



**METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION,
PIARCO
Piarco International Airport**

TELEPHONE NOS. (868) 669-5465/3964
FACSIMILE NO. 1-868-669-4009
WEB: <http://www.metoffice.gov.tt>

Preliminary Assessment of the 2020 Dry Season at the end of April 2020

The past four months have seen drier than normal conditions over much of Trinidad as previously forecasted, with both March and April being especially dry in some locations. At the climatological reference station at Piarco, record low rainfall values were observed in March and April with 9.3mm recorded in March (the 12th driest March in 75 years) and 3.1mm recorded in April, making April 2020 the 2nd driest April on record in the 75 years since observations started at Piarco in 1946. Only April of 1947 was drier, with 1.6mm recorded.

From January onward, intensification of rainfall deficiencies were observed at Piarco as the dry season progressed, with rainfall deficits moving from 12% less than average in January to 33%, 70% and 95% less than average in February, March and April respectively. In contrast, Tobago was relatively less dry, with much of the island observing near average, to slightly wetter than average rainfall conditions. At the climatological reference station at Crown Point, the month of January produced rainfall that was 22% less than average, while the months of February, March and April produced rainfall totals that were on par average, 6% and 26 % more than average, respectively. The rainfall total recorded at Crown Point for April was 44.8mm compared to the average of 38.0mm.

The dry conditions observed in April, in particular, were exacerbated by very high temperatures. Maximum temperatures at Piarco reached as high as, or above 34.0°C on three days, including the warmest 2020 dry season maximum temperature (so far) of 34.3°C which occurred on Monday 27th, April. Notably, maximum temperatures reached or exceeded 33.0°C on 20 days of the month. Temperatures in Tobago were not as warm, as the highest maximum temperatures climbed above 32.0°C on three days to peak at 32.8°C on April 19.