

Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology

DROUGHT ALERT

28-01-2010

The drought alert issued for Barbados has been extended to Grenada.

Scientists from the Caribbean Drought and Precipitation Monitoring Network (CDPMN) based at the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH), Husbands St. James, Barbados, note that severely dry conditions were experienced in Grenada for the entire year 2009 (<http://www.cimh.edu.bb/precipindex.html>). In particular, the last 3 to 6 months were extremely dry. Similar observations have been reported for Barbados over the past 3 months.

Officials in Grenada indicate that there is a 75% increase in demand for irrigation services by farmers, while river flow levels have been notably reduced. Forecast models currently indicate that for the period January to March 2010, dry conditions will intensify in the southern portion of the eastern Caribbean (<http://www.cimh.edu.bb/curprecip.htm>). These drier conditions will further exacerbate this situation.

Water resources managers in Grenada are urged to implement the necessary measures to conserve water as the drought conditions are expected to persist over the next 3 months.

For further information contact Adrian Trotman at atrotman@cimh.edu.bb.