

# AGROMET BULLETIN



## HIGHLIGHTS FOR JANUARY

- ✚ Stations in eleven of 13 parishes received below-normal rainfall.
- ✚ Six parishes experienced meteorological drought conditions.
- ✚ Below-normal to near-normal rainfall is forecast for February to April 2021.
- ✚ Below-normal to near-normal temperatures are expected for the next three months.

### **What Happened: November 2020 – January 2021**

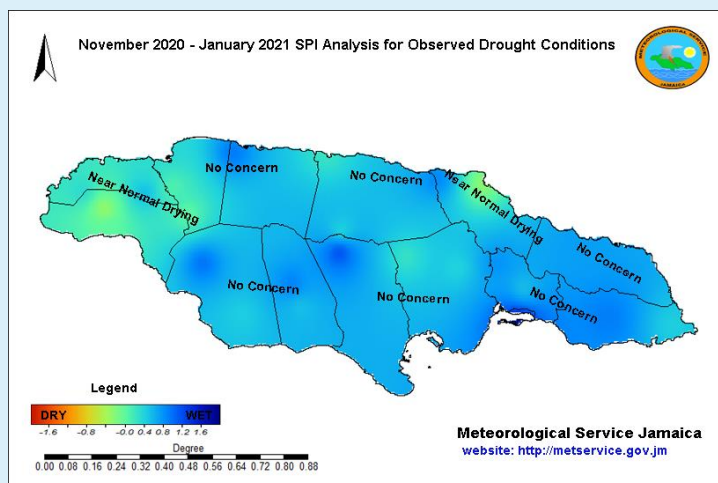
Based on analysis done (image to the right) there were farming communities in some parishes which experienced mild dryness, especially in Westmoreland & Hanover and sections of St. James, St. Mary and northern St. Catherine.

Six parishes, all in the island's south, experienced meteorological drought conditions in the December/January bi-monthly period.

Jamaica is currently in the dry season and therefore, farming communities can expect more decreases in rainfall amounts as we approach March, usually the month that receives the least rainfall.

Temperatures, ranging from 1-4°C cooler, were recorded in some areas across the island for the month of January 2021, when compared to January 2020.

### **Wet and Dry Conditions, November 2020 - January 2021**



Read more by visiting our website:

<https://www.metservice.gov.jm/climate-products>

### **ABOUT US:**

This report provides short term precipitation forecasts, as well as drought monitoring products that will assist in making critical decisions about the growing season for crops, as well as irrigation scheduling and water management.

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## Seasonal Forecast: February – April 2021

For the three-month period of February to April, rainfall amounts for Jamaica are likely to be below-normal to near-normal. With several parishes in the island's south, experiencing meteorological drought conditions and should the projection materialize, then many farming communities across the island should expect drier conditions, with the possibility of other parishes experiencing drought conditions.

Temperatures for the February to April 2021 period are likely to be below-normal to near-normal especially, during the Winter months of February and March.

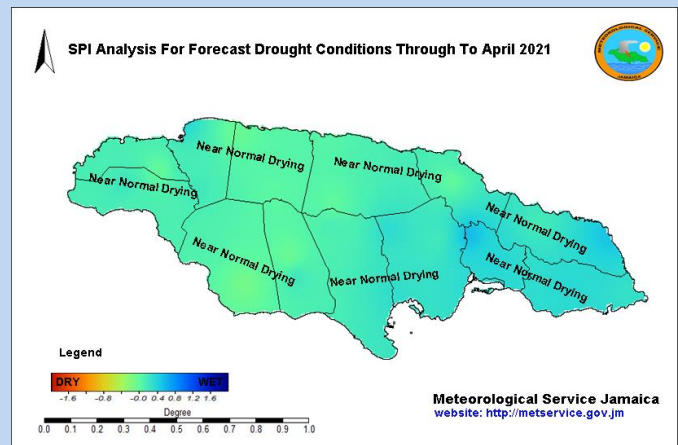
## Possible Impacts

The forecast for below-normal to near-normal rainfall during the dry season is a cause for concern, as, it could have an impact on the availability of water for irrigation in many rain-dependent farming communities. Therefore, the prudent use of available water, along with, employing rainwater harvesting solutions and methods to retaining soil moisture, are all be suggested.

As the Meteorological Service continues to monitor conditions across the island, the advice is for stakeholders, in particular farmers, to continue the management of pests and diseases that are still present.

The forecast for below-normal to near-normal temperatures should make for tolerable conditions during the daytime, however, cooler nights could have an impact on livestock and other animals.

## Wet and Dry Conditions, February – April 2021



## Seasonal Outlook, February – April 2021

JAMAICA	Below-Normal (%)	Normal (%)	Above-Normal (%)
<b>Rainfall Outlook</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Temperature Outlook</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>25</b>

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