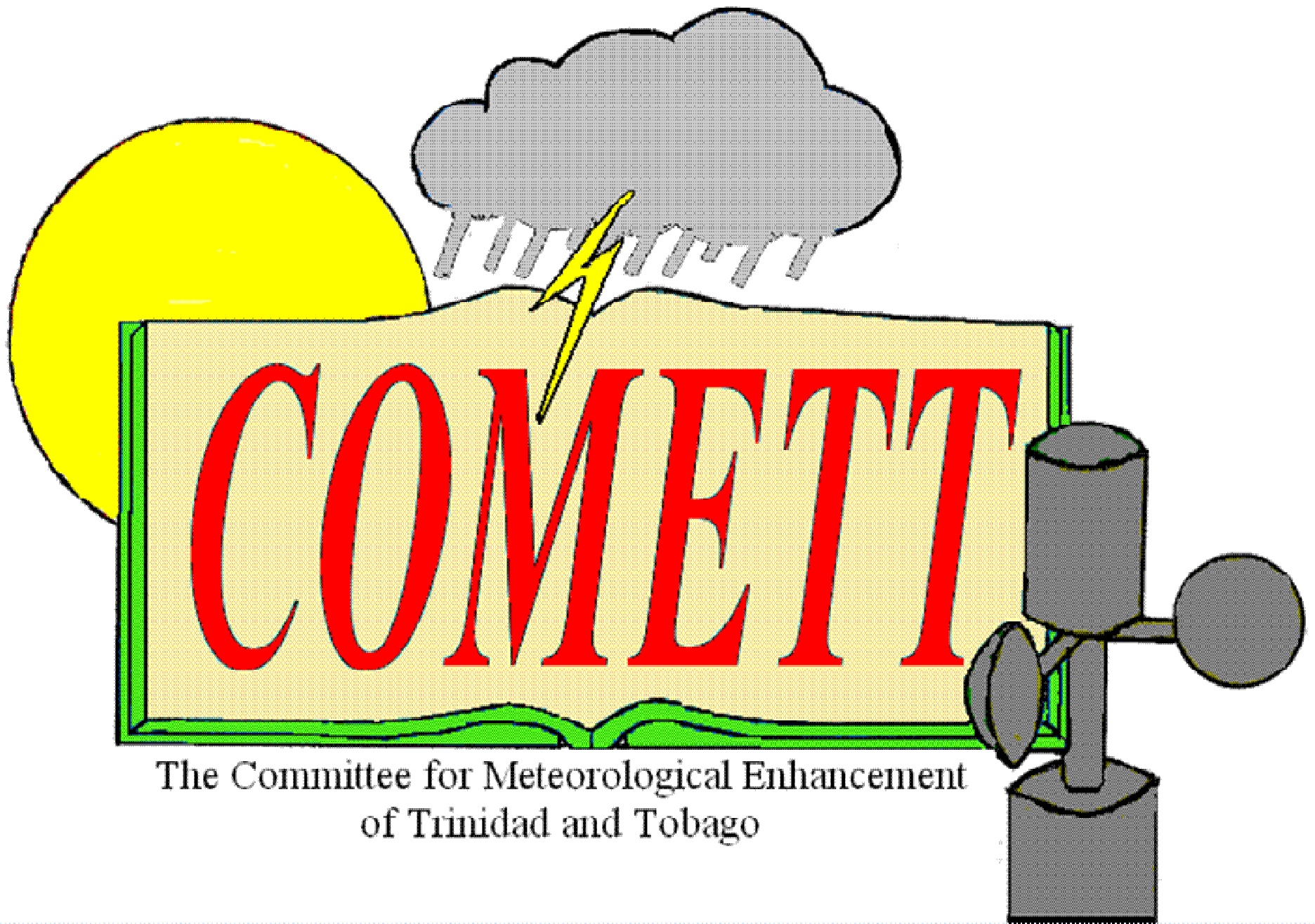




Enhancing Farming through Weather and Climate Information

# CARIBBEAN AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL INITIATIVE



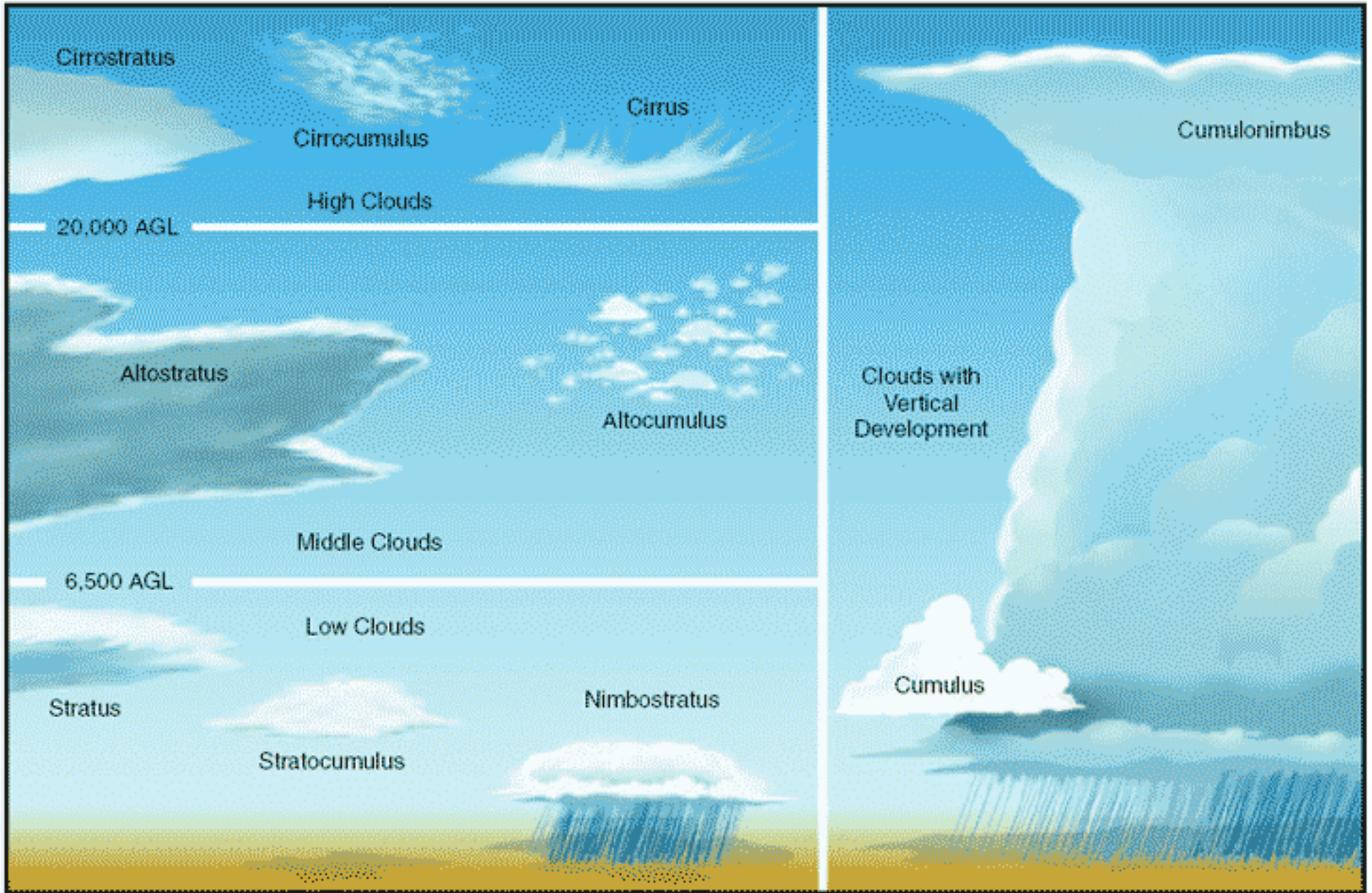


The Committee for Meteorological Enhancement  
of Trinidad and Tobago

**Outreach Branch of the Meteorological Services Division**

An aerial photograph showing a dense layer of white, puffy cumulus clouds stretching across a vast, bright blue sky. The clouds are illuminated from above, creating soft shadows and highlights that give them a three-dimensional appearance. The overall scene is bright and clear, suggesting a sunny day.

# CLOUD TYPES



# CLOUD TYPES

# Low Clouds



## Cumulus

- cauliflower tops
- convective cloud
- showery precipitation



## Stratocumulus

- layered cloud
- can form from cumulus
- precipitation in the form of rain



## Stratus

- layered cloud
- can form from a layer of rising mist or fog
- precipitation in the form of rain



**CUMULONIMBUS**

# **CUMULONIMBUS**

- **The characteristic shape of these clouds can only be seen as a whole when viewed from a distance. The tops of these massive clouds show fibrous structure which resembles an anvil. The cloud may also have clear cut outlines and cauliflower tops.**
- **Range of the cloud base is usually between 2000ft and 5000ft, but may sometimes lower to near surface, or be as high as 6500ft.**
- **Precipitation in the form of showers or thunderstorms, often with squalls, usually accompanies this cloud.**
- **Associated optical phenomena may sometimes be in the form of lightning or rainbow.**

# Middle Clouds



## Nimbostratus

- dense grey/bluish grey layered cloud
- luminary cannot be seen through it
- associated with moderate to heavy precipitation in the form of rain



## Altostratus

- grey-bluish layered cloud
- objects on the ground do not cast shadows
- luminary is seen as through “ground glass” through it
- precipitation in the form of continuous rain
- can thicken and lower to become Nimbostratus



## Altocumulus

- resembles very small cumulus clouds
- can be white or grey and appear as in patches or layers
- precipitation not usually associated



# High Clouds



## Cirrostratus

- may thicken and lower to become Altostratus
- no precipitation associated
- characterized by halo phenomenon around luminary



## Cirrus

- white hair-like or comma-shaped cloud
- thicker variations may be associated with remnants from dissipating cumulonimbus
- sometimes associated with a partial halo



## Cirrocumulus

- comprised of very small cumuliform elements in ripples or honeycomb
- can see the luminary through it
- no halo associated