

# Climate adaptation in the Caribbean: The case for action

CDKN-funded research has provided locally-relevant climate projections. The Caribbean region can expect:

- Warmer average temperatures
- Less overall water availability
- Intense periods of rainfall leading to floods
- Sea-level rise leading to more coastal flooding and erosion
- More intense extreme weather events

## 1 Climate impacts are costly



**\$33bn**

Total cost of damage from natural disasters, including extreme weather events, to the Caribbean from 2000-2009. This equates to...

**61%**

of regional Gross Domestic Product (2014)

**36%**



Repeated shocks makes recovery hard. Saint Lucia suffered 3 hurricanes from 2006-2010

In 2012 there were still 36% fewer banana farms in the country

**290,000**

people affected by severe flooding in Guyana in 2005. This equates to 39% of the population



## 2 Important sectors such as **tourism** and **agriculture** will be affected

**\$52bn**

Contribution of tourism industry to Caribbean economy in 2014

**94%**

of tourist accommodation in Belize is vulnerable to sea level rise & flooding



**30m** of beach has been lost to coastal erosion in some areas of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

**16%**

of people in the Caribbean work in the agriculture sector



**1 acre** 4000 farms in Saint Lucia are under 1 acre in size, making them more vulnerable to shock

**90%**

of agricultural land is rain-fed, & exposed to changes in rainfall patterns

**33%**

**25%**

Changing climatic conditions will affect crops differently.

Sweet potato yields could increase by 33% (in Jamaica) by mid-century. But corn yields (in Belize) may shrink by around 25% by 2030

## 3 Investment in climate resilience can make a difference



**42%\***

of Caribbean households report suffering financial loss due to climate change. Micro-insurance for climate losses can offer protection



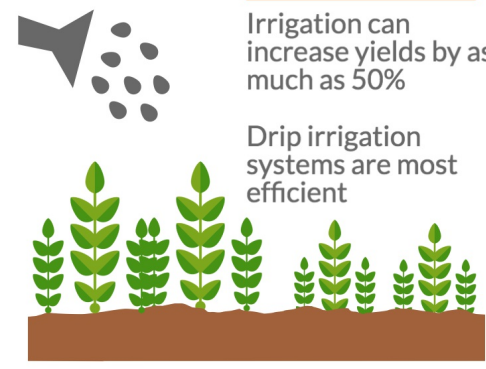
**25%**

of people surveyed said they spent savings on reconstruction that would have been used for education

**50%**

Irrigation can increase yields by as much as 50%

Drip irrigation systems are most efficient



**2.6m**

Building control and spatial planning play an important role in protecting property.

In Belize research recommends that new building is restricted to areas of at least 2.6 m above mean sea level

To learn more and access the Caribbean research on which this infographic is based visit: [www.CDKN.org/caribbean](http://www.CDKN.org/caribbean)



References for the data and information in this infographic can be found in the related policy brief at <https://cdkn.org/2017/02/climate-risk-caribbean-prosperity/>

This document is an output from a project commissioned through the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN). CDKN is a programme funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the Netherlands Directorate-General for International Cooperation (DGIS) for the benefit of developing countries. The views expressed and information contained in it are not necessarily those of or endorsed by DFID, DGIS or the entities managing the delivery of the Climate and Development Knowledge Network, which can accept no responsibility or liability for such views, completeness or accuracy of the information or for any reliance placed on them.

Produced by Acclimatise

