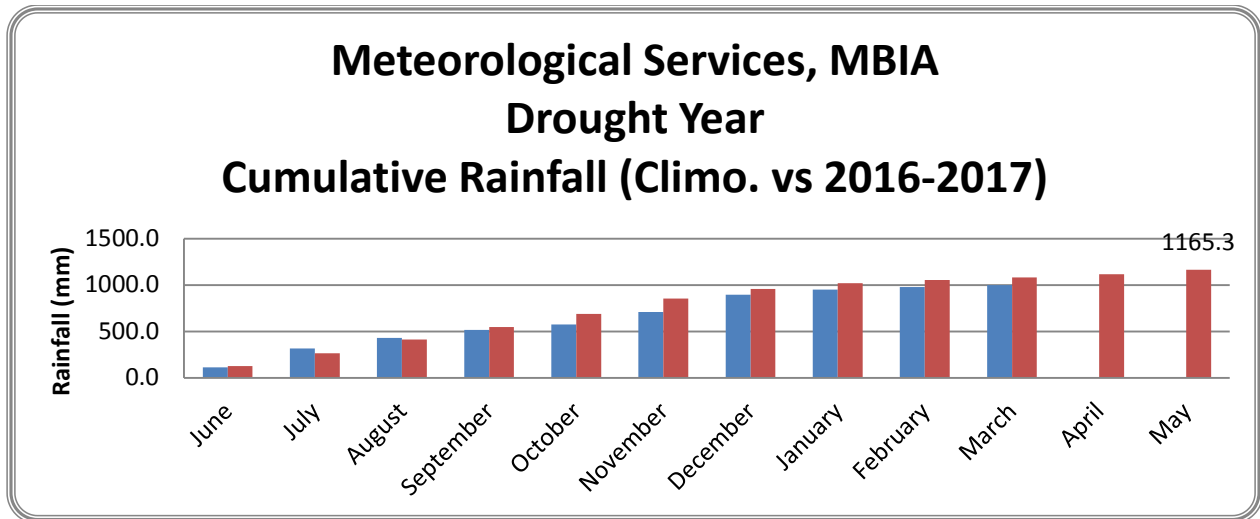
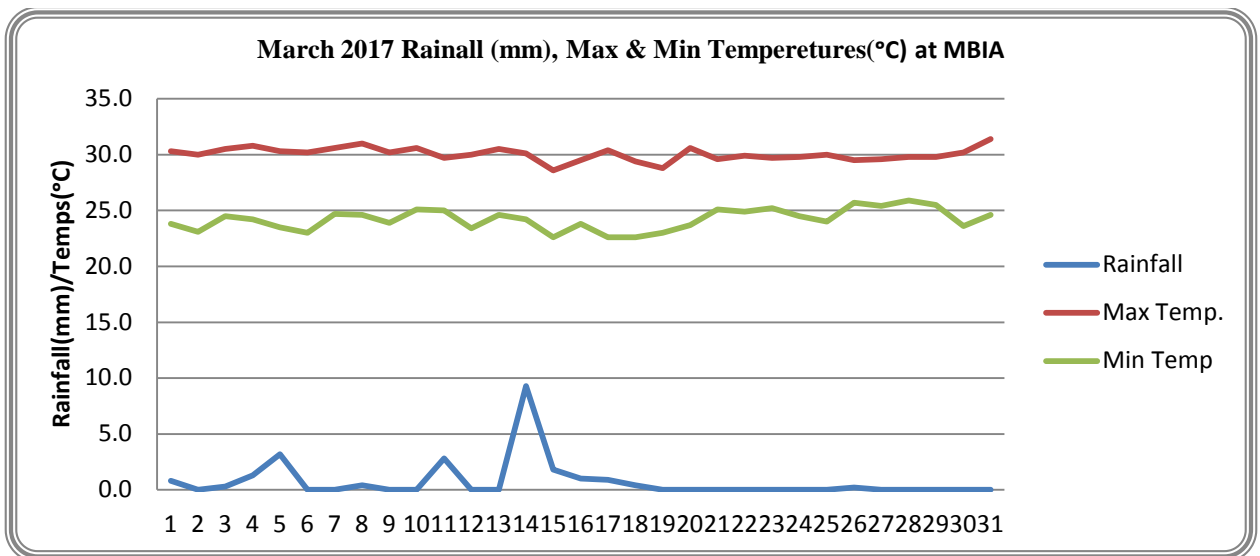


Figure 1.

Rainfall recorded for the month of March was 22.4mm which was approximately 83% of the 30-year average of 27.0mm. This was mainly due to Low level moisture surges that were pushed by the Trade winds. The highest 24-hour period was 9.3mm recorded on the 14th. There were eight (8) days with a trace and eleven (11) days without rainfall. *See graph below.*



Graph for March 2017 showing rainfall (mm), Max and Min temperatures (°C)



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Mean daily temperatures for March 2017 were 0.5°C lower than March 2016 reaching a mean of 27.1°C, while the mean maximum and minimum temperatures were 30.0°C and 24.2°C respectively. The highest maximum temperature was 31.5°C recorded on the 31st compared with 31.3°C for the LTA (Long Term Average). The lowest minimum temperature of 22.6°C was recorded on the 15th, 17th and 18th compared with 21.9 °C for 2016 and 21.4°C for the LTA.

The Bermuda Azores High peaked at 1039mb during the month of March. Wind speeds of 10 to 20 knots and over were generated for most of the month and was generally from the E – ENE most of the time. Marine advisories were issued on the 1st-12th, 16th-17th, 21st-23rd and 29th -30th of the month. The seas were generally slight to moderate, being a bit more on the moderate side. Despite this, fishermen ventured out to sea and had catches in Yellow fin tuna, Barracuda, Jacks and Ballyhoo especially on the east coast.

Even though rainfall continued to be below normal, Farmers were able to have good crop production in Plantains, Pumpkins, Herbs, Pawpaw, Egg plants, Breadfruit, Tania, Tomatoes, Cauliflower and Seasoning peppers.

N.B: 30-year average - 1985-2014.

LTA – Long Term Average i.e. Ongoing

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