

SEASONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK & ADVISORY

December 2018-May 2019

CLIMATE OUTLOOK SUMMARY

- Transition from warm-ENSO-neutral conditions to El Niño is highly likely during Oct.-Nov.-Dec. 2018 season
- 80% Chance El Niño from Dec-Feb; 55-50% chance from March-May
- The highly probable below normal precipitation over the Philippine Sea.
- ENSO Alert System Status: **El Niño Watch**



WEATHER SYSTEMS TO AFFECT BICOL



- Northeast Monsoon (Amihan)
- Two(2) to four (5) tropical cyclones may develop/ enter the PAR



- Other weather systems: Tail end of Cold Front, ITCZ, Low Pressure Areas (LPAs) and Ridge of High Pressure Area

Forecast Rainfall Analysis¹

Prov	December			January			February			March			April			May		
	Normal (mm)	Forecast (mm)	% to Normal	Normal (mm)	Forecast (mm)	% to Normal	Normal (mm)	Forecast (mm)	% to Normal	Normal (mm)	Forecast (mm)	% to Normal	Normal (mm)	Forecast (mm)	% to Normal	Normal (mm)	Forecast (mm)	% to Normal
Al	464.2	338.9	73.0	274.7	206.6	75.2	200.9	113.7	56.6	170.8	127.1	74.4	158.2	119.9	75.8	163.5	96.6	59.1
CN	504.7	365.9	72.5	246.5	205.6	83.4	177.1	113.5	64.1	144.4	122.0	84.5	124.5	44.7	35.9	147.3	87.2	59.2
CS	474.2	342.4	72.2	256.0	192.8	75.3	173.9	107.8	62.0	148.7	117.2	78.8	130.2	72.0	55.3	153.1	88.5	57.8
Cat	463.7	332.0	71.6	264.7	192.7	72.8	158.0	100.3	63.5	150.0	96.6	64.4	141.3	99.6	70.5	155.3	92.4	59.5
Mas	322.0	232.5	72.2	187.4	148.8	79.4	119.5	67.4	56.4	107.0	68.8	64.3	82.3	58.3	70.8	142.1	76.6	53.9
Sor	455.7	335.4	73.6	291.2	222.8	76.5	203.4	114.3	56.2	173.2	118.8	68.6	137.3	106.0	77.2	156.5	93.6	59.8

¹All Climate Forecast/Information is based on Regional Forecast Quick Look (Dec. 2018-May 2019, issued by PAGASA last November 21, 2018. Source: <http://bagong.pagasa.dost.gov.ph/climate>

● Way below normal ○ Below normal ● Near normal

IMPACT OUTLOOKS

- ◆ The **El Niño conditions** in the first quarter of the year may delay crop establishment in rainfed and upland areas and increase in costs for supplemental pump irrigation in the lowland;
- ◆ The risk of **salt-water intrusion** to farms is very high especially along the Bicol River Basin and coastal communities;
- ◆ The pasture areas in provinces of **Masbate** is likely to be affected by **below normal rainfall** as these are susceptible to drought damage;
- ◆ All coconut-producing provinces may experience drop in production;
- ◆ In fisheries, surface-oriented, schooling fish often disperse and move into **deeper waters**. Fishes that remain in an affected region experience **reduced growth, reproduction, and survival**.
- ◆ In **Catanduanes**, the below normal rainfall will benefit the **abaca** farmers in hastening and producing quality fibers during the supposedly rainy first quarter
- ◆ For **cut-flower growers** in **Albay** and **Camarines Sur**, the below normal rainfall is conducive for flower production
- ◆ Below normal rainfall may result to high success in flower and fruit development in **pineapple** in **Camarines Norte**.

CLIMATE-RESILIENT AGRICULTURE PRACTICES

- ♣ **Cover crops**. Plant indigenous **cover crops** in sloping areas to improve soil fertility and reduce soil erosion/conservate soil moisture in upland areas.
- ♣ **Biomass as mulch**. Utilize **rice hull** or **coconut husk** as natural mulch to vegetables to conserve and retain moisture, lower soil temperature and reduce water-stress damage while retaining achieving the potential yield of crop;
- ♣ Integrate **short-duration crops** (*legumes, vegetables, white corn*) to improve household food security;
- ♣ Use **early maturing, drought-tolerant** and **saline-tolerant** varieties to reduce yield reduction and reduce costs in supplemental irrigation;
- ♣ Practice **Alternate-wetting and drying technology** in rice production. AWD reduces 50% of irrigation water needed thereby also reducing expenses on fuel and labor costs in irrigating without penalizing yield;
- ♣ **PCIC Risk Transfer**. Prior to planting, avail of risk-transfer mechanisms such as **insurance** from PCIC. Insure also the livestock and other farm assets;
- ♣ Process materials for **corn silage**. If properly processed, it can be stored for a year to cover the feeds needed by the ruminants.
- ♣ Practice **value-adding of vegetables** (eg. pickles) and **native fruits** (e.g. nipa fruits). With proper processing, these products can be developed into an enterprise of the household;
- ♣ Seek **other** potential source of **livelihood/food** and or plant crops that can serve as an alternate staple during lean months.

DA RFO 5 SUPPORT

- Planting materials and other farm inputs (seeds/seedlings, fertilizer and other production support services)
- Farm Mechanization support services and Post-harvest facilities and farm operations technical assistance
- Climate-information services thru the regular release of 10-day weather forecast and seasonal climate outlook