

**Agro-meteorological Bulletin and Assessment for Farmers and Livestock
Producers of Trinidad and Tobago for the Second Dekad (11th -20th) of
January, 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 First Dekad (1st - 10th) of January, 2018.

The most of the dekad turned out to be drier than previous dekad in both Trinidad and Tobago, as expected, with the exception of New Year's day. Scanty to Moderate rainfall fell during the second half of the dekad over most areas. The ten-day rainfall total recorded at Piarco Trinidad, was 21.0 mm. Most central districts, had significantly less rainfall amounts than Piarco. These were Longdenville, Carapichama, Couva, Preysal. Their rainfall totals were closer to 12.0 mm, which fits in well with the forecasted conditions. Also, similar amounts as Piarco, were recorded in some southern districts such as Chatham, Golconda, Penal, and Siparia. However, Northwestern districts of West Moorings, Port of Spain and Carenage had slightly lesser amounts, closer to 17.0 mm of

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rainfall. On the other hand, El Reposo and other northeastern districts had rainfall amounts around 37.8 mm, which was not far off from the forecasted amounts of 50.0 mm over the ten-day period.

Similarly, Tobago had close to the expected rainfall amounts. ANR Robinson airport had rainfall amount of 30.9 mm which was near enough to what was forecasted. Neighboring districts' such as Bethel, Mount Pleasant and Buccoo and environs experienced similar rainfall amounts as well. However, Mount Moriah and Les Coteaux had preliminary rainfall amounts of 12.0 mm.

Temperatures continue to be cooler in Trinidad and Tobago. Trinidad's maximum temperature went up to 30.7 °C. At the same time Tobago's maximum got up to 31.2 °C. Conversely, lowest temperatures recorded were 20.6 °C in Trinidad and 23.0 °C in Tobago. The average humidity for both islands remained in the low-sixties and mid-seventies but went up to low eighties during rainfall events.

Saturated soils were in a process of drying, at the beginning of the dekad and this would have reduced the need for irrigation over the first half of dekad. But certainly, regular irrigation was necessary over the second half of the last dekad.

Expected Weather for Second Dekad (11th - 20th) of January, 2018 and Likely Impact on Agriculture.

The forecast for the second dekad of January indicates that farmers can expect similar amounts of rainfall as compared to the last dekad. Farmers can expect relatively wet to wet conditions during the first six days of the dekad. Decreasing rainfall occurrences from day 17th till day 20th. The ten-day period totals are forecasted to range between 20.0 mm and 40.0 mm, with a moderate chance of northeastern, eastern and southeastern districts of Trinidad such as El Reposo, Toco and Brasso Vernado and Mayaro will receive slightly more than 40.0 mm of rainfall. However, northwestern, western, central and southwestern areas of Trinidad such as Port of Spain, Carenage, Carapichiana San Fernando and Chatham will receive slightly less than 20.0 mm of rainfall.

Eastern areas of Tobago such as Speyside, Roxborough and environs may experience slightly more rainfall than 30.0 mm. While the leeward side of Tobago, preferably, along the main ridge such as Mount Moriah, Arnos Vale and Les Coteaux will receive slightly less than 15.0 mm of rainfall.

The average daily temperatures across Trinidad and Tobago are likely to range between 25.5 °C and 26.8 °C. Expect the highest maximum temperature over the dekad to peak near 31.8 °C in Trinidad while the lowest night to early morning minimum temperature could dip below 20.0 °C in Trinidad. Especially along the foothills and valleys during relatively cloud free nights. During the dekad, in Tobago, the highest maximum temperature will peak near 30.8 °C, while the lowest minimum temperature will be dip below 21.6 °C, mostly during relatively cloud free nights.

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For both Trinidad and Tobago, the day time relative humidity (RH) is likely to range between 55% to 69%, but during relatively wet days, RH percentage values will range around 70% to 88%. At the same time, winds speeds are expected to be mostly moderate at 10-30km/h or 5-10m/s. Also, evaporation rates are expected to be in the range from 2.0 mm/day to 7.0 mm/day but can be slightly more during warmer and windier periods. However, slightly less during wetter and still periods.

The initial relatively wet to wet conditions, followed by drier conditions over the second half dekad will surely reduce frequency of irrigation during the first half of the dekad. But certainly during the second half of the dekad, frequent irrigation will be needed. Warm conditions, following episodes of rainfall, will be favourable for agricultural insect pests, fungi and diseases to develop and thrive. Moreover, the expected day times wind speeds together with the funneling effect of wind along narrow paths and undulating landscape may affect seedlings negatively. This may hamper some types of fertilizer application and crops ability to retain flowers.

Trinidad's Mean Daily Rainfall Forecast for the Second Dekad of January (11th - 20th) 2018.

Northern & Northwestern areas:

Moderate chance (63%) of mean daily rainfall up to 3.0 mm.

North-Eastern and Eastern areas:

Moderate chance (65%) of mean daily rainfall up to 4.0 mm.

Central, West-Central and inland areas:

Moderate chance (62%) of mean daily rainfall up to 2.6 mm.

South-Eastern areas:

Moderate chance (68%) of mean daily rainfall up to 3.9 mm.

Southern areas:

Moderate chance (64%) of mean daily rainfall up to 3.4 mm.

South-Western areas:

Moderate chance (63%) of mean daily rainfall up to 3.1 mm.

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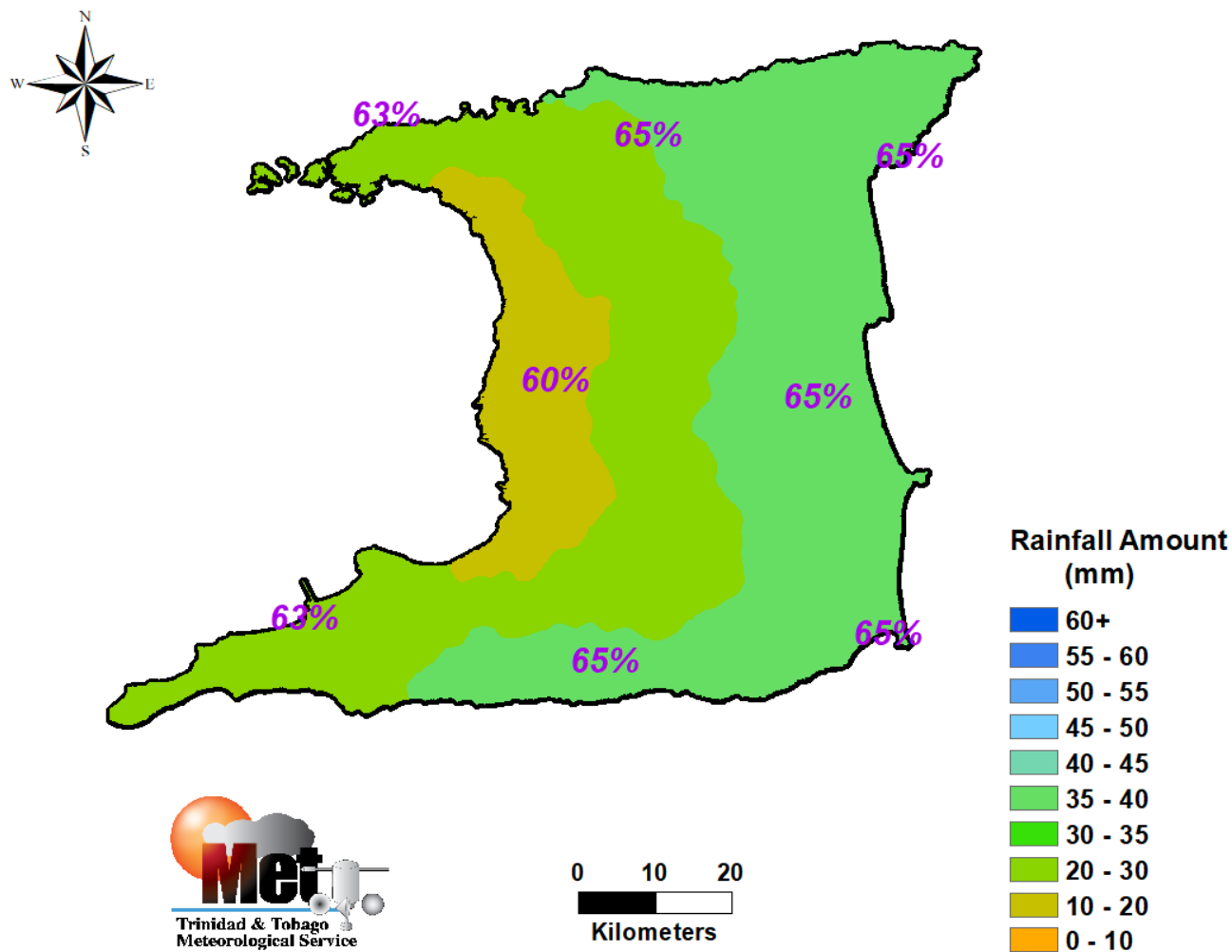


Figure 1. Rainfall Map of Trinidad showing possible rainfall totals for varying districts during second dekad of January, 2018 and percentage probability of occurrence.

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Tobago’s Mean Daily Rainfall Forecast for the Second Dekad of January (11th -20th) 2018.

Northeastern areas:

Moderate chance (64%) of mean daily rainfall up to 2.8 mm.

South-Western areas:

Moderate chance (64%) of mean daily rainfall up to 2.7 mm.

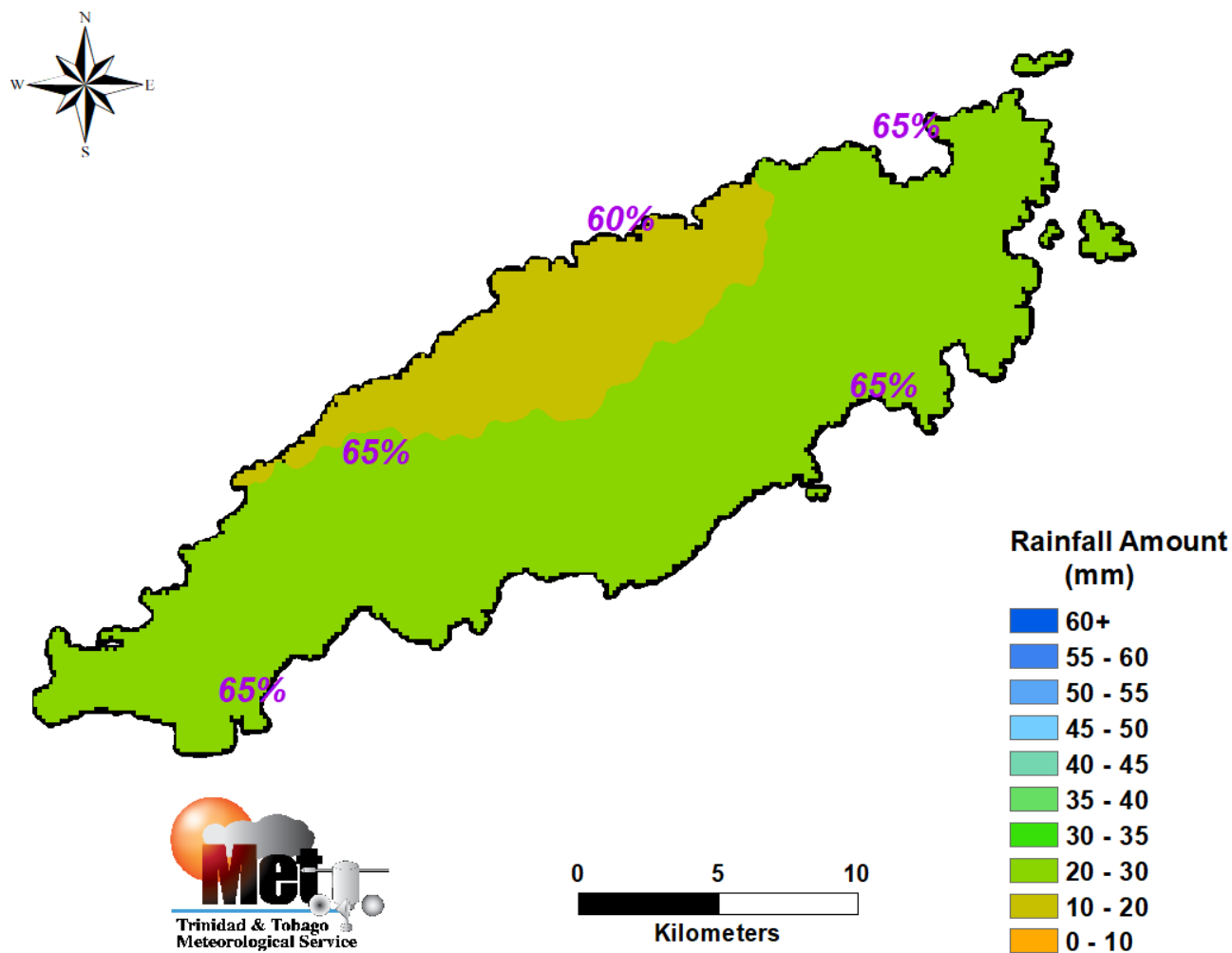


Figure 2. Rainfall Map of Tobago showing possible rainfall totals for varying districts during second dekad of January, 2018 and percentage probability of occurrence.

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Temperatures:

Trinidad's Temperature Forecast for the Second Dekad of January (11th -20th) 2018.

Moderate chance (70%) of daily maximum temperatures to exceed 30.8 °C, peaking near 31.8 °C.

Moderate chance (70%) of daily minimum temperatures to be below 21.8 °C, dropping as low as 20.0 °C.

Tobago's Temperature Forecast for the Second Dekad of January (11th -20th) 2018.

Moderate chance (70%) of daily maximum temperatures to exceed 29.8 °C, peaking near 30.8 °C.

Moderate chance (70%) of daily minimum temperatures to be below 22.8 °C, dropping as low as 21.6 °C.

Summary:

The outlook for the Second dekad of January calls for mostly moderate rainfall amounts, during first half of dekad followed by scanty rainfall amounts, during the second half of the dekad. From days 11th till 16th expect successive days with decreasing rainfall events. A return to drier conditions from day 17th to 20th of the dekad. Overall, temperatures are expected to be cooler with average temperatures ranging between 25.5 °C and 26.8 °C in both islands. The highest maximum temperatures are likely to reach 31.8 °C in Trinidad and 30.8 °C in Tobago. While, the lowest minimum temperatures are likely reach 20.0 °C in Trinidad and 21.6 °C in Tobago. As the season continues to transition into drier conditions, opportunities for water harvesting are likely to diminish, hence any opportunity to harvest and store rainwater should be undertaken, while irrigation processes continue.

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