
EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

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IN THE GAMBIA

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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. SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the past dekad, the mean surface position of the ITD have its western axis oscillating over just about 2°N above the Gambia, stretching across North-eastern Senegal, central Mali, central Niger and then sloping onto Chad.

Locations to the north of the ITD were punctuated by dry and stable atmosphere with dust haze observed over some parts of Algeria, Libya and northern Chad.

In contrast, places to the south of ITD experienced convective activities resulting to rain and thunderstorms, especially over Mali, Burkina-Faso, Niger and the Gulf of Guinea States. Slight to moderate rain associated with strong winds affected eastern part of The Gambia causing structural damages to the infrastructures and loss of human lives. However, all the occurrences were confined to the evenings and nights.

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT DEKAD (21ST- 30TH JUNE 2019)

The weather will be generally warm during the afternoons with a steady increase of moisture concentration aloof in the atmosphere from 21st – 27th June 2019. Rains and thunderstorms, occasionally associated with strong winds are expected through 28th to 30th June 2019, especially over the eastern part of the country.

3. RAINFALL SITUATION

The rainfall situation in this dekad has improved in some parts of the country, recorded rainfall figures indicate some significant amounts, the highest of which occurred over Janjanbureh (14.9mm) and Sapu (11.3mm) respectively, both in in the Middle Third of the country, whereas Basse in the Eastern Third recorded 3.7mm. There is no significant amount of rainfall recorded so far over the Western Third of the country which is usual as our weather always propagates from the Eastern sector westwards. However the situation shows that there is already delay in the start of the rainy season, which is similar to the 2018 cropping season during this time.

4. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

Recorded mean temperatures during the dekad in review varied from 29°C in the Western Third increasing to 33°C in the Eastern Third of the country. Minimum temperature also varied between 23°C over the Western Third to 26°C over the Eastern Third, whereas maximum temperature varied between 35°C in the Western Third increasing to 40°C over the Eastern Third. Recorded Extreme temperatures reached a minimum of 18°C in the Middle Thirds to 43°C over the Eastern Third of the country. Generally temperatures have increased by a degree or two in comparison to the previous dekad.

Average sunshine duration varied between 7 hours to 9 hours. Minimum Relative Humidity (RH%) recorded across the country increased from 11% during the last dekad to 18% in the Middle Third; whereas Maximum RH recorded were 80% to over 90% countrywide.

Winds were light to moderate in speed throughout the country. However, a maximum wind gust with a maximum speed of **62km/h** swept the Middle and Eastern Thirds of the country on the **18th** of June. This squally wind were devastating in nature, affecting communities in both the Eastern and Middle Thirds of the country; causing structural damages including collapsed buildings, leading to the death of three people and injuring many others. Affected places includes: Taibatou in Wulli West, Sare Musa in Jimara district, Bajonkoto in Wulli East, Galleh Manda, Sololo, Pachar, Yerro Beri Kunda, Sare Soffie, Sinchang Faramba, Dobong Kunda, Janjangbureh etc.

5. AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

Most farmers across the country are still engaged in activities such as land preparation, seed acquisition, acquisition and maintenance of farming implements, scouting for draft animals, decorticating of seed nuts and other pre-season activities. This is due to the delay in available moisture content for sowing. However horticultural activities are in progress in some parts of the country as well as rice growing in Tidal fields around Kuntaur.

Banjul June 22, 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 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: dwr@mofwrnam.gov.gm
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