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| EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY No. 2013/10 IN THE GAMBIA Period: August 1 - 10, 2013 | | |
| **Government of The Gambia** | Produced and Published by the Multidisciplinary Working Group of the AGRHYMET Regional Programme  **Focal Point: Department of Water Resources**  **TEL: (+220) 4227631 / 4224122 / 8905229** **-** **FAX: (+220) 422 50 09** E-MAIL: dwr@mofwrnam.gov.gm / WEB: www.mofwrnam.gov.gm | AGRHYMET Regional Programme |

**1. PROGRESS OF RAINY SEASON**

The ITD (imaginary line separating warm and moist winds from dry northerly winds over West Africa) continued with its seasonal northwards movement. In the Western, Central and Eastern Africa, the mean position of the ITD was approximately 20.0 degrees north, about 7 degrees latitude above the Gambia. Thus, allowing more moisture influx into the country, resulting to increased rainfall events over the Gambia and the sub-region. A rainfall value of more than 50 mm in a day was recorded over some places in Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal and The Gambia.

**1.1 WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE GAMBIA**

Warm, humid and variably cloudy condition prevailed during the early parts of the dekad, whilst heavy down pour of rain dominated the weather during the latter part of the dekad

**1.2 RAINFALL OUTLOOK FOR AUGUST 11 – 20, 2013**

During the early part of the dekad, rain and thunderstorm will dominate the weather over the coastal area, whereas rains (sometimes up to 60 mm per day) with strong winds is expected to affect some places during the latter part of the dekad.

**2. RAINFALL SITUATION**

This dekad has witnessed an increased in rainfall events across the country both in time and in space. , The frequency of rain has increased significantly, whilst the intensities varied between low and moderate. Daily down pours ranged from 0.9 mm to 41 mm and number of rainy days also varied between 3 and 7. No cases dry spell was recorded across the country, thus this situation will aid on-farm activities such as ploughing.

Dekadal totals varied from 37.7 mm over Banjul to 129.1 mm over Yundum both in the Western Third (figure 1a), whilst the seasonal totals varied from the lowest of 198.2 mm over Banjul in the Western Third to 567.6 mm over Sapu in the Middle Third (figure 1b).



*Figure 1a: Dekadal rainfall distribution*



*Figure 1b: Seasonal rainfall distribution*

As at August 10, the country average stood at 352.1 mm, 20% below last year’s (424.7 mm) and 3% below the long term mean (365.8 mm) of 1981 to 2010.

**4. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION**

Average temperatures fluctuate between 25oC (over the coastal areas) and 28oC (over the inland areas) across the country, a drop of about 2oC compared to the previous dekad. This drop is due to the increased humid conditions experienced during the dekad. Highest temperatures were between 31oC and 32oC over the Western Third, 31oC and 33oC over the rest of the country, whilst a minimum temperature fluctuates between 19oC (along the coast) to 24oC (inland).

Average maximum relative humidity (RH) stood at 98%, whist the minimum stood at 60%. This shows a continued increase in air humidity, thus keeping the weather warm hence the need for cooling and refreshing, but equally disagreeable to asthmatic patients and household laundry.

Wind speeds during the dekad were light to moderate in speed, ranging from 7.6 km/hr to 27 km/hr across the country. This dekad was marked by a lot of cloudiness resulting to sunshine duration varying between 4.4 hrs to 6.7 hrs across the country.

**5. AGRICULTURAL SITUATION**

Across the country major field activities varied between planting and weeding (first and second). Meanwhile, in most areas plant growth is at variable stages ranging from seedlings to early vegetative stages. Generally, no serious pest incidence is reported across the country.

This information is received from the following extension centres:

* **NBR: Bakindic**:-- Crops are doing fine. Farmers are on their first and second weeding. No pest incident reported.
* **NBR: Njaba Kunda**:-- Some farmers have already completed their first weeding, whiles others are on second weeding. Both maize, early millet, and groundnut are at early vegetative stages. No pest incident reported.
* **CRR-NORTH: Njau**:-- Farmers are on their second weeding for groundnut, millet, maize, and early millet. For Low land rice, farmers just started planting. However, the major concern for some is lack of enough seedlings. No pest incident reported.
* **URR: Naudeh**:-- Farmers have just started planting groundnut due to lack of enough rainfall on time, but for other crops like maze, early millet and sorghum are in germination stages of development.
* **URR: Jah Kunda**:-- The crops are doing very fine and in good shape. Farmers are on their second weeding. No pest incident reported.
* **URR: SUTUKOBA:**--Most farmers have completed their first weeding, while some are in their second weeding. All crops are doing fine at the moment. No pest incident reported.
* **URR: GIROBA:** -- Some farmers are still planting crops like groundnut, maize, and early millet. Weeding is in progress. No pest incident reported.
* **LRR; Kwinella**:-- Crops are doing fine and farmers have finished their first weeding, whiles others are in their second weeding. No pest incident reported.
* **WCR: Somita** :-- Farmers are active on weeding moment. Generally crops are in good progress. Rainfall pattern is very promising at the moment. No pest incident reported.

**6. SITUATION OF MARKETS**

The table below shows cereals, vegetables, fruits and roots and meat was in supply in Markets in the Greater Banjul Area, however the prices fluctuate from one market to another.

**Table 1: Average market prices**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Commodity | Banjul | Bakau | Serekunda | Latri Kunda | Brikama | Sukuta/Tipper Garage | Average |
| **Cereal Price Per Kilogram** | | | | | | | |
| Maize | 26.12 | 22.70 | 26.66 | 24.60 | 21.54 | 24.62 | 24.37 |
| Early Millet | 26.33 | 23.82 | 21.80 | 21.63 | 23.96 | NA | 23.51 |
| Late Millet | 26.07 | 21.14 | 26.68 | NA | NA | 23.09 | 24.25 |
| Sorghum | 26.61 | 19.39 | 21.36 | 24.60 | 21.69 | 16.47 | 21.69 |
| Local Rice | 20.00 | NA | 28.00 | 24.00 | 28.00 | 24.00 | 24.80 |
| Broken Rice | 24.00 | 22.00 | 22.00 | 22.00 | 22.00 | 22.00 | 22.33 |
| Long Grain Rice | 28.00 | 24.00 | 26.00 | NA | NA | 24.00 | 25.50 |
| Findo | 78.50 | 75.00 | 65.00 | 75.00 | 75.00 | 66.48 | 72.50 |
| **Vegetables** | | | | | | | |
| Cabbage | 35.43 | 30.00 | 30.93 | 32.10 | 25.43 | 28.69 | 30.43 |
| Lettuce | NA | NA | 36.96 | 34.67 | 34.72 | 36.99 | 35.84 |
| Hot pepper | 111.25 | 108.33 | 103.98 | NA | NA | 105.58 | 107.29 |
| Large pepper (Hot) | 62.50 | NA | NA | 64.17 | 54.76 | 59.87 | 60.33 |
| Okra | 55.06 | 54.23 | 51.48 | NA | 51.91 | 57.83 | 54.10 |
| Egg plant | 25.75 | 25.79 | 24.16 | 26.69 | 27.77 | 25.05 | 25.87 |
| Sorrel | 19.15 | NA | 18.33 | NA | 23.04 | NA | 20.17 |
| Ammaranthus | 15.63 | 32.29 | NA | 75.19 | NA | 21.16 | 36.07 |
| Kerenkereng | 28.17 | 28.13 | 23.19 | NA | NA | 26.57 | 26.52 |
| Wonjo | 113.88 | 119.38 | 111.28 | 108.57 | 109.79 | 109.23 | 112.02 |
| Bitter tomato | 42.78 | NA | 40.56 | NA | 35.56 | 38.43 | 39.33 |
| Tomato big size | 35.71 | 40.00 | NA | 50.48 | 40.58 | 41.19 | 41.59 |
| Tomato small size | 48.61 | NA | 51.43 | NA | NA | NA | 50.02 |
| Imported Onion | 32.35 | 30.00 | NA | NA | 31.72 | NA | 31.36 |
| Local Onion | 30.00 | 30.00 | 34.17 | 35.00 | 30.91 | 32.32 | 32.07 |
| **Roots & Tubers** | | | | | | | |
| Carrot | 50.61 | 51.96 | 51.75 | 48.05 | 48.03 | 48.97 | 49.90 |
| Cassava | 22.12 | 25.35 | 24.67 | NA | 19.26 | 23.71 | 23.02 |
| Sweet Potato | 24.40 | 20.37 | 22.13 | NA | 19.88 | 16.92 | 20.74 |
| Irish Potato | 40.00 | 35.00 | 34.36 | 30.00 | 36.02 | 34.42 | 34.97 |
| **Fruits, Nuts & Legumes** | | | | | | | |
| Mangoes | 11.50 | NA | 10.10 | NA | 9.70 | 12.69 | 11.00 |
| Lemon | 55.56 | NA | 25.76 | NA | NA | 24.32 | 35.21 |
| Pumkin | 33.01 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 33.01 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Commodity** | **Banjul** | **Bakau** | **Serekunda** | **Latri kunda** | **Brikama** | **Sukuta/Tipper Garage** | **Average** |
| Banana | NA | 40.00 | 40.00 | NA | 40.00 | NA | 40.00 |
| Pawpaw | NA | NA | 20.00 | NA | NA | NA | 20.00 |
| Decorticated G/Nut | 48.75 | 47.82 | 47.96 | 47.50 | 42.01 | 44.45 | 46.42 |
| Undecorticated G/nut | 32.83 | NA | 31.40 | NA | 32.56 | 31.45 | 32.06 |
| Beans | 35.00 | 40.00 | NA | 40.00 | 35.00 | 39.61 | 37.92 |
| Baoba Fruit | 48.33 | 43.38 | 46.28 | NA | 42.44 | 46.53 | 45.39 |
| **Livestock** | | | | | | | |
| Beef Meat&Bone | 140.00 | 120.00 | 150.00 | 140.00 | 140.00 | 150.00 | 140.00 |
| Beef Steak | 160.00 | 140.00 | 150.00 | 175.00 | 175.00 | 170.00 | 161.67 |
| Mutton | 150.00 | 150.00 | 175.00 | NA | 150.00 | NA | 156.25 |

*Source: Planning Services Unit, Department of Agriculture in collaboration with the Early Warning Systems (EWS), here present the 4 week of May 2013 Agricultural commodity Average Prices per KG of selected markets For more information please contact: Planning Services MIS on 4225210/9938218/7618921*

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| **Composition of MWG:**  Department of Water Resources  Planning Services - Department of Agriculture (DOA)  Communication, Extension & Education Services - DOA  Animal Health & Production Services - DOA  Plant Protection Services - DOA National Environment Agency | Direct your comments and questions to:The DirectorDepartment of Water Resources7 Marina Parade, BanjulThe Gambia Tel: **(+ 220) 422 76 31 / 422 41 22 / 890 52 29**  Email: [dwr@mofwrnam.gov.gm](mailto:dwr@mofwrnam.gov.gm) |