

	Trinidad & Tobago Meteorological Service	Agromet Bulletin Page 1 of 6
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Agro-meteorological Bulletin and Assessment for Farmers and Livestock Producers of Trinidad and Tobago for the First Ten days of August (01st -10th) 2017

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 Ten Days (Dekad) of July (21st – 31st) 2017

Weather conditions for agriculture were mostly favourable during the last ten days of July in Trinidad as wet conditions dominated the majority of days with moderate to heavy rainfall occurring on most days at various districts across the island. The period, 22nd to 25th was particularly wet and accounted for most of the ten-day rainfall totals in the island. Preliminary ten-day rainfall at Piarco was close to 90.0mm, but based on observations, totals were higher at

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other locations. Tobago experienced mixed conditions during the dekad with the period from the 23rd to 25th producing moderate to heavy rainfall with as much as 25.0 mm of rainfall occurring on the 25th in the Crown Point area. Preliminary ten-day rainfall total at Crown Point amounted close to 40.0mm and based on observations, similar rainfall amounts were observed elsewhere on the island.

At the same time, maximum day temperatures at Piarco soared above 33.0°C on seven of the ten days to peak at 34.0°C; while night minimum temperatures fluctuated between 22.3°C and 24.9°C. Across at Crown Point, maximum day temperatures remained above 31.0°C on eight of the ten days to peak at 32.4°C; while night minimum temperatures never fell below 25.0°C.

The wet and humid conditions would have been favourable for some bacterial, fungal and viral crop diseases to flourish. At the same time, the soggy fields in Trinidad would have reduced soil oxygen, increased the loss of nitrogen and other important nutrients, which can negatively affect fruit quality and crop yields. Meanwhile, these conditions would have reduced the need for irrigation, improved water flow and levels in streams and ponds, while providing good opportunities for water harvesting, where needed.

Expected Weather for the First Ten days of August (01st–10th) 2017 and Likely Impact on Agriculture

High chances exist for a number of heavy rainfall episodes during the first ten days of August, across large areas of Trinidad and Tobago. The most favourable likelihood is for areas in northwestern Trinidad, and all of Tobago to receive the heaviest downpours. The first two days are expected to continue with mixed conditions with spotty showers occurring at various locations. Farmers should expect wetter conditions from the 3th to the 6th when daily rainfall total can exceed 5.0mm, while Tobago is likely to be the wetter of the two islands. Drier conditions are in the forecast for the period from the 7th to the 10th but pockets of moderate to heavy rainfall are still expected on these days especially on the 9th. Overall there is a 65% chance for ten-day rainfall totals between 40.0mm and 75.0mm across both islands.

During the forecast period, day-time temperatures are expected to remain warmer than normal for all of Trinidad and Tobago. Expect day-time temperatures to peak between 32.0°C and 34°C on most days in Trinidad and between 31.0°C and 32.0°C in Tobago. Night-time temperatures are expected to be on the cool side, varying between 23.0°C and 26.0°C on both islands but the valleys and foothills of the northern range, other hilly areas in Trinidad and northern areas of Tobago can expect slightly cooler night temperatures (between 22.0°C and 23.0°C). These conditions are expected to continue being favourable for agriculture as the wet season

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approaches the period (5-8 weeks from now) when rainfall amounts are likely to be subdued due to the occurrence of Petite Careme. Meanwhile soils continue to be moist which favours all stages of crop growth and development but the mixture of warm and moist conditions is also favourable for rapid multiplication of some crop pests, diseases and fungi. In the heaviest showers, ponding can occur in low-lying crop fields which can lead to flooding. Farmers are encouraged to pay attention to the daily forecasts to negate potential flooding effects on mature crops. Mulching will aid in retaining moisture near crop-root zone areas and thus reduce the need for irrigation.

Preliminary Rainfall and Temperature Outlook for Second Ten Days of August

The outlook indicates a continuation of mixed conditions but more dry days than wet days during the second ten days of August. Temperatures are forecasted to peak near 34.0°C.

Trinidad's Mean Daily Rainfall Forecast for the First Dekad of August (01st -10th) 2017

Northern & Northwestern areas:

Moderate chance (65%) of mean daily rainfall up to 5.0mm.

North-Eastern and Eastern areas:

Moderate chance (65%) of mean daily rainfall up to 7.5mm.

Central, West-Central and inland areas:

Moderate chance (65%) of mean daily rainfall up to 5.5mm.

South-Eastern areas:

Moderate chance (65%) of mean daily rainfall up to 5.5mm.

Southern areas:

Moderate chance (65%) of mean daily rainfall up to 5.5 mm.

South-Western areas:

Moderate chance (65%) of mean daily rainfall up to 5.0mm

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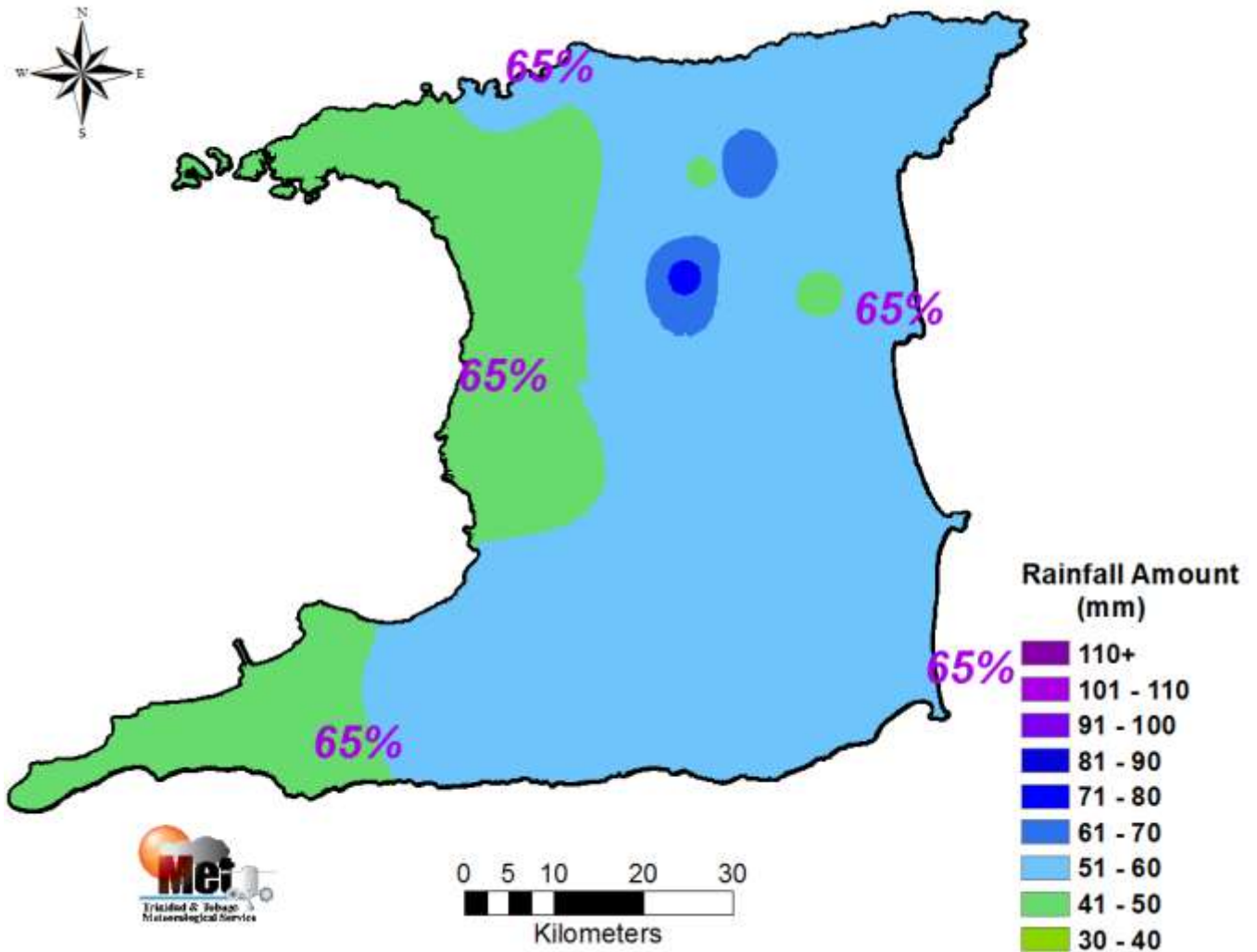


Figure 1. Rainfall Map of Trinidad showing possible rainfall totals for varying districts during the first dekad of August, 2017 and possible probability of occurrence.

Tobago’s Mean Daily Rainfall Forecast for the First Dekad of August (01st -10th) 2017

Northeastern areas:

Moderate chance (65%) of mean daily rainfall up to 7.5mm.

South-Western areas:

Moderate chance (65%) of mean daily rainfall up to 7.0mm.

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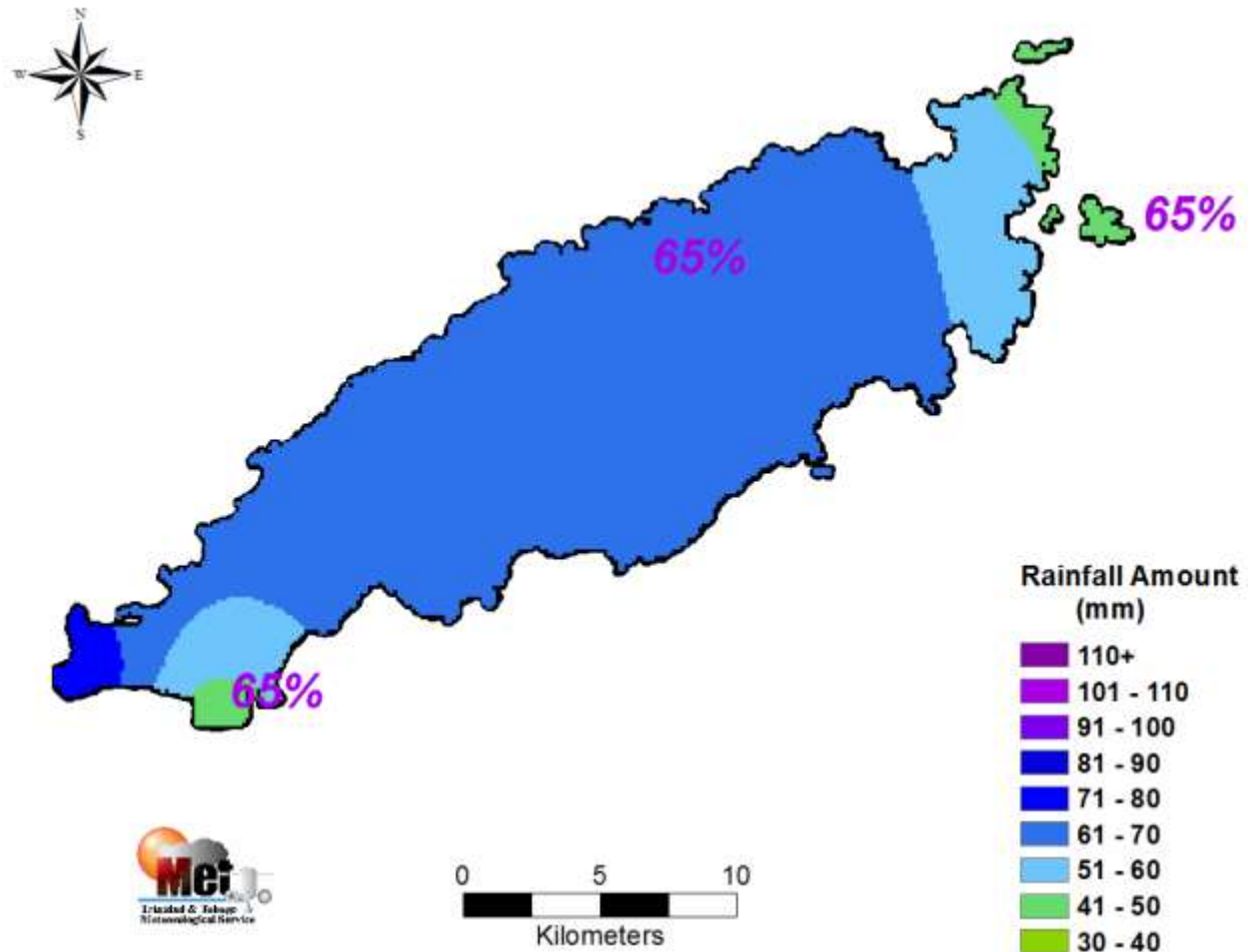


Figure 2. Rainfall Map of Tobago showing possible rainfall totals for varying districts during the first dekad of August, 2017 and possible probability of occurrence

Temperatures

Trinidad's: Temperature Forecasts for the First Ten Days of August (01st – 10th) 2017

Moderate chance (70%) of daily maximum temperatures exceeding 32.0°C, peaking near 34.0°C.
Moderate chance (60%) of daily minimum night temperatures remaining above 24.0°C.

Tobago's: Temperature Forecasts for the First Ten Days of August (01st -10th) 2017

Moderate chance (70%) of daily maximum temperatures exceeding 31.0 °C, peaking near 32.0°C.
Moderate chance (70%) of daily minimum night temperatures remaining above 25.0°C.

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Summary

The weather forecast for the first ten days of August (01st – 10th) 2017 favours weather that will be beneficial to agriculture in most areas. Light to heavy rainfall is expected on most days with possible daily totals in excess of 10.0mm on at least two days. There is a 65% chance for possible ten-day rainfall totals between 40.0 and 75.0 mm across both islands. Temperatures are set to peak near 34.0^oC in Trinidad and near 32.0^oC in Tobago. Farmers should watch out for soggy conditions and possible flooding in low-lying fields on days with heavy rainfall. Based on expected moist and hot conditions, chances are enhanced for rapid multiplication of some agricultural pests, diseases and fungi.

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