
EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

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IN THE GAMBIA

Period: June 11-20, 2018



Government of The Gambia

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Multidisciplinary Working Group

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



1.0 SYNOPTIC SITUATION:

During this dekad, the mean surface position of the Inter Tropical Discontinuity (ITD), a boundary layer that separates the dry hot northeasterly winds from the moist warm southwesterly winds have its western axis over Senegal, just about 2°N over The Gambia steeping onto southern Mauritania stretching across south western Mali, southern Niger/Burkina Faso and then slanting onto Chad.

To the south of this position, the weather was characterized by convective cloud development which gave rise to thunderstorms and rains over places, especially in Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and the Gulf of Guinea States. However, occurrences were mostly scattered and confined to the evenings and early mornings.

To the north of the ITD, by contrast, was dry and stable with dust haze and rising sand observed over northeast of Mauritania and central Mali.

1.1 OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT DEKAD (21st to 30th June 2018)

The ITD is expected to continue its northward migration with increasing humidity and convective activities. However, not much rains are expected during the dekad except on Tuesday 26th and Thursday 28th June 2018 where isolated to moderate rains may affect the Eastern part of the country.

2.0 RAINFALL SITUATION

During this dekad, the rainfall situation has improve both in the Middle and Eastern Thirds of the country as compared to the last dekad. Dekadal totals of 0.3mm, 0.1mm, 13.4mm and 12.9mm were recorded over Kaur, Jenoi, Sapu and Janjanbureh respectively in the Middle Third, while 30.9mm and 40.9mm were recorded over Basse and Fatoto respectively in the Eastern Third of the country. These rainfall figures were recorded between one to three rainy days in both Middle and Eastern Third of the country. Apart from traces, no significant rainfall was recorded in the Western Third. This can be attributed to the fact that winds that brings in moist in The Gambia enhancing rainfall comes from the East of the continent.

When compared to the preceding year (2017), deficits of 25.5mm, 0.1mm and 6.7mm were recorded over Banjul, Jenoi and Basse respectively. All stations across the country also recorded deficits when compared with the long term mean.

3.0 AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

Average temperatures recorded in this dekad ranged from 15.6°C to 29.0°C over the Western Third and from 28°C to 31 °C over the Middle and Eastern Thirds of the country. This shows a slight drop in the average temperatures across the country except Banjul and Kerewan in the Western Third.

Lowest minimum temperature was 19°C recorded over Banjul, Sibanor and Kerewan all in the Western Third of the country which can be attributed mainly due to the influence of moist winds blowing across the Atlantic Ocean to these areas. Maximum temperature recorded was 40.9°C recorded over Sapu and Basse in the Middle and Eastern Thirds respectively.

Average wind speed recorded across the country continued to be light to moderate in speed as in the past dekads that has no negative impacts to lives and properties.

Average sunshine recorded varied between 5 to 7 hours in the Western Third, 6 to 7 hours in the Middle Third and 7 hours in the Eastern Third of the country.

Average relative humidity during this period under review ranged from 60% to 73% in the Western Third, 51% to 58% in the Middle Third and 57% to 61% in Eastern Third of the country. This indicates that the water content in the atmosphere is higher over the Western Third than the Middle and Eastern Thirds of the country which can be denoted mainly because of the Western Third's proximity to the Atlantic Ocean that has great influence in evaporation to its immediate environment.

4.0 AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

The Agricultural situation across the country varies per region as follows:

- **West Coast Region**

Farmers in this region are generally clearing and burning of farm lands, acquisition and preparation of various seeds for sowing in this year's (2018) rainy season and reparation of farming implements. Women farmers are continuing vegetable gardening in lowland areas.

- **North Bank Region**

In this region, the agricultural engagements of farmers are mainly dry sowing of early millet by few farmers, clearing and burning of farmlands are ongoing, seeds preparation for sowing during the rainy season and vegetable gardening for women farmers.

- **Lower River Region**

Farmer activities in this region continue to be land preparation for farming activities, and vegetable gardening. Some farmers have started dry sowing of early millet in anticipation for the installment of rains.

- **Central River Region**

In this region, some farmers are engaged in dry sowing of early millet in anticipation of the rains. Clearing and burning of fields are far in progress, seeds preparations for sowing started in earnest, some women farmers in this region are also engaged in vegetable gardening.

- **Upper River Region**

In this region, with the little amount of rain received in the area, some farmers have started sowing early millet. Also, some farmers who have not started clearing their fields before the rain are now engaged in clearing and burning of their fields as well as seeds acquisition and treatment is ongoing in this region.

5.0 MARKET SITUATION

5.1 Crop

The availability in stock and their demand in the markets continue to be the driving force for market prices of cereals in the country. The price of maize in some parts of the provinces remained at 13.00 Dalasis per kilo as in the last dekad but is sold at 25.00 Dalasis per kilo in other parts of the country.

The price of imported rice (broken) remained the same D24.00/kg, but has increase slightly from D26.00/kg to D26.92/kg in Basse as compared with the last dekad.

5.2 Price of beef and mutton

The price of beef ranged from D D175.00/kg to D225.00/kg in many provincial markets, whilst the price of mutton ranged from D225.00 to D250.00/kg.

6.0 LIVESTOCK

The Livestock situation in the Country is not impressive due to the fact that farmers across the country have cleared most of the grazing fields thus impeding the progress of milk production, imposing weaknesses to livestock that can lead to exposing them to diseases.

Banjul, 25th June 2018

National MWG of The Gambia

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	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:
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