
EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

No. 2016/10

IN THE GAMBIA

Period: August 1-10, 2017



Government of The Gambia

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Multidisciplinary Working Group

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1.0 METEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

1.1. SYNOPTIC SITUATION:

The mean surface position of the ITD, a boundary layer that separates the Northeasterly trade winds from the Southwesterly monsoon flow has its western axis oscillating over northern Mauritania, southern Algeria, central Niger and sloping onto Chad.

The regions to the north of the ITD experienced dry and stable atmosphere, with dust haze observed over northern parts of Mauritania and Niger; and parts of Algeria.

Meanwhile, regions to the south of the ITD were generally characterised by convective activities, rain showers and thunderstorms occasionally associated with strong winds.

1.2. WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE GAMBIA

The dekad was characterized by moderate to heavy rains and thunderstorms occasionally associated with strong winds during the period.

1.3. OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT DEKAD (11th _ 20th August 2017)

Generally, warm and humid atmosphere will continue to prevail during the period with occurrence of rain showers and thunderstorms. Moderate to heavy rains and thunderstorms, occasionally accompany by strong winds will affect the country, particularly during the first half of the dekad and the last two days of the dekad.

2.0 AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

2.1 RAINFALL SITUATION

The rainfall situation in this dekad decreased slightly in comparison to previous dekad due to intermittent dry spells experienced during the dekad. In the Western Third, Sibanor recorded the highest dekadal amount of **109.2mm**. In the Middle Third, Kaur recorded the highest dekadal total of **108.2mm**, whereas in the Eastern Third; Basse recorded the highest dekadal total of **39.9mm** (figure 1a).

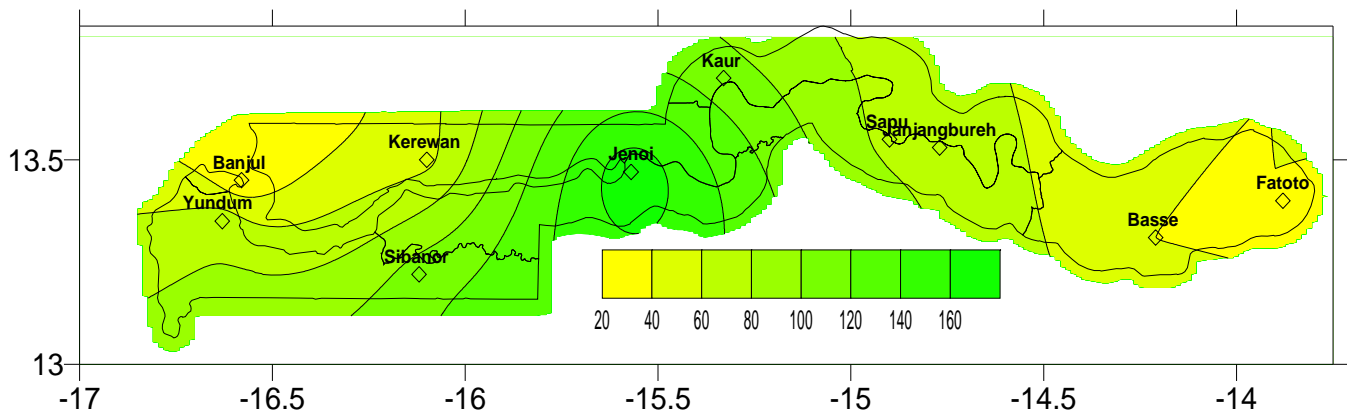


Figure 1a: Rainfall dekadal totals 1ST - 10th August 2017.

Seasonally so far, rainfall totals increased slightly and continued to vary across the country. The highest rainfall totals across the country were recorded over the Middle Third of the country with Jenoi recording over **600mm**. In the eastern part of the country, Basse recorded the highest seasonal total of over **400mm**, whilst Kerewan in the Western Third recorded a seasonal total of **600mm**, figure 1b below.

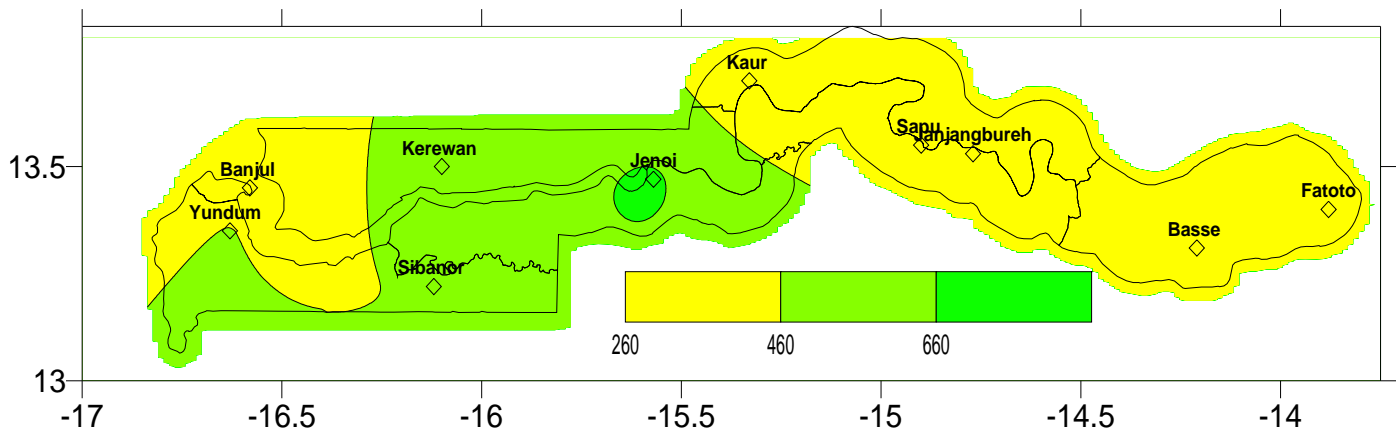


Figure 1b: Rainfall Seasonal totals from May 1st 2017 – August 10th 2017.

As at 10th August 2017, the country average stood at **427.4mm**, which is **47%** above last year's amount (**290.0mm**) and **17%** above the long term mean (30 year period) of (**365.8mm**).

2.3 Temperature

Average temperatures across the country varied between 26°C and 28°C. Minimum temperature reached 22°C over the entire country, whilst maximum temperature reached 35°C over the Middle and Western Thirds respectively.

2.3 Winds

Winds were light occasionally moderate to strong with maximum speed of 55km/h recorded over the Middle Third of the country.

2.4 Sunshine Duration

Sunshine duration during this dekad was between 4 hours to 7 hours.

2.5 Relative Humidity

Average relative humidity during this dekad was above 60% countrywide.

3.0 Hydrological Situation

N/A

4.0 AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

West Coast Region

N/A

North Bank Region

In this region agricultural activity involves rice transplanting and final weeding for some farmers, while others are on fertilizer application in the upland fields. Crops phenology are at advanced vegetative stages (millet tillering, some few earlier planted groundnut are flowering and pegging, some maize tasseling). Due to a day flooding some gardens were flooded in Toroba and few structural damage at Suwareh Kunda.

Lower River Region

N/A

Central River Region North

N/A

Central River Region South

N/A

Upper River Region

Weeding is the predominant engagement as most farmers have it done twice i.e. first and second weeding and in extreme challenges of weed competition thrive. Fertilizer application is done alongside with scarcity being experienced. Farmers are optimistic of a good season across the region if the trend continues, as the rainfall pattern has discourage the stiff challenge of weeds with crop plants, as weed condition to regain it's competitive ability is totally negated by the sun weakening and drying. A study on the Fall Armyworm is being done (FAO/PPS) partnership in the region to measure its scale of prevalence.

4.1 COMMODITY PRICES

N/A

4.2 CROP PROTECTION

N/A

4.3 LIVESTOCK

The Livestock situation in the Country is gradually improving as most of the grazing fields are now green with succulent grasses and shrubs. This will provide Livestock access to adequate feeds which is key for the enhancement of Livestock production and productivity. The current projections are that clinical cases are expected to decline and animal productivity increased due to the abundance of feed and drop in the infective capacity of disease vectors. In view of that, clinical figures as of August 10th, 2017 are as follows. CRRS 83 heads of cattle, 97 Sheep 67 goats, 9 donkeys and 32 horses. In CRRN 112 heads of cattle 74 sheep 98 goats, 6 donkeys and 12 horses. LRR 102 heads of cattle, 113 Sheep, 107 goats, 7 donkeys and 5 horses NBR, 124 cattle, 87 Sheep, 93 goats, 4 donkeys and 7 horses. URR 132 heads of cattle, 76 Sheep, 89 goats 13 donkeys and 11 horses. WCR 243 heads of cattle 108 Sheep 64 goats 23 donkeys and 19 horses.

Banjul August 12, 2017

National MWG of The Gambia

<p>Composition of MWG: Department of Water Resources Planning Services - Department of Agriculture (DOA) Communication, Extension & Education Services - DOA Department of Livestock Services Plant Protection Services - DOA National Environment Agency</p>	<p>Direct your comments and questions to: The Director Department of Water Resources 7 Marina Parade, Banjul The Gambia Tel: (+ 220) 422 76 31 / 422 41 22 / 890 52 29 Email: dwr@mofwrnam.gov.gm</p>
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