

## Grenada's January 2018 Agro-Met Summary

The first month of 2018 presented a few interesting scenarios. January being the start of the dry season saw a number of trough systems affecting our island. These systems were responsible for a total of 105.5mm of rain been collected. This total was 42mm above the Long Term Average (LTA) of 63.5mm and 43.8mm above the 30yr average which is 61.7mm. This January was the 6<sup>th</sup> wettest on record. One of those system produced 14.9mm on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. This was the highest 24hr rainfall for the month. The Met office was forced to issues flood warnings as the island was thoroughly drenched. The second biggest rainfall event occurred on the 21<sup>st</sup> when 14.0mm collected. There was nine (9) days of no significant rainfall.

Temperatures for the month were not as dramatic. The average max temperature was 29.5°C, just below the LTA of 29.6°C. The hottest day was the 24<sup>th</sup>. On that day temp soared to 30.0°C. The nights on the other hand were hotter than normal, with the average min temperature of 23.8°C. This is higher than the LTA and the 30yr average of 23.3°C and 23.2°C respectively.

During the month under review marine conditions were very turbulent. As expected numerous mid-latitude cyclones were either formed or entered the North Atlantic. These systems, together with the effect of the ridging pattern produced by the Bermuda/Azores High which drifted south to around 30°N for most of the month and peaking at 1044mb on the 15<sup>th</sup> agitated our seas. Marine advisories were issued from the 6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup>, the 14<sup>th</sup> then from the 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> and from the 27<sup>th</sup>-

31<sup>st</sup>. This reduced the number of days available for local fishermen to venture out to sea hence catches were affected.

The wet month served farmers well. Crops like sorrel, plantain and ground provisions were in abundance. Pigeon Peas, was late for the Christmas and so was very popular with the vendors. Breadfruit made a strong appearance just in time for the Independence celebrations.

