
EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

May 2, 2012

IN THE GAMBIA

Period: May 11 - 20, 2012



Government of The Gambia

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AGRHYMET Regional Programme

1. PROGRESS OF RAINY SEASON

The Inter-Tropical Discontinuity (ITD) was located just one degree north of the Gambia, stretching through eastern Senegal, south-west Mali and then slanting onto southern Niger and Chad. This signals the rapid intrusion of monsoon over West Africa.

Places to the south of this position including the Gambia, were characterized by isolated to scattered convective activities resulting to rain and thunderstorms especially at the end of the dekad.

The Sub-Tropical High Pressure System, the Azores High, is expected to weaken and thus enhance more monsoon surge over West Africa.

2. RAINFALL OUTLOOK FOR MAY 21 - 31, 2012

Humid atmosphere and warm afternoons with convective activities will prevail with chances of rain and thunderstorms between 21st and 23rd May 2012 and also towards the middle of the dekad. Thereafter, warm, humid and stable atmosphere will prevail for the rest of the dekad.

3. RAINFALL SITUATION

During this dekad, significant amounts of rainfall were recorded across the country, coming in the second half of the dekad with daily intensities ranging from 0.8mm at Kerewan in the Western Third to 37.5mm at Sapu in the Middle Third. Compared to the same time last year (2011), rainfall of less than 1mm were recorded only at Basse (0.7mm) and Fatoto (0.8mm), all in the Eastern Third.

When compared to the long term mean (1981 – 2010), all the stations across the country recorded surpluses ranging between 0.2mm and 33.1mm.

However, though significant rainfall amounts were recorded, farmers are advised not to sow their seeds, as significant rainfall is not expected in the coming ten (10) days.

4. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

Temperatures were higher during this dekad as compared to the previous one. Extreme temperatures of 43 °C and above were recorded across the country except Banjul and Yundum in the Western Third which recorded 35.0 °C and 39.0 °C respectively

Winds were generally light to moderate in speed with a line squall that recorded a maximum gust of 43kmph at Janjanbureh in the Middle Third of the country on May 19, which cause damage to trees.

Highest relative humidity recorded ranged from 71% to 92% whilst lowest relative humidity ranged from 31% to 54%, country wide

Average daily sunshine hours varied between 7.5 hours to 8.8 hours, indicating a drop compared to the previous dekad which can be attributed to the increased cloud cover. Evaporation of water bodies has slightly increased in the minimum level and decreased slightly in the maximum level as compared with the previous dekad.

5. AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

The major field activities by farmers continued to be field clearing, acquisition and preparation of seeds and the repair of farming implements. Meanwhile, some farmers in the Eastern Third (Sutukuba, Sare Wuro and Alumhareh), have started sowing Early Millet.

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
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