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**Trinidad & Tobago  
Meteorological Service**

*CLIMATE SERVICES*



## Climate Service for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management

- Disasters occur when societies that are highly exposed and vulnerable to natural and other hazards are overwhelmed by a particular event.
- Most recorded disasters are associated with naturally occurring weather and climate factors such as strong winds, heavy rain resulting in floods, insufficient rain resulting in dry spells and droughts and very high temperatures.
- An extreme event or condition does not automatically lead to a disaster. Good planning and preparation can substantially diminish levels of exposure and vulnerability, reducing the amount of losses when events occur.
- Unfortunately, Trinidad and Tobago have high levels of risk, so that even small events can lead to considerable damage.
- The reasons for this are many: including but not limited to unplanned settlements on flood plains or unstable slopes; poorly constructed buildings; and destruction of protective forests and vegetation.
- In all cases, climate information plays a key role in identifying the risks and in implementing effective counter-measures.
- Changes in weather and climate extremes, and their related impacts, pose challenges for national and local disaster risk reduction strategies
- Climate services can help meet these challenges, in both the short- and the long-term, by giving decision-makers enhanced tools to analyse and manage risk.

## Climate Services for Agriculture and Food Security



- Agriculture is vulnerable not only to market fluctuations but also to climate variability and climate change and natural hazards.
- Year-to-year, climate variability has a large influence on agriculture, which is heavily dependent on rainfall, sunshine and temperature. Human-induced climate change has introduced a new complicating factor into the food security equation, which is modifying natural climate variability.
- Agriculture and food security are both related to weather and climate conditions because of extreme events such as droughts and dry spells, floods and storms.

- Climate-related disasters such as droughts and floods can lead to crop failure, food insecurity, destruction of key livelihood assets, negative national economic growth.
- Adverse weather and climate conditions directly affect agricultural productivity, livelihoods, water security, land use, agricultural marketing systems, market instability, food prices,
- Smallholder farmers, fishers, livestock herders and forest dependent communities are often highly vulnerable to these impacts.
- Extreme weather, climate variability, and long-term climate change pose important challenges to future agriculture and food security.
- Incorporating climate information into agricultural planning and development through a integration of climate services into practices and policy for development decisions in agriculture and food security.



## Climate services for Health

- Weather and climate are inextricably linked to some of the most fundamental determinants of human health such as clean air and water, adequate food and shelter, and the distribution and occurrence of disease.
- Climate variability and climate change have important repercussions on public health. Temperature and rainfall conditions influence the spread of communicable diseases while extreme weather events cause injury and death.
- Proliferation of communicable water-borne and vector-borne diseases, due to favorable conditions particularly triggered by climate variability, result in a huge cost to society and the economy.
- Understanding the relationship between climate and health is fundamental when taking preventative action against climate related health risks.