

Agrometeorological Services in Grenada

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The Meteorological Services at the Point Salines International Airport in Grenada began operations in October 1994 with the opening of the airport.

The Land Use Division of the Ministry of Agriculture issues monthly agrometeorological bulletins and the Aeronautical Meteorological Service at the international airport issues advisories on flashfloods, mudslides, coastal erosion, etc. as may be necessary. It also reissues the tri-monthly rainfall forecast from the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH).

These bulletins contain mainly rainfall data from 47 stations throughout the island but also contain temperature, sunshine and relative humidity data from a few agrometeorological stations and the only Aeronautical Meteorological Service at the airport.

In addition to issuing a copy to every source station, a copy is sent to the Forestry Division, Planning Division, the National Water and Sewage Authority, Grenada Science Council, Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology, Pest Management Unit, Taiwanese Agricultural Mission, Government Information Service, the Grenada Banana Cooperative Society, the Grenadian Voice Newspaper, the Government Central Statistical Office, the Food and Nutritional Council and the Marketing and National Importing Board.

Although no real regular effort is being made for the collection of a constant feedback from the users of these bulletins, occasionally comments are received. Remarks about the value or benefits, economic or otherwise, of these bulletins are also received from some users, but no formal assessment is carried out.

Unfortunately, no efforts are being made to issue bulletins of a special nature for addressing extreme events such as drought, floods, forest fires or erosion. Also no simulation models and GIS are used for analysis

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and preparation of information. The present methods of preparation of these bulletins are somewhat in an old-fashioned way of raw data presentation, with insufficient plain language comparison and histograms for the ordinary non-meteorological user. However, it is planned to improve the preparation, contents and frequency of these bulletins in the near future.