

EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

No. 2010/08

IN THE GAMBIA

Period: July 11 - 20, 2010



Government of The Gambia

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Group of the AGRHYMET Regional Programme

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AGRHYMET Regional Programme

1. PROGRESS OF 2010 RAINY SEASON

The mean surface position of the boundary demarcating the dry and moist regions over West Africa (i.e. the Inter Tropical Discontinuity - ITD) was located over Tidjikta (Mauritania), Tombuctou (Mali) and Agadez (Niger). Thus, the ITD continued with its northward movement in the central and western axis, whereas the eastern axis maintained its position as in the last dekad.

Convective cloud development, rain and thunderstorm (sometimes squally) characterized the weather to the south of the ITD, particularly over the southern Sahel. To the north however, warm, dry and sunny afternoons characterized the weather with occasional dusty/hazy conditions notably over northern Mauritania, Mali and Niger.

2. RAINFALL OUTLOOK FOR JULY 21 - 31, 2010

Warm temperatures and variable cloudiness will prevail with rain and / or thunderstorm over most places during the beginning and the end of the dekad.

3. RAINFALL SITUATION

A significant amount of rainfall was recorded with improvement in terms of frequency across the country as compared to the previous dekad. Daily rainfall ranging from 2.1mm to 50.6mm was recorded in the Western Third, 1.1mm to 53.4mm in the Middle Third and 2.5mm to 132.1mm in the Eastern Third. The number of rainy days ranged from 4 to 8 (fig.1a).

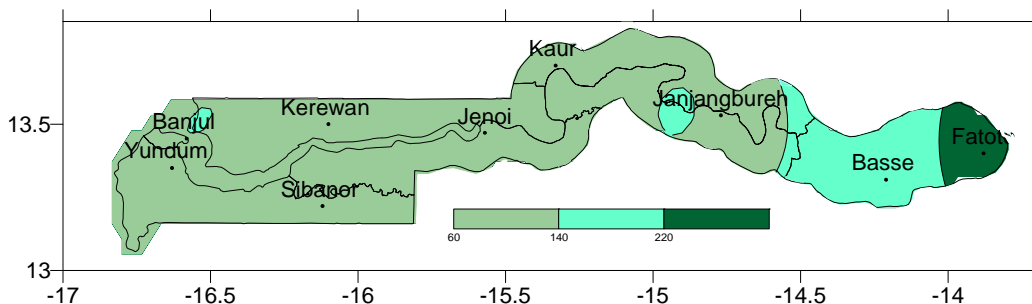


Figure 1a: Rainfall intensity during July 11 – 20, 2010

The seasonal total as at July 20, shows that Fatoto in the Eastern Third of the country took the lead by recording 401.6mm while Yundum in the Western Third recorded the least of 163.5mm of rainfall. (fig. 1b).

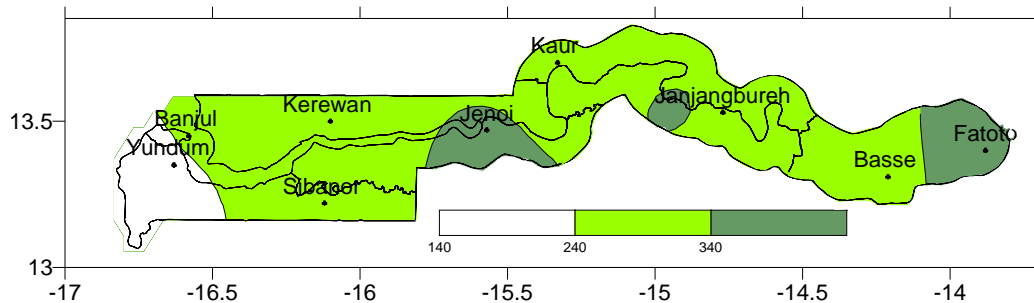


Figure 1b: *Cumulative rainfall as at July 20, 2010*

When compared to the preceding year at the same period, all stations in the country recorded a surplus except Yundum, which recorded a deficits of 47mm. When compared also to the long term mean (Normal), only Yundum recorded a deficit of 4.1 mm.

4. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

During this dekad, average daily temperatures significantly decreased as compared to the previous dekad. This can be attributed to heavy down pours experienced across the country this dekad. Lowest temperature was 19.0 °C recorded at Kerewan in the Western Third of the country and the highest temperature was 36.9 °C recorded at Fatoto in the Eastern Third of the country.

Maximum Relative Humidity (RH) was over 80% across the country while the minimum RH was above 60% across the country.

Winds were generally light to moderate in speed but instances of squally situations occurred this dekad with a maximum wind gust of over 52 km/hr recorded at Janjangbureh on the 19th July 2010.

Composition of MWG:

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