



October 2017 Agro-Met Report



There were three named storms formed in the North Atlantic basin for this month, Nate, Ophelia and Philippe. Two of these, Nate and Ophelia, became hurricanes, with Ophelia reaching major hurricane strength. Fortunately none of these storms posed any threat to our island. The 2017 season is the 5th most active on record, behind 1893, 1926, 1933 and 2005, with sixteen (16) named cyclones thus far.

The month of October brought some rather showery activities. Grenada was affected by a number of Tropical waves and, trough systems. In addition the northward oscillation of the ITCZ, brought heavy showers to the island resulting in flooding's and landslides throughout the country. The total rainfall recorded for the month at Maurice Bishop was 204.5mm, which is above the long term average and the 30 years average, of 142.6 and 142.7 respectfully. This also means that this October was the fifth (5th) wittiest October on record. There were two days where 30.4 mm of rainfall was measured, four days of a trace and four days of no rainfall recorded.

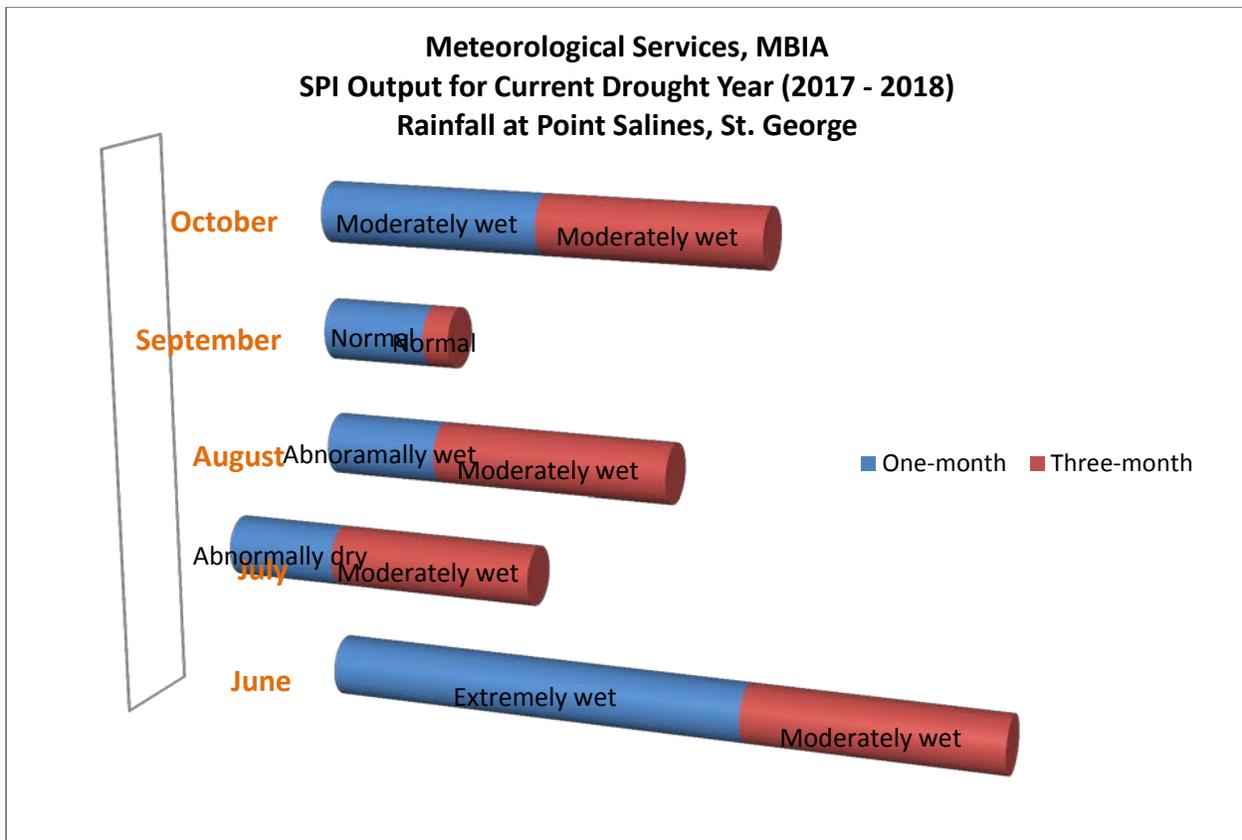


Figure 1 Shows the SPI output for current drought year 2017 with the rainfall recorded at point Saline, with October month being moderately wet.



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The highest maximum temperature for the month was 32.3°C recorded on the 13th, which is 0.1 less than the long term average and 0.2 less than the 30 years average. The lowest minimum was 22.8°C recorded on 20th which is 0.2°C below the long term average and 0.1°C below the 30yrs average. The mean temperature was 27.7°C.

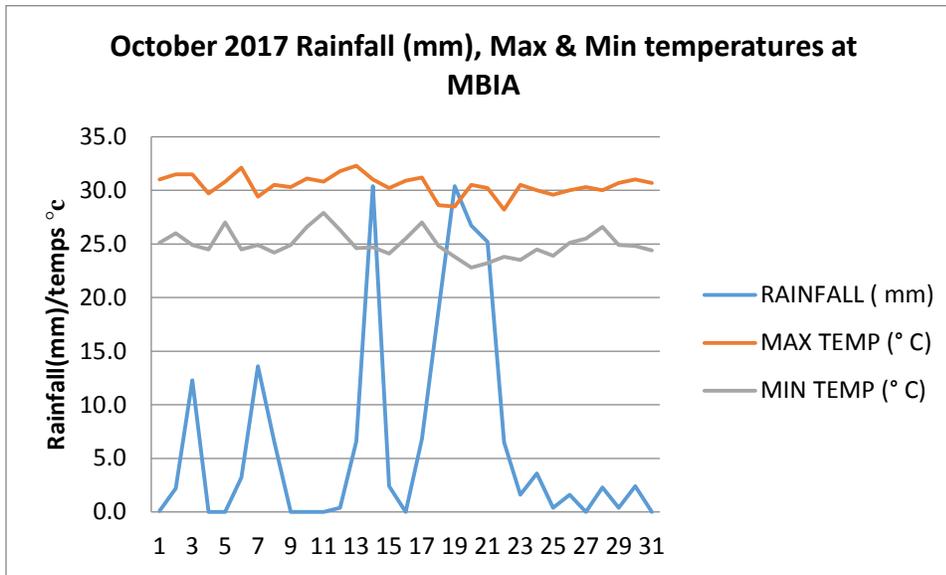


Figure 2 shows the daily rainfall, max and min temperature.

While the increased rainfall was welcomed by farmers, some difficulties were encountered. The frequency and the intensity of the rainfall events occurred in most instances as downpours resulting in less penetration, and greater runoff, floods and erosion. In spite of all the obstacles faced some crops like citrus, Soursop, Peppers and Cherries flourished.

The first half of the month fishermen were faced with moderate to rough seas advisories, despite of all the Fisher folks still ventured out at sea to secure their lively hood, catching Tuna ,Hinds, Jacks, Bonita, and Ocean Gear .

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