



**Agro-meteorological Bulletin and Assessment for Farmers and Livestock
Producers of Trinidad and Tobago for the First Dekad (1st -10th) of May
2018.**

Definitions used in the forecast and bulletin:

Term	Meaning	
Dekad	10 day rainfall measuring period	
Rain Day	A day with 1.0 mm or more of rainfall amount	
Wet Day	A day with 10.0 mm or more of rainfall amount	
Extremely Wet Day	A day with 25.0 mm or more of rainfall amount	
Normal Rainfall	Between 75% and 125 % of the average	
Below Normal Rainfall	Rainfall below 75% of the average	
Above Normal Rainfall	Rainfall in excess of 125 % of the average	
Much below Normal Rainfall	Rainfall below 50% of the average	
Much above Normal Rainfall	Rainfall above 150% of the average	
Scanty Rainfall	Less than 1 mm	
Moderate Rainfall	1-10 mm	
Heavy Rainfall	10-50 mm	
Very heavy Rainfall	Greater than 50 mm	
Probability of 1-30 %	Low Chance	
Probability of 30-70 %	Moderate Chance	
Probability greater than 70%	High Chance	
Term	Amount of Rain	Type of day
Scanty Rainfall	Less than 1 mm	Relatively dry day
Moderate Rainfall	1-10 mm	Relatively wet day
Heavy Rainfall	10-50 mm	Wet day
Very heavy Rainfall	Greater than 50 mm	Excessively wet day

Weather Assessment for the Third Dekad (21st – 31st) of April 2018.

Mostly dry conditions dominated Trinidad and Tobago over the dekad, where both islands experienced some patchy conditions at times with some light rainfall over few areas. Northeastern, eastern and southeastern areas such as Piarco, El Reposo, Brasso Vernado and Guayaguayare had rainfall totals ranging between 2.0 mm and 9.0 mm; which was well below the range forecasted of 20.0 mm to 30.0 mm. Southern and southwestern areas such as San Fernando, Penal, Debe and Chatham had rainfall totals ranging between 2.0 mm to 6.8 mm which was well below the range forecasted of 10.0 mm to 20.0 mm. Central districts of Cunupia, Longdenville, Freeport, Caroni, Waterloo, Preysal, and Couva had rainfall ranging between 0.5 mm to 2.6 mm, again which was well below the range forecasted. Northern and northwestern areas such as Tunapuna, Port of Spain, West

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moorings and Carenage had rainfall ranging between 0.0 mm to 17.2 mm well below the expected amount of 20.0 mm to 30.0 mm

Similarly, Tobago had experience some rainfall, central areas of Mount Moriah and Castara had rainfall totals ranging between 1.0 mm to 4.5 mm; while western areas such as Crown Point and Buccoo had rainfall totals ranging between 2.0 mm to 3.8 mm; well below the forecasted amount of 10.0 mm to 20.0 mm.

Trinidad's temperature was generally within expected range, maximum temperature went up to 32.2 °C, which was within the expected range of 32.0 °C to 33.0 °C. At the same time Tobago's maximum got up to 31.3 °C, within the range expected of 31.0 °C to 32.0 °C. Similarly, lowest temperatures recorded were 21.6 °C in Trinidad and 23.8 °C in Tobago. In Trinidad's case, they were below the expected range, from 22.0 °C to 23.8 °C but well within the expected range of 22.8 °C to 24.2 °C for Tobago. The average humidity for both islands remained in the mid-sixties, falling lower during hot and breezy conditions and going up during cloudy, cool and relatively wet periods. The dry conditions during the dekad did not support crops survival and must have warranted frequent irrigation.

Expected Weather for First Dekad (1st – 10th) of May 2018 and Likely Impact on Agriculture.

The forecast for the first dekad of May indicates that farmers can expect substantial rainfall as compared to the last dekad of April. During the first dekad, farmers will experience relatively wet to wet days during days 3rd, 4th, 5th and 10th dekad, while relatively dry conditions during the other days of the dekad. The ten-day period totals, forecast to range between 20.0 mm and 40.0 mm in Trinidad and between 15.0 mm to 30.0 mm in Tobago.

The average daily temperatures across Trinidad and Tobago are likely to range between 26.2 °C and 27.6 °C. Expect the highest maximum temperature over the dekad to peak near 33.5 °C in **Trinidad**, while the lowest night to early morning minimum temperature could dip below 21.7 °C. Especially along the foothills and valleys during relatively cloud free nights. Likewise, during the dekad, in **Tobago**, the highest maximum temperature will peak near 32.0 °C, while the lowest minimum temperature will be dip below 22.8 °C, mostly during relatively cloud free nights.

For both Trinidad and Tobago, the daytime relative humidity (RH) is likely to range between 42% and 69%. However, during relatively wet days, RH percentage values will range around 70% to 91%. At the same time, wind speeds are expected to range between 25 km/h and 36 km/h. In addition, evaporation rates are expected to range between 2.5 mm/day and 10.0 mm/day, but can be slightly more during warmer and windier periods and slightly less during relatively wet days.

The initial relatively dry start to the dekad, will definitely increase the need for frequent irrigation. However, during the dekad, on days 3rd, 4th, 5th and 10th, expect relatively wet to wet conditions and possible decrease in the frequency of irrigation. However, other days will warrant an increase in the

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frequency of irrigation and possible shading of seedlings and young animals from solar radiation during the last month of spring. There is a moderate chance of frequent visitation of Saharan dust that will occasionally reduce visibility to minimum of 7.5 km. Additionally, owing to the possible initial dry conditions and few relatively wet to wet days, there is a low probability that the expected conditions will be favourable for some agricultural insect pests, fungi and diseases to develop and thrive. Moreover, the expected daytime wind speeds, together with the funneling effect of wind along narrow paths and undulating landscapes, may affect some seedlings negatively by causing seedlings' stems and leaves to be damaged. In addition, strong winds may hamper some types of fertilizer application and crops' ability to retain flowers.

Trinidad's Mean Daily Rainfall Forecast for the First Dekad of May (1st–10th) 2018.

Northern & Northwestern areas:

Moderate chance (64%) of mean daily rainfall up to 3.0 mm.

North-Eastern and Eastern areas:

Moderate chance (67%) of mean daily rainfall up to 3.9 mm.

Central, West-Central and inland areas:

Moderate chance (60%) of mean daily rainfall up to 2.2 mm.

South-Eastern areas:

Moderate chance (68%) of mean daily rainfall up to 4.0 mm.

Southern areas:

Moderate chance (66%) of mean daily rainfall up to 3.5 mm.

South-Western areas:

Moderate chance (65%) of mean daily rainfall up to 3.1 mm.

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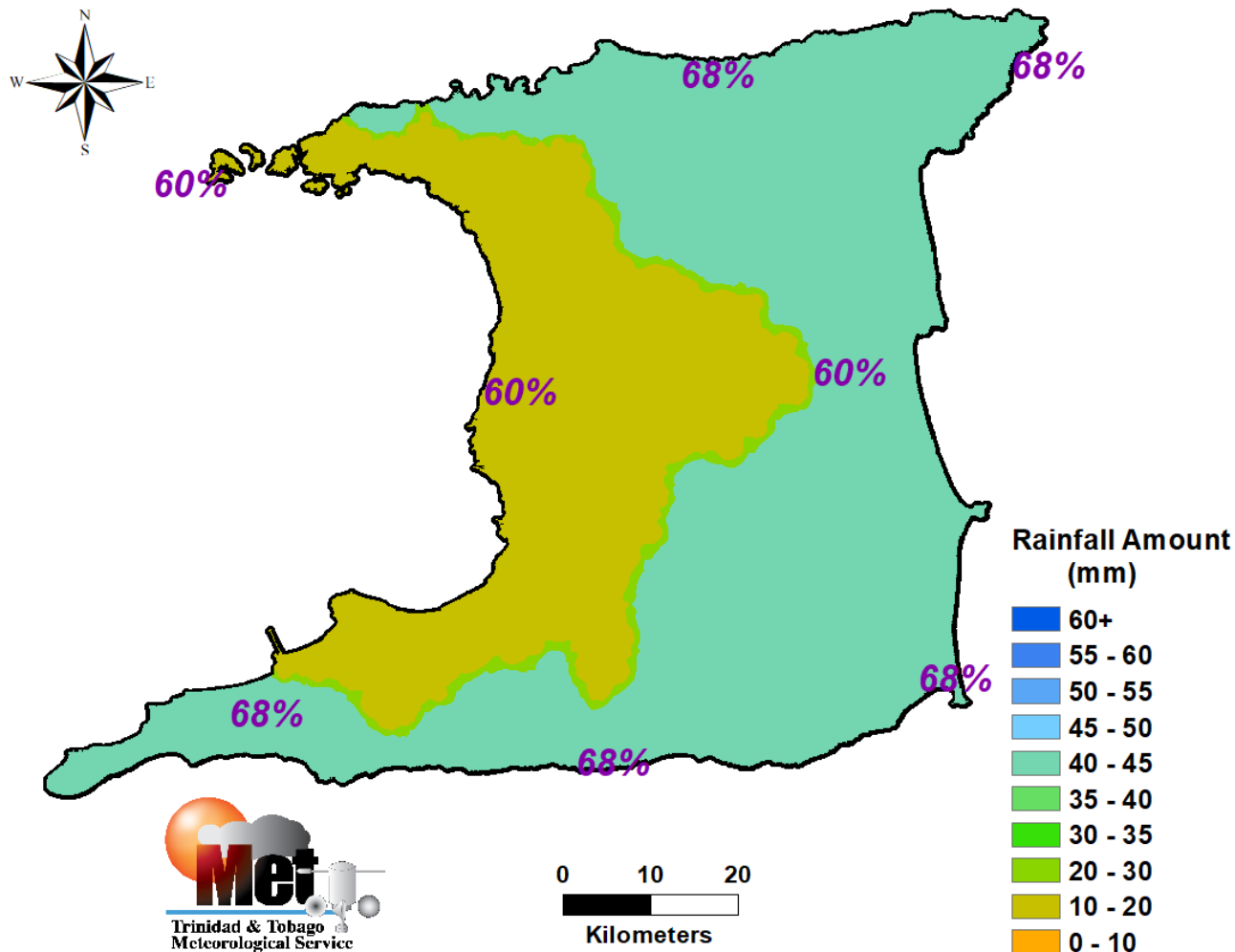


Figure 1. Rainfall Map of Trinidad showing possible rainfall totals for varying districts during first dekad of May 2018 and percentage probability of occurrence.

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Tobago's Mean Daily Rainfall Forecast for the First Dekad of May (1st - 10th) 2018.

Northeastern areas:

Moderate chance (67%) of mean daily rainfall up to 2.9 mm.

South-Western areas:

Moderate chance (65%) of mean daily rainfall up to 2.5 mm.

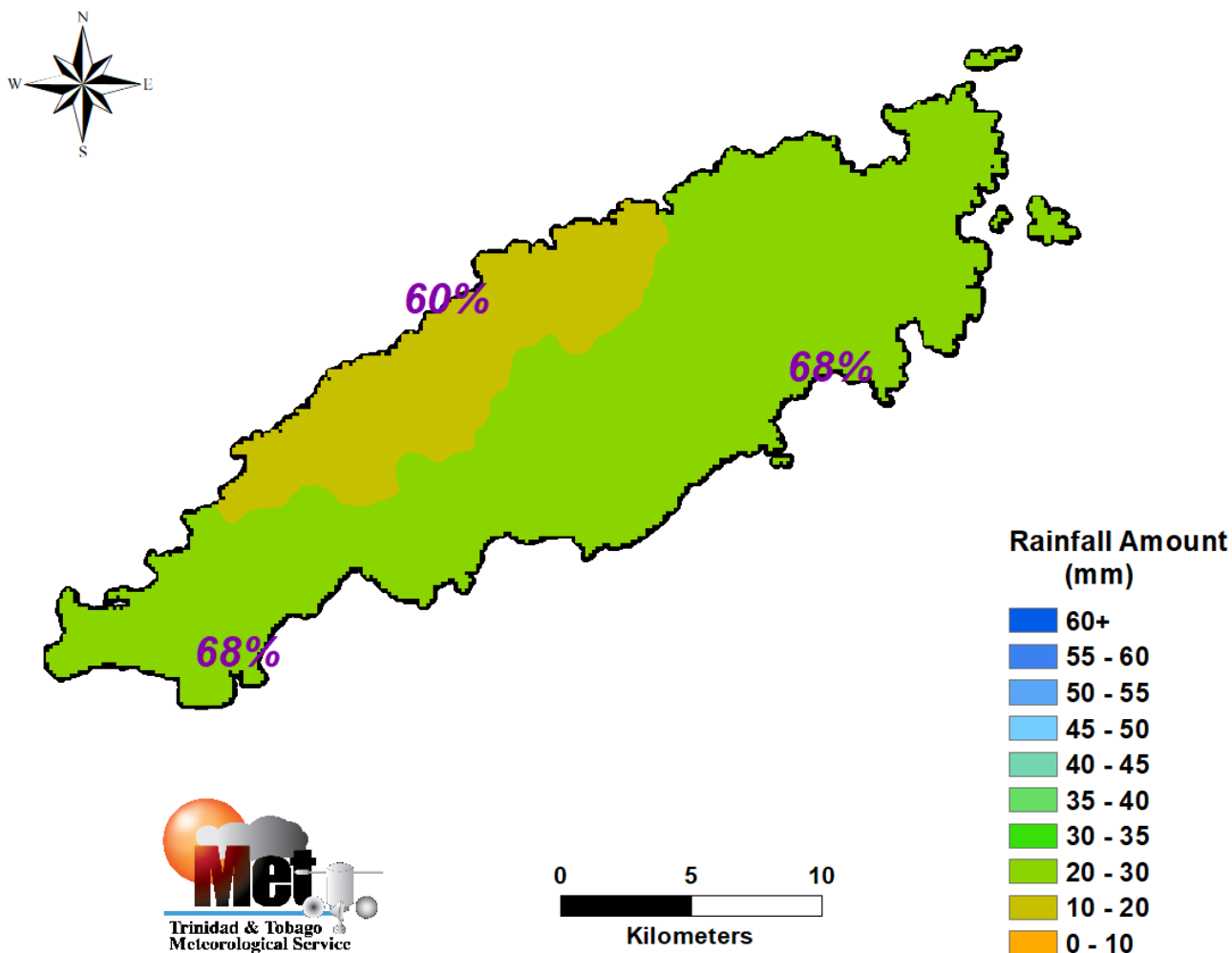


Figure 2. Rainfall Map of Tobago showing possible rainfall totals for varying districts during first dekad of May 2018 and percentage probability of occurrence.

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Temperatures:

Trinidad's Temperature Forecast for the first Dekad of May (1st-10th) 2018.

Moderate chance (70%) of daily maximum temperatures to exceed 32.3⁰C, peaking near 33.5 ⁰C.

Moderate chance (70%) of daily minimum temperatures to be below 24.1 ⁰C, dropping as low as 21.7 ⁰C.

Tobago's Temperature Forecast for the first Dekad of May (1st-10th) 2018.

Moderate chance (70%) of daily maximum temperatures to exceed 30.5 ⁰C, peaking near 32.0 ⁰C.

Moderate chance (70%) of daily minimum temperatures to be below 24.4 ⁰C, dropping as low as 22.8 ⁰C.

Summary:

The outlook for the first dekad of May calls for relatively dry days during: 1st, 2nd, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th followed by relatively wet to wet days during: 3rd, 4th, 5th and 10th of the dekad. Overall, temperatures are warming with **average** temperatures ranging between 26.2 ⁰C and 27.6⁰C in both islands over the full dekad. The highest maximum temperatures are likely to reach 33.5 ⁰C in Trinidad and 32.0 ⁰C in Tobago. While, the lowest minimum temperatures are likely reach 21.7 ⁰C in Trinidad and 22.8 ⁰C in Tobago. A change from relative dry to relatively wet conditions is expected to continue until the middle of May; with the gradual transitioning into wetter conditions. Opportunities for water harvesting will increase during the wet days, but at this time, any opportunity to harvest and store rainwater should be undertaken, while irrigation processes continue.

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