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## Agro-meteorological Bulletin and Assessment for Farmers and Livestock Producers of Trinidad and Tobago for the Third dekad (21<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>) of September 2015

### Definitions used in the forecast and bulletin:

<b>Term</b>		<b>Meaning</b>
<b>Dekad</b>		10 day rainfall measuring period
<b>Rain Day</b>		A day with 1.0 mm or more of rainfall amount
<b>Wet Day</b>		A day with 10.0 mm or more of rainfall amount
<b>Extremely Wet Day</b>		A day with 25.0 mm or more of rainfall amount
<b>Normal Rainfall</b>		Between 75% and 125 % of the average
<b>Below Normal Rainfall</b>		Rainfall below 75% of the average
<b>Above Normal Rainfall</b>		Rainfall in excess of 125 % of the average
<b>Much below Normal Rainfall</b>		Rainfall below 50% of the average
<b>Much above Normal Rainfall</b>		Rainfall above 150% of the average
<b>Scanty Rainfall</b>		Less than 1 mm
<b>Moderate Rainfall</b>		1-10 mm
<b>Heavy Rainfall</b>		10-50 mm
<b>Very heavy Rainfall</b>		Greater than 50 mm
<b>Probability of 1-30 %</b>		Low Chance
<b>Probability of 30-70 %</b>		Moderate Chance
<b>Probability greater than 70%</b>		High Chance
<b>Term</b>	<b>Amount of Rain</b>	<b>Type of day</b>
<b>Scanty Rainfall</b>	Less than 1 mm	Relatively dry day
<b>Moderate Rainfall</b>	1-10 mm	Relatively wet day
<b>Heavy Rainfall</b>	10-50 mm	Wet day
<b>Very heavy Rainfall</b>	Greater than 50 mm	Excessively wet day

### Weather Assessment for the Second dekad of September (11<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>) 2015

During the second dekad of September there was scanty to heavy daily rainfall over Trinidad and Tobago with most days experiencing moderate rainfall and day seven experiencing heavy rainfall in Trinidad and on day six in Tobago. Rainfall total for the dekad was 45.6 mm in Trinidad and 32.5 mm in Tobago, which was significant for rain-fed agriculture and water harvesting.

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The average maximum and minimum temperatures decreased slightly in Trinidad. In Tobago, averaged maximum temperature decreased slightly while average minimum temperature increased slightly. Maximum temperatures peaked at 34.6 °C at Piarco and at 32.1 °C at Crown Point. The water surplus during the period would have decreased heat and water stress particularly in Tobago.

### **Expected Weather for the Third Dekad (21<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>) of September, 2015 and Likely Impact on Agriculture**

The forecast for the third ten days of September shows there are possibilities during the first half of the dekad for rainfall which will be less favourable. During the second half of the dekad there are very high possibilities for weather which will be favourable for rain-fed agriculture. Overall, there is a 75% chance for the total rainfall of the third ten days to range between 5.0 mm and 20.0 mm across varying districts of the country, with Tobago and northern and south-western parts of Trinidad likely to receive the highest rainfall amounts. However, there is still a low chance (25%) for the total rainfall to be below 5.0 mm in some parts.

Throughout the dekad, average temperatures are expected to be near 27.8 °C in Trinidad and 28.3 °C in Tobago. Maximum temperatures are likely to be near 33.2 °C in Trinidad and near 32.0 °C in Tobago. Minimum temperatures are likely to be above 24.5 °C for Trinidad and 25.0 °C in Tobago. Average relative humidity values are expected to range between the mid fifties (50's) to low seventies (70's) percentage in both island during daylight hours, with higher values during rainfall occurrence. Wind speeds are expected to be a gentle breeze (2 – 5 meters per second) at 2.0 meters from the surface during the early part of the dekad and will slightly increase in speed towards the end of the dekad.

Although rainfall totals indicate an improvement in crop water requirements in Tobago, farmers are encouraged to practise crop water management by harvesting rainwater from rainfall when it occurs and using mulching which can prolong the moisture in the top root-zone areas, since conditions are likely to be insufficient to meet crop water requirements during the first half of the dekad.

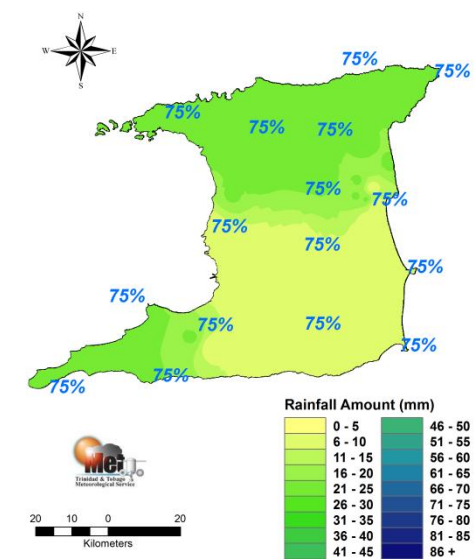
### **Preliminary Rainfall and Temperature Outlook for First Ten Days of October 2015**

The first dekad of October favours rainfall for the first five days. Maximum temperatures will decrease slightly.

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**Percentage Probability Rainfall Map of Trinidad**  
**Last Dekad of September 2015**



### Eastern and North-Eastern areas

### South-Eastern areas

## Southern areas

### South-Western areas

### Northern, North-Western areas

### *Disclaimer*

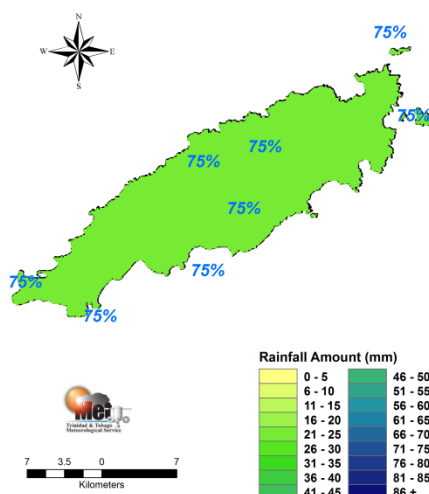
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### Central, West-Central and inland areas

Moderate chance (75 %) of mean daily rainfall up to 2.0 mm.

## **Tobago Rainfall Forecast for the Third Dekad of September (21<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>) 2015**

**Percentage Probability Rainfall Map of Tobago  
Last Dekad of September 2015**



**Figure 2. Rainfall Map of Tobago showing expected mean rainfall totals for districts across Tobago during the third ten days September 2015 and percentage probability of occurrence.**

### North-Eastern areas

Moderate chance (75 %) of mean daily rainfall up to 2.0 mm.

### South-Western areas

Moderate chance (75%) of mean daily rainfall up to 2.0 mm.

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## Temperatures

### Trinidad Temperature Forecast for the third dekad of September (21<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>) 2015

High chance (75 % chance) for above normal mean daily temperatures (warmer than 27.8 °C).

High chance (75 % chance) for the daily maximum temperature to exceed 33.2°C.

High chance (75 % chance) for the minimum night-time temperature to remain above 24.5 °C.

### Tobago Temperature Forecast for the third dekad of September (21<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>) 2015

High chance (75 % chance) for above normal mean daily temperatures (warmer than 28.3 °C).

High chance (75 % chance) for the daily maximum temperatures to exceed 32.0 °C.

High chance (75 % chance) of the minimum night-time temperatures remaining above 25.0 °C.

## **Summary**

The forecast for the third ten days of September shows there are possibilities during the first half of the dekad for rainfall which will be less favourable. During the second half of the dekad there are very high possibilities for weather which will be favourable for rain-fed agriculture. Average temperatures are expected to be near 27.8 °C in Trinidad and 28.3 °C in Tobago. Maximum temperatures are likely to be near 33.2 °C in Trinidad and near 32.0 °C in Tobago. Minimum temperatures are likely to be above 24.5 °C for Trinidad and 25.0 °C in Tobago. Although rainfall totals indicate an improvement in crop water requirements in Tobago, farmers are encouraged to practise crop water management by harvesting rainwater from rainfall when it occurs and using mulching which can prolong the moisture in the top root-zone areas, since conditions are likely to be insufficient to meet crop water requirements during the first half of the dekad.

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