

Agro-meteorological Bulletin and Assessment for Farmers and Livestock Producers of Trinidad and Tobago for the Second Dekad (11th -20th) 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 first Dekad (1st – 10th) of May 2018.

Mostly mixed conditions dominated Trinidad and Tobago over the dekad, where both islands experienced some patchy cloudy to cloudy conditions at times with some light to moderate rainfall over most areas. Preliminary results showed that northeastern, eastern and southeastern areas had rainfall totals as follows: Piarco (23.7 mm), El Reposo (44.5 mm), Brasso Venado (13.0 mm) and Guayaguayare (8.0 mm); which was mostly well within the range forecasted of 10.0 mm to 45.0 mm.

Similarly, southern and southwestern areas had rainfall totals as follows: San Fernando (38.4 mm), Penal (15.7 mm) and Chatham (21.0 mm) which was well within the range forecasted of 10.0 mm to 45.0 mm. Central districts had the following rainfall amounts; Chaguanas (26.7 mm), Freeport (14.0 mm), Waterloo (15.5mm), Preysal (21.6 mm), and Couva (7.6 mm) again which was well within the range forecasted of 10.0 mm to 20.0 mm.

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Likewise, Northern and northwestern areas had rainfall totals as follows: Tunapuna (26.4 mm), Port of Spain (0.3 mm), West Moorings (15.7mm) and Carenage (36.4 mm), where most were outside the expected amount of 10.0 mm to 20.0 mm

In the same way, Tobago had experience some rainfall, central areas of Mount Moriah and Castara had rainfall totals ranging between 2.3 mm to 5.5 mm; while western areas such as Crown Point and Buccoo had rainfall totals ranging between 8.0 mm to 15.7 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 32.0 °C, which was below the expected range of 32.3 °C to 33.5 °C. At the same time Tobago's maximum got up to 31.9 °C, within the range expected of 30.5 °C to 32.0 °C. Similarly, lowest temperatures recorded were 23.7 °C in Trinidad and 24.1 °C in Tobago. In both cases, they were within the expected range, of 21.7 °C to 24.1 °C for Trinidad and within the expected range of 22.8 °C to 24.4 °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 mixed conditions during the dekad may have supported crops survival and must have warranted less frequent irrigation.

Expected Weather for Second Dekad (11th – 20th) of May 2018 and Likely Impact on Agriculture.

The forecast for the second dekad of May indicates that farmers can expect similar rainfall amounts as compared to the first dekad of May. During the second dekad, farmers will experience relatively wet to wet days during days 11th, 12th, 18th, 19th and 20th dekad, while relatively dry conditions during the other days of the dekad. The ten-day period rainfall totals, forecast to range between 18.0 mm and 50.0 mm in Trinidad and between 18.0 mm to 30.0 mm in Tobago.

The average daily temperatures across Trinidad and Tobago are likely to range between 26.2 °C and 27.4 °C. Expect the highest maximum temperature over the dekad to peak near 33.0 °C in **Trinidad**, while the lowest night to early morning minimum temperature could dip below 23.0 °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 23.7 °C, mostly during relatively cloud free nights.

For both Trinidad and Tobago, the daytime relative humidity (RH) is likely to range between 50% and 69%. However, during relatively wet days, RH percentage values will range around 70% to 94%. At the same time, wind speeds are expected to range between 20 km/h and 36 km/h. In addition, evaporation rates are expected to range between 3.5 mm/day and 9.5 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 relatively wet start to the dekad, will definitely decrease the need for frequent irrigation. However, during the dekad, on days 13th through 17th, expect relatively dry conditions and possible increase in the 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 wet followed by dry and a returned to wet conditions, there is a medium probability that these expected conditions will be favourable for 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, strong winds and high intensity rainfall may hamper some types of fertilizer, fungicide and insecticide application and crops' ability to retain flowers.

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

Northern & Northwestern areas:

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

North-Eastern and Eastern areas:

Moderate chance (68%) of mean daily rainfall up to 4.7 mm.

Central, West-Central and inland areas:

Moderate chance (62%) of mean daily rainfall up to 2.3 mm.

South-Eastern areas:

Moderate chance (68%) of mean daily rainfall up to 4.9 mm.

Southern areas:

Moderate chance (685%) of mean daily rainfall up to 3.6 mm.

South-Western areas:

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

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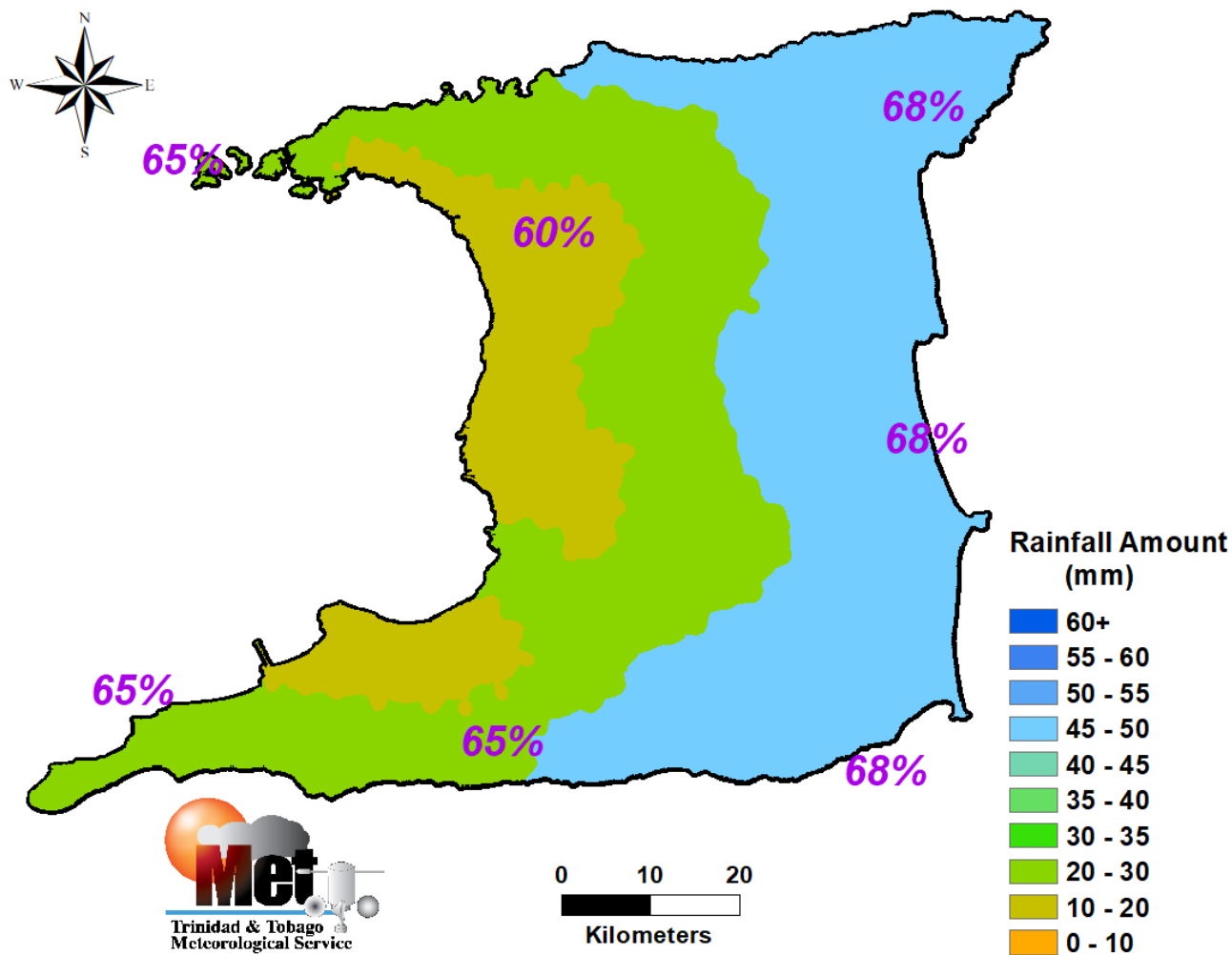


Figure 1. Rainfall Map of Trinidad showing possible rainfall totals for varying districts during second dekad of May 2018 and percentage probability of occurrence.

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

Northeastern areas:

Moderate chance (68%) of mean daily rainfall up to 2.9 mm.

South-Western areas:

Moderate chance (66%) of mean daily rainfall up to 2.7 mm.

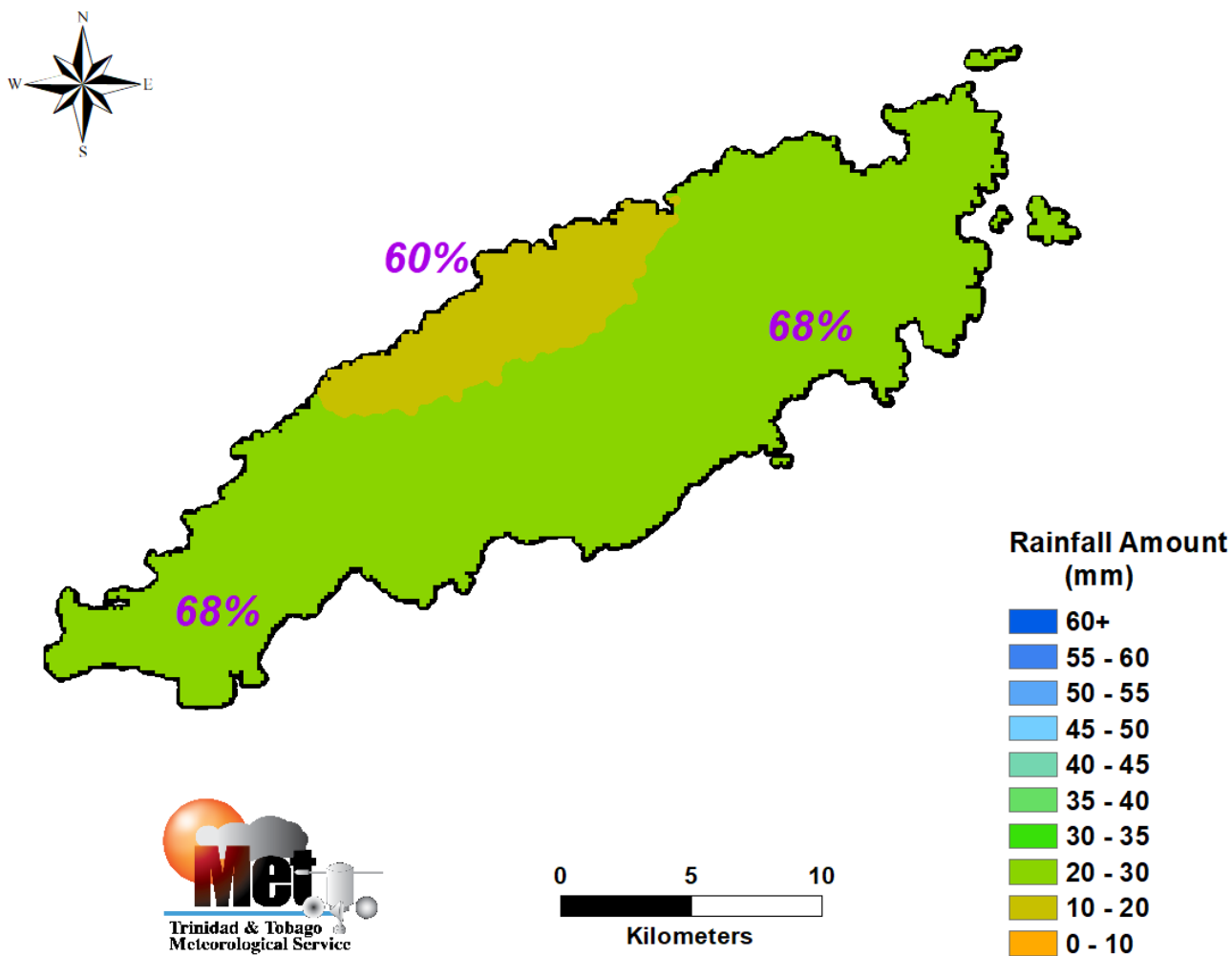


Figure 2. Rainfall Map of Tobago showing possible rainfall totals for varying districts during second dekad of May 2018 and percentage probability of occurrence.

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Temperatures:

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

Moderate chance (70%) of daily maximum temperatures to exceed 31.8⁰C, peaking near 33.0⁰C.

Moderate chance (70%) of daily minimum temperatures to be below 24.5⁰C, dropping as low as 23.0⁰C.

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

Moderate chance (70%) of daily maximum temperatures to exceed 31.0⁰C, peaking near 32.0⁰C.

Moderate chance (70%) of daily minimum temperatures to be below 25.0⁰C, dropping as low as 23.7⁰C.

Summary:

The outlook for the second dekad of May calls for relatively wet days during: 11th, 12th, 18th, 19th and 20th followed by relatively dry days during: 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th of the dekad. Overall, temperatures are warming with **average** temperatures ranging between 26.2⁰C and 27.4⁰C in both islands over the full dekad. The highest maximum temperature is likely to reach 33.0⁰C in Trinidad and 32.0⁰C in Tobago. While, the lowest minimum temperatures are likely reach 23.0⁰C in Trinidad and 23.7⁰C 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 and the start of the rainy season. 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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