



VANUATU AgroMet Bulletin

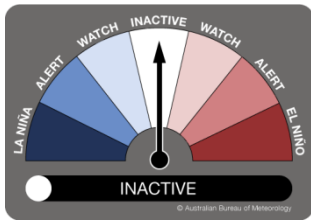
Vanuatu Meteorology & Geo-Hazards Department
Department of Agriculture & Rural Development



August 2021

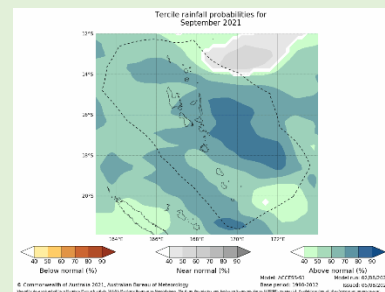
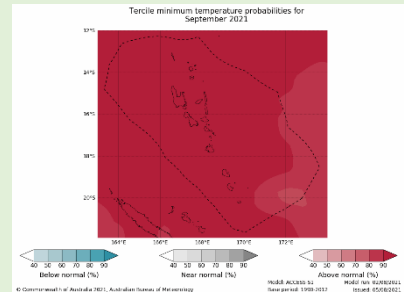
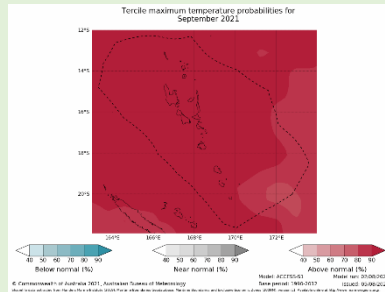
Vol.1, Issue 6

CURRENT ENSO STATUS



ENSO is neutral. This means there is no El Niño nor La Niña in the region. However sea surface temperatures in the central tropical Pacific are showing signs of a developing La Niña in the coming months. The chance for this event to develop is still below 50%.

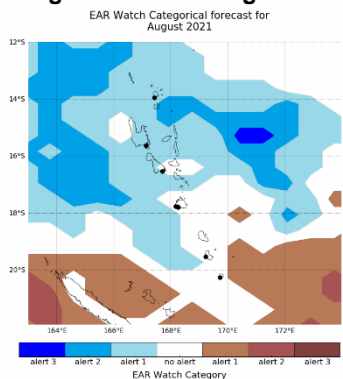
Temperature and Rainfall Outlook for September – November 2021:



Summary:

- Warmer than average day and night time temperatures expected for the whole country.
- Above normal rainfall is favored for the whole country.

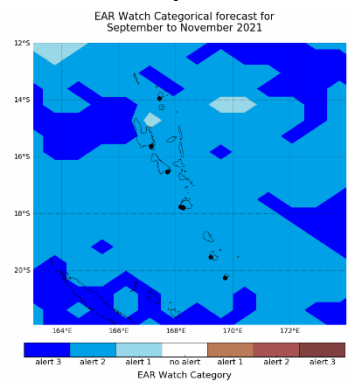
Drought Status for August 2021:



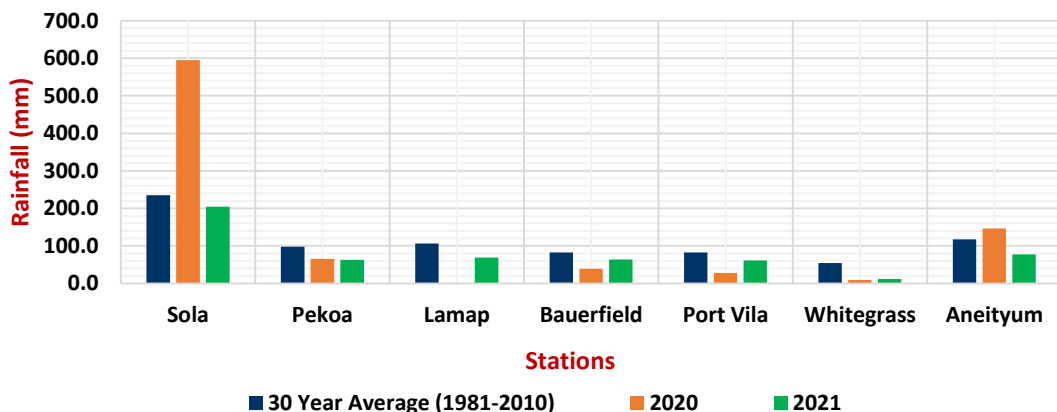
Drought conditions forecasted for July 2021 is likely to ease this month, August 2021.

Outlook for Sep. to Nov. shows wetter than average conditions expected over the islands.

Outlook for Sep. to Nov. 2021:



Monthly Rainfall Observations (July 2020/2021) VS Climatology (1981-2010)



Climate Smart Recommendations for crop cultivation

Crop (variety) Selection

Vegetables	<input type="checkbox"/> Depending on market and demand, and availability of seeds and seedlings. Select varieties that can perform well in Cold and dry season (May- October). (e.g. Broccoli, snake bean, Carrot, beans, Capsicum)
Island Taro	<input type="checkbox"/> Select Varieties with higher demand and market and available planting material (Available varieties: Sakius, Tarapatan, Alkat) and other recommended varieties from your site, village or island.
Manioc	<input type="checkbox"/> Consider growing varieties depending on target market and demand, and available planting materials.
Yam	<input type="checkbox"/> Depending on target market and demand, and available planting material .Select disease resistant varieties (anthracnose) for replanting during the next season.
Kumala	<input type="checkbox"/> Depending on target market and demand, and available planting material (Available varieties: Baby kumala, PNG, bankis, Epule 1, Fanafo, salili and kumala hybrids)

Planting

Vegetables	<input type="checkbox"/> Select healthy seeds and seedlings before planting. Avoid transplanting of seedlings during sunny mid days or during heavy rain. Consider weekly/daily weather updates through media (FB, radio etc.) to sow seeds and transplant vegetables. Traditional weather forecasting are also advice to use
Island Taro	<input type="checkbox"/> Select good type of planting material from healthy plants and free from pest and diseases, good size to produce good corm shape, large suckers or headset have rapid early growth and higher survival rate.
Manioc	<input type="checkbox"/> Select healthy stalks which are free from pest and diseases. It is best to collect stalks just after harvested and not sprouted, because sprouting before planting will weaken the ability of stalks to grow after the stalk is cut and planted. It is best to collect the middle part of the stalk as planting material. Apply agroforestry practices
Yam	<input type="checkbox"/> Select tubers with minimum rot; Trim any rot from tubers before cutting it up into planting pieces. Yam is not a shade tolerant plant, it is a light loving and shade sensitive plant thus require sites that are well exposed to sunlight; Staking should be low (1m height)
Kumala	<input type="checkbox"/> It is best to select cuttings from the tip of the vine about 30cm to 40cm length and which are free from Pest and diseases; collect cuttings from young plants which are 2 to 3 months of age. Avoid planting materials with leaf scab disease and also do not collect planting materials from plants with little leaf disease. Kumala are also light loving crop and prefer sites that are expose to good sunlight.

[Farm Management (nutrient/pest/weed)]

Vegetables	<input type="checkbox"/> Monitor/control insect pest and diseases attack during the growth stage of the crops; Plant repellent crops/plants to reduce pest and disease attack; Remove infected plants and apply intercropping; Apply weeding as needed and it can be done 2-3 weeks after planting; apply mulching when needed.
Island Taro	<input type="checkbox"/> Monitor disease symptoms and insect pests (e.g. Taro beetle, caterpillar and aphids infestation on leaves) during every farm visit; apply weeding every 2-3 weeks for up to 4 months; Apply mulching when needed using organic materials (vetiver grass) to help reduce weed growth and add organic matter to the soil; Apply intercropping system to reduce Pest and disease attack to plants, apply agroforestry system
Manioc	<input type="checkbox"/> Apply mulching and composting when needed during the early growth stage of the crop; Monitor weed growth and weed as needed, first weeding can be done after 3-4 weeks after planting; Control major Pest such as Rat after tuber formation; Remove infected plants and apply intercropping system
Yam	<input type="checkbox"/> Weeding can be applied at least 2 or 3 times during the growth cycle, depending on the weeds present in the field. Monitor leaf eating beetles during the early growth stage of yam and apply cultural practices as needed to control the beetles. Monitor vine growth and adjust to staking accordingly
Kumala	<input type="checkbox"/> Monitor weed growth and weed as needed; Weeding will usually be every 2 weeks for up to 5-6 weeks by when the runners have covered the space between rows. Mounding should be done 2 weeks and 1 month after planting to reduce damage on stem and tubers by the weevil and rat.

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