Poorly-distributed rain since late April has negatively impacted ground conditions, leading to drought over many areas.

During late June to early July, a slight increase in rainfall was observed over Hispaniola. While scattered moderate to heavy rains were registered over southern Dominican Republic, widespread, light rains were received over the central portions of Haiti and The Dominican Republic. An analysis of both this past thirty and ninety-day rainfall accumulation showed that drier-than-average conditions spread over much of the interior of Hispaniola, where cumulative rain accounted for only between 25 – 80 percent of the average. The moderate to large seasonal moisture deficits were associated with a poor spatial and temporal distribution in rainfall since late April. The persistent lack of rain has already negatively impacted many areas, including northwestern, southern, and southeastern Haiti; and northern and southwestern Dominican Republic as depicted by the latest vegetation products. Drought is, hence, posted over the dry portions of Hispaniola, were drought monitors and agro-climatic products indicated unfavorable conditions.

For next week, light to moderate and likely to be near-average rain is expected over central Hispaniola. Although the forecast rains may partially help reduce deficits over some areas, the expected amounts are unlikely to be sufficient to relieve drought in the region.