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Rainfall Performance Set to Slightly Decrease into June 2015

Recent Rainfall Monitor

Over the last month, the Meteorological Services Division Climate Early Warning System (CEWS) has observed that overall rainfall performance over the country decreased, relative to the previous month. In line with this, preliminary analysis indicates below average rainfall (less than 75% of the average) was observed in most districts. In spite of this, our assessment also showed that periodic heavy rain events in the first half of the month were primarily responsible for the overall rainfall performance in a few districts in northeast Trinidad being near normal (75% -125% of average), for the month of April.

2-Month Dry Spell Outlook Ending June 2015

The CEWS two-month dry spell outlook for the period ending June 30, 2015 indicates that the most likely outcome is for near normal conditions to occur, but on the wet-side (figure 1). The forecast for the Standard Precipitation Index (SPI), an indicator of dryness, shows that SPI values ranging between -0.1 and 0.8 are most likely for the country (figure 1). These are in the near normal-dry to normal-wet categories.

Figure 1.

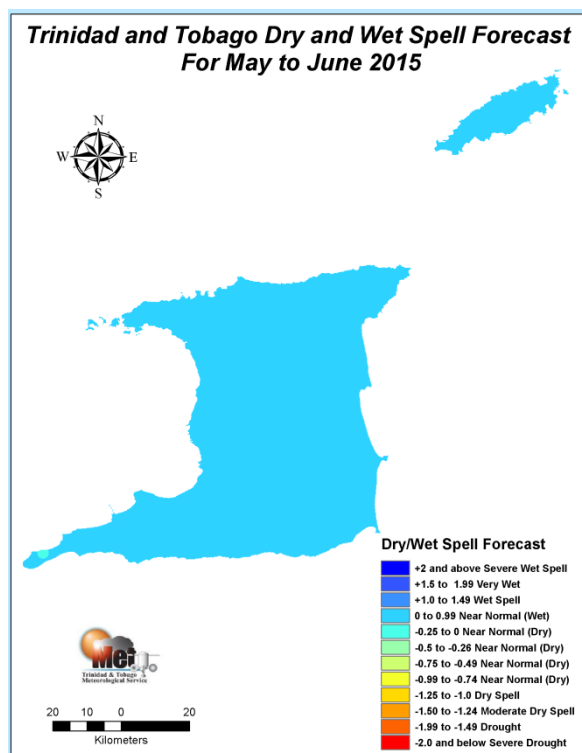
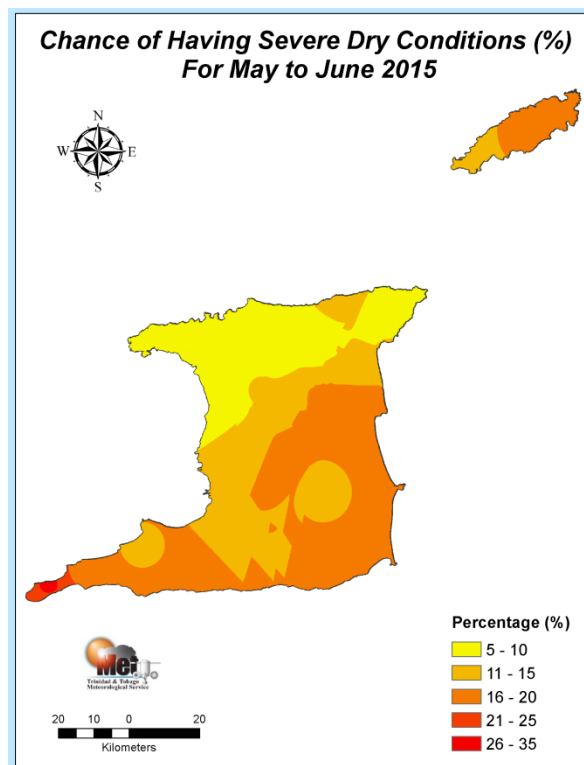


Figure 2.



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

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Trinidad & Tobago Meteorological Service

Dry and Wet Spell Monitor and Outlook

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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 June 30, 2015 is relatively low, ranging between 5 % and 32% (figure 2). The odds for this to occur, relative to what is normal for this time of the year, are 2 to 1 across the country which represents a doubling 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) during the period.

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