Light to locally moderate rain forecast, potentially increasing accumulated deficits and exacerbating dryness over Hispaniola.

During early July, an increase in rainfall was observed over Hispaniola. While light to locally moderate rain fell over Haiti, moderate to locally heavy rain was received over the Dominican Republic. Although the recent good rains have helped to partially reduce accumulated rainfall deficits over many local areas, seasonal moisture deficits have persisted throughout much of the Island. Over the past ninety days, much of the interior of Hispaniola registered below-average rain with accumulation accounting for only between 25 – 80 percent of the average. The poor distribution in rainfall since late April to early May has already negatively impacted vegetation conditions and resulted in drought over many areas, including northwestern and southern Haiti and northern and southwestern Dominican Republic, based on recent agro-climatic analyses.

During the next week, model rainfall forecasts suggested widespread light rains over Haiti and localized moderate rains over parts of the Dominican Republic. The forecast rainfall amounts are likely to be near to below-average over Hispaniola, particularly the south, which could further increase moisture deficits and strengthen dryness over many local areas.