

# Agro-meteorological Bulletin and Assessment for Farmers and Livestock Producers of Trinidad and Tobago for the Third Dekad (21<sup>st</sup> -30<sup>th</sup>) of June 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 (21<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>) of June 2018.

A dry start followed by relative wet to wet conditions dominated Trinidad and Tobago over the dekad, where both islands experienced some patchy cloudy to cloudy conditions at times on days 13<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th,</sup> 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>; with light to moderate occasionally heavy rainfall over most areas. These rainfall events were due to Tropical Waves passage across the islands and frequent visitation of the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ). Northeastern and eastern areas had rainfall totals similar to Piarco of 76.0 mm and were above the forecasted range of 40.0 mm to 60.0 mm. Similarly, central areas had rainfall totals as follows: Chaguanas (81.5 mm), Freeport (40.6 mm) Preysal (42.4 mm) and Couva (80.8 mm) again which was above the range forecasted of 30.0 mm to 35.0 mm. Additionally, southern areas had the following rainfall amounts: San Fernando (44.2 mm), Princess Town (67.0 mm) and Golconda (64.0 mm) which was again well above the range forecasted of 30.0 mm to 35.0

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mm. Likewise, northern and northwestern areas had rainfall totals as follows: Tunapuna (81.5 mm) and Carenage (46.2 mm), where again above the expected amount of 30.0 mm to 35.0 mm.

In the same way, Tobago had experienced some rainfall, central areas of Mount Moriah and Castara had rainfall totals ranging between 15.0 mm to 22.1 mm which was within the range 10.0 mm to 20.0 mm; while western areas such as Crown Point and Buccoo had rainfall totals ranging between 45.0 mm to 58.3 mm again; well above the forecasted amount of 30.0 mm to 35.0 mm.

Trinidad's temperature was generally within expected range, maximum temperature went up to 33.8 <sup>o</sup>C, which was above the expected range of 33.0 <sup>o</sup>C to 33.5 <sup>o</sup>C. At the same time Tobago's maximum got up to 31.8 <sup>o</sup>C, within the range expected of 31.5 <sup>o</sup>C to 32.2 <sup>o</sup>C. Similarly, lowest temperatures recorded were 22.8 <sup>o</sup>C in Trinidad and 23.6 <sup>o</sup>C in Tobago. In Trinidad's case, the minimum temperature was within the expected range, of 22.2 <sup>o</sup>C to 24.0 <sup>o</sup>C. On the other hand, the minimum temperature was just below the range of 24.0 <sup>o</sup>C to 24.8 <sup>o</sup>C for Tobago. The average humidity for both islands remained in the upper-sixties, falling lower during hot and breezy conditions and raising during cloudy, cool and relatively wet periods. Since relatively dry days occurred in between wet days during the dekad. Frequent irrigation may not have been necessary.

## Expected Weather for Third Dekad (21st – 30th) of June 2018 and Likely Impact on Agriculture.

The forecast for the third dekad of June indicates that farmers can expect similar rainfall amounts as compared to the second dekad of June. During the third dekad, farmers will experience relatively wet to wet days during days 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of the dekad, while relatively dry conditions during the other days of the dekad. The ten-day period rainfall totals, forecast to range between 60.0 mm and 100.0 mm in Trinidad and between 30.0 mm to 55.0 mm in Tobago.

The average daily temperatures across Trinidad and Tobago are likely to range between 26.0 °C and 28.6 °C. Expect the highest maximum temperature over the dekad to peak near 32.8 °C in **Trinidad**, while the lowest night to early morning minimum temperature could dip below 22.8 °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 31.6 °C, while the lowest minimum temperature will be dip below 23.2 °C.

For both Trinidad and Tobago, the daytime relative humidity (RH) is likely to range between 62% and 85%. However, during relatively wet days, RH percentage values will range around 79% to 100%. At the same time, wind speeds are expected to range between 18 km/h and 40 km/h. In addition, evaporation rates are expected to range between 3.0 mm/day and 8.8 mm/day, but can be slightly more during warmer and windier periods and slightly less during relatively wet days.

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The initial wet start to the dekad, will definitely decrease the need for frequent irrigation. However, during the dekad, on days 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, expect relatively dry conditions with the possible increase in the frequency of irrigation.

In consequence of the expected weather conditions during the dekad, there is a low (30%) probability of heat stress on certain variety plant seedlings and young animals from exposure to solar radiation and warm temperatures. There is also a low (30%) probability chance of frequent visitation of Saharan dust that will occasionally reduce visibility to minimum of 7.5 km.

Additionally, during the first half dekad, there is a moderate (65%) probability of some agricultural insect pests, fungi and diseases to get a foot in and possibly develop and thrive. Moreover, the expected daytime wind speeds and specifically down draft from cloud clusters, 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, possible strong winds and high intensity rainfall may hamper some types of fertilizer, fungicide and insecticide application and retention.

# Trinidad's Mean Daily Rainfall Forecast for the Third Dekad of June (21<sup>st</sup>–30<sup>th</sup>) 2018.

## Northern & Northwestern areas:

Moderate chance (65%) of mean daily rainfall up to 8.0 mm.

## North-Eastern and Eastern areas:

Moderate chance (67%) of mean daily rainfall up to 9.4 mm.

## Central, West-Central and inland areas:

Moderate chance (62%) of mean daily rainfall up to 6.9 mm.

## South-Eastern areas:

Moderate chance (67%) of mean daily rainfall up to 9.5 mm.

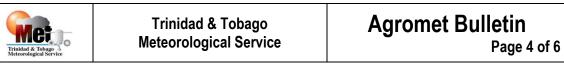
## Southern areas:

Moderate chance (65%) of mean daily rainfall up to 8.0 mm.

## South-Western areas:

Moderate chance (63%) of mean daily rainfall up to 7.0 mm.

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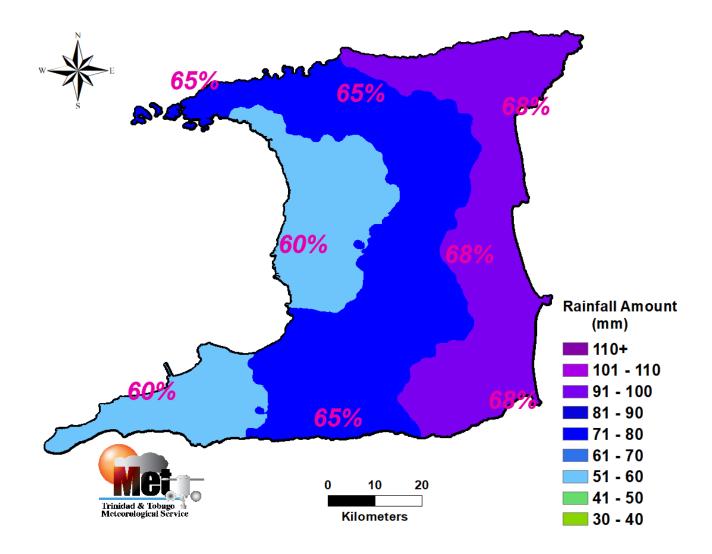


Figure 1. Rainfall Map of Trinidad showing possible rainfall totals for varying districts during third dekad of June 2018 and percentage probability of occurrence.

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# Tobago's Mean Daily Rainfall Forecast for the Third Dekad of June (21<sup>st</sup>- 30<sup>th</sup>) 2018.

### Northeastern areas:

Moderate chance (68%) of mean daily rainfall up to 5.2 mm.

#### South-Western areas:

Moderate chance (67%) of mean daily rainfall up to 4.6 mm.

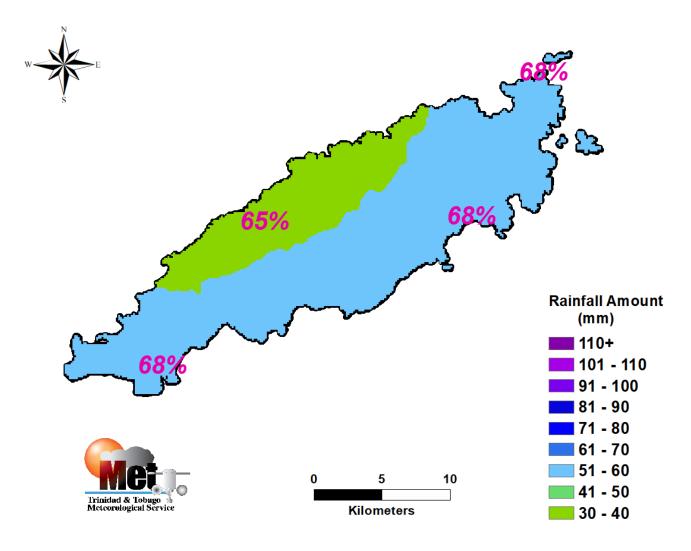


Figure 2. Rainfall Map of Tobago showing possible rainfall totals for varying districts during third dekad of June 2018 and percentage probability of occurrence.

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## Temperatures:

## **Trinidad's Temperature Forecast for the Third Dekad of June (21<sup>st</sup> -30<sup>th</sup>) 2018.**

Moderate chance (70%) of daily maximum temperatures to exceed 31.2 °C, peaking near 32.8 °C.

Moderate chance (70%) of daily minimum temperatures to be below 24.0  $^{0}$ C, dropping as low as 22.8  $^{0}$ C.

# Tobago's Temperature Forecast for the Third Dekad of June (21<sup>st</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>) 2018.

Moderate chance (70%) of daily maximum temperatures to exceed 30.5 °C, peaking near 31.6 °C.

Moderate chance (70%) of daily minimum temperatures to be below 24.5 <sup>o</sup>C, dropping as low as

23.2 °C.

## Summary:

The outlook for the third dekad of June calls for relatively wet to wet days during: 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> and relatively dry days during: 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of the dekad. Overall, temperatures are warming with **average** temperatures ranging between 26.0 °C and 28.6°C in both islands over the full dekad. The highest maximum temperature is likely to reach 32.8 °C in Trinidad and 31.6 °C in Tobago. While, the lowest minimum temperatures are likely to reach 22.8 °C in Trinidad and 23.2 °C in Tobago. Opportunities for water harvesting will increase during the relatively wet to wet days, any additional opportunity to harvest and store rainwater should be undertaken, while irrigation processes continue.

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