
EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

No. 2019/09

IN THE GAMBIA

Period: July 21 - 31, 2019



Government of The Gambia

Produced and Published by The Gambia National
Multidisciplinary Working Group

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1. SYNOPTIC SITUATION

The mean surface position of the ITD have its western axis oscillating over northern Senegal stretching across central parts of Mali and Niger; and then sloping onto Chad.

The places to the north of the ITD were characterized by dry and stable atmosphere, with patches dust haze reported over Algeria which reduced the horizontal visibility within a range of 1000 to 5000 meters.

Locations to the south of the ITD were dominated by rain and thunderstorms which affected most of West African States including Sierra Leone, Senegal, Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Mali and Burkina Faso during the period.

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT DEKAD 01st – 10th AUGUST 2019

The atmosphere will remain humid and relatively warm, especially in the afternoons. Low chances of slight rains are expected to affect the country on the 02nd, 05th and 08th August 2019, especially over the eastern part of the country. Overall, the first dekad of August 2019 is **not** expected to enhance good precipitation in the Gambia.

3. RAINFALL SITUATION

The rainfall situation has improved significantly during this dekad, although with variations across the country. Recorded figures were highest (235.1mm) over Sibanor in the Western Third, 80mm over Kaur in the Middle third and 50.4mm recorded over Basse in the Eastern Third. The lowest dekadal total was recorded over Sapu (13.1mm) in the Middle third of the country, (figure 1a below).

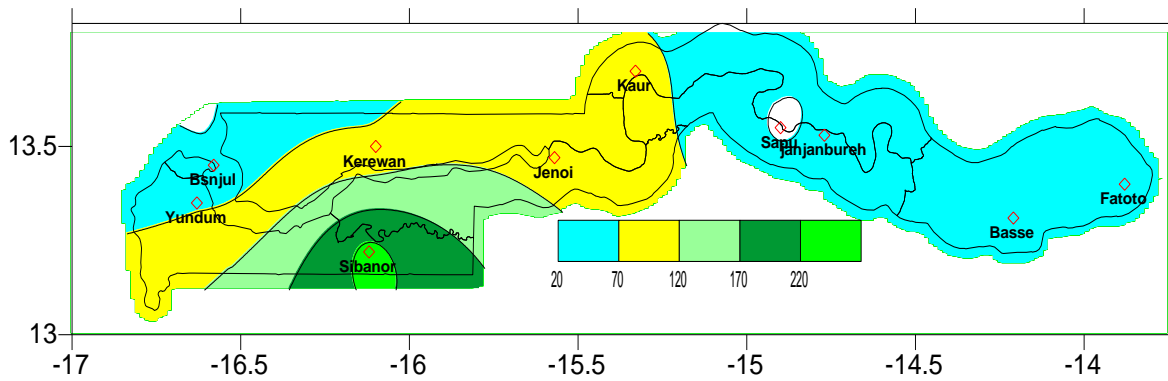


Figure 1a: decadal rainfall totals 21st – 31st July 2019.

Seasonal cumulative totals have also improved as a result of the significant improvement registered during the dekad in review. Sibanon in the Western third recorded the highest countrywide with over 300mm of rain, whereas in the Middle third, the highest seasonal total is recorded over Sapu of over 170mm. In the Eastern third Basse and Fatoto each recorded seasonal total of over 200mm, (Figure 1b).

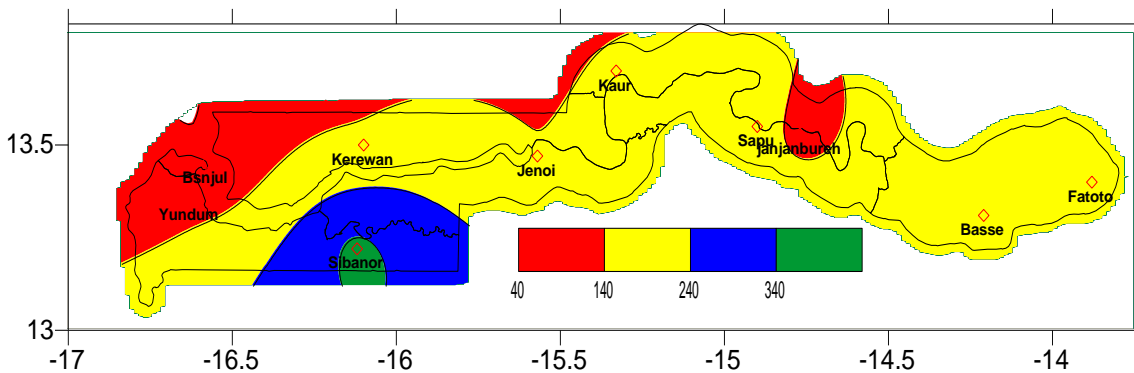


Figure 1b: Seasonal rainfall totals 1st May – 31st July 2019.

In Comparison, this year’s country average as at 31st July 2019 is 172.4mm, which is 9% below last year this time (188.8mm), and 41% below the country average (1981_2010), which is 289.9mm.

4. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

Recorded mean temperatures were 28°C over the Eastern Third rising to 32°C over Kaur in the Middle Third of the country. Minimum temperature varied between 20°C over the Eastern Third to 25°C also over Kaur in the Middle Third; whereas maximum temperature varied between 36°C over the Western and Eastern Thirds, increasing to 38°C over Jenoi in the Middle Third. Extreme temperatures reached a

minimum of 15°C over Fatoto in the Eastern Third, and maximum temperatures reached 41°C recorded over Jenoi in the Middle Third.

Winds were light, moderate and heavy during the dekad, with a maximum gust of **51.2km/h** recorded over the Western Third of the country.

Average sunshine recorded during this dekad has greatly decreased due to increased cloud coverage; highest sunshine recorded during the dekad was about 7hours, over Jenoi in the Middle .

Minimum Relative Humidity (RH %) recorded across the country was 37% over the Middle Third whereas Maximum RH recorded was over 95% across the country.

5. AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

The agricultural situation in the country during this dekad has improved in response to the moisture availability. Some few farmers have resumed sowing, due to some germination failures as a result of moisture deficit resulting from the prolonged dry spell during the last dekads.

Input distribution is still ongoing and farmers are as well busy on weeding especially on their early millet fields as well as backyard farms such as maize.

Banjul August 3, 2019.

National MWG of The Gambia

Composition of MWG:

Department of Water Resources
Planning Services - Department of Agriculture (DOA)
Communication, Extension & Education Services - DOA
Animal Health & Production Services - DOA
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