



Date: 10/04/2015

Issue Number: 10

Rainfall Performance Set to Slightly Decrease into May 2015

Recent Rainfall Monitor

Over the last month, the Meteorological Services Division Climate Early Warning System (CEWS) has observed that rainfall performance over the country increased, relative to the previous month. Nevertheless, preliminary analysis indicates near average rainfall was observed in some districts while above average rainfall performance occurred in others. In spite of this, our assessment showed that periodic heavy rain events in the second half of the month were primarily responsible for the overall rainfall performance.

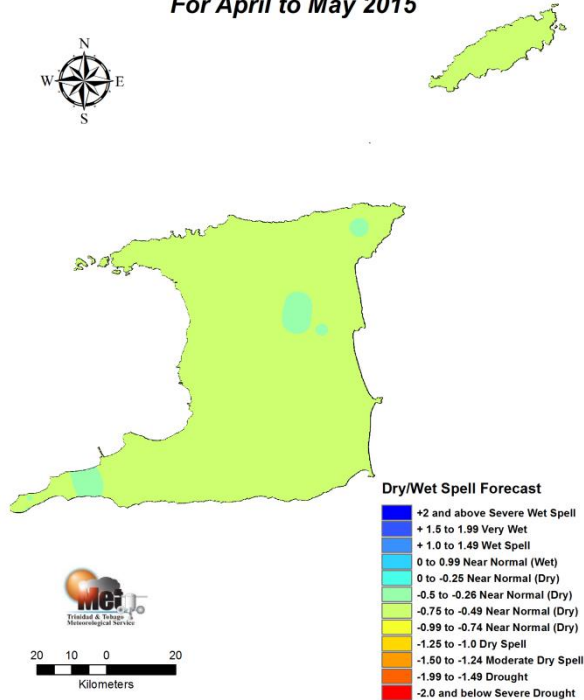
2-Month Dry Spell Outlook Ending May 2015

The CEWS two-month dry spell outlook for the period ending May 31, 2015 indicates that the most likely outcome is for near normal conditions to occur, but on the dry side (figure 1). The forecast for the Standard Precipitation Index (SPI), an indicator of dryness, showed that SPI values ranging between -0.3 and -0.8, which are in the near normal-dry category, are most likely for the country (figure 1). The probability for this to occur is 40%.

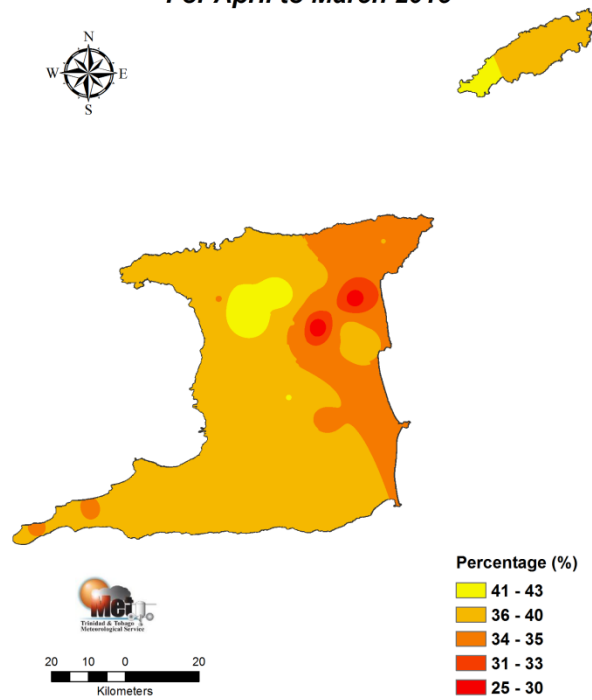
Figure 1.

Figure 2.

**Trinidad and Tobago Dry and Wet Spell Forecast
For April to May 2015**



**Chance of Having Severe Dry Conditions (%)
For April to March 2015**





Likelihood of Moderate to Severe Dryness during the 2-Month Period Ending May 2015

The chance of having dry spell or moderate dry spell conditions (Standard Precipitation Index lower than -1.0) over Trinidad and Tobago during the 2-month period ending May 31, 2015 is relatively high, ranging between 25 % and 43% (figure 2). The odds for this to occur, relative to what is normal for this time of the year, are high and range between 2 to 1 and 3 to 1 across the country. This represents a doubling to tripling of the risk for dry spell conditions to occur during the period of concern.

Likely Impacts

Based on recent observations and outlook, likely impacts will include a slight increase in ground water recharge, a slight increase in surface water flow and water availability and a slight decrease in surface dryness (dusty condition).

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