



ACP S&T PROGRAMME



Enhancing Farming through Weather and Climate Information
CARIBBEAN AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL INITIATIVE





An Explanation of public forecast terms



E.T. Joshua Airport Meteorological Office

Arnos Vale

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Precipitation: any or all forms of water whether liquid (e.g. rain) or solid (e.g. snow or hail) that fall from a cloud or group of clouds and reach the ground.

Showers: Relatively short lived but may last for up to half an hour; usually begin and end suddenly. Fall from cumulus clouds.

Isolated Showers: Well separated spacially (generally covering 10 to 25% of area)

Scattered showers: Showers distributed irregularly (may cover 25 to 55 % of the area; not wide spread but can occur any where in the area.

Localized showers: Restricted to relatively small areas.

Widespread showers: occurring extensively over an area (greater than 55%)

Rain: is more persistent and falls from stratiform (mid- level) clouds. Intensity may range from light to heavy.

Thunderstorms: one or more convective clouds in which electrical discharge can be seen as lightning and heard as thunder by a person on the earth's surface. Thunderstorms occur in the presence of cumulonimbus clouds.

Dew: deposits of water drop on objects at or near the ground, produced by condensation of water vapour from the surrounding air.

RAIN AND SHOWER INTENSITY

Light: Up to 2 mm per hour. Small streams may flow in gutters, puddles form slowly, drops easily indentified.

RAIN AND SHOWER INTENSITY

Moderate: 2.2 to 6 mm per hour.
Rapidly-forming puddles

Heavy: 6.2mm to 50 mm per hour. Falls
in sheets

Duration of precipitation

Brief: Of short duration.

Intermittent: precipitation which ceases at times.

Duration of precipitation

Occasional: not occurring frequently.

Frequent: showers occurring regularly and often.

Duration of precipitation

Periods of rain: Expected to fall most of the time but with breaks.

Cloud cover

Sunny: less than $3/8$ (3 oktas) of cloud cover for most of the day. Little chance of the sun being obscured by cloud.

Cloud cover

Mainly Sunny: On average, less than half of the sky is covered by cloud but there may be an hour or two when the cloud is covering more than half.

Partly Cloudy: Cloud cover 4 or 5 oktas of low and or Mid-level clouds for the most of the period

Cloud cover

Cloudy: Cloud cover of 6 to 7 oktas of low and/or mid-level clouds for the most of the period.

Overcast: Skies completely covered with low and/or mid-level clouds.

Thank you