Drought is affecting the area surrounding the Caribbean Sea. The event shows a patchy pattern distributed over several countries. The drought follows a strong dry spell in mid-2018, hitting primarily Central America and the “dry corridor”, now revived by weak El Niño conditions.

Impacts concern food security, water supply, agricultural production, power generation and water transportation.

The forecast is rather negative for all continental regions south of the Caribbean Sea, and rather positive for the islands in the north.

**STANDARDIZED PRECIPITATION INDEX (SPI)¹**

*Dec 2018 – Feb 2019*

**fAPAR ANOMALY²**

(mid-March 2019) Source: JRC GDO

**SOIL MOISTURE ANOMALY (SMA)³**

(mid-Feb to mid-March 2019) Source: JRC GDO

1 SPI indicator is used to monitor the occurrence of meteorological drought. The lower (i.e. more negative) the SPI, the more intense is the drought.

2 fAPAR (fraction of Absorbed Photosynthetically Active Radiation) indicator represents the fraction of the solar energy absorbed by leaves. fAPAR anomalies (i.e. the negative deviations from the long term average over the same period) are a good indicator of drought impacts on vegetation.

3 SMA indicator provides an assessment of the top soil water content, which is a direct measure of drought conditions, specifically the difficulty for plants to extract water from the soil.


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