
EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

No. 2017/01

IN THE GAMBIA

Period: May 1-10, 2017



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 METEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

1.1. SYNOPTIC SITUATION:

The average surface position of the Inter Tropical Discontinuity (ITD) for the dekad has experienced a northward movement. It oscillates over northern Senegal, central Mali, onto southern Niger and Chad.

Dry and stable atmosphere prevailed to the north of the ITD with dust haze observed over Mauritania and Algeria. Conversely, convective activities prevailed to the south of the ITD especially over the Gulf of Guinea States; Ivory Coast, Guinea, Liberia, Ghana, Togo and Nigeria in particular; as well as over Burkina Faso and southern Mali. Over The Gambia, partly cloudy, relatively cool atmosphere prevailed in the mornings, becoming warm and sunny in the afternoons during the period.

1.2 OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT DEKAD (11 – 20 May 2017)

The weather in this dekad will be pretty much the same as the preceding dekad (i.e. as in the summary above) except for a chance of development of convective clouds in the eastern sector of the country.

2.0 AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

2.1 RAINFALL

As at May 10, no rainfall was recorded throughout the country, a situation similar to that of last year.

2.2 TEMPERATURE

Mean temperatures recorded during the dekad for the entire country were between 25.0°C over the Western Third and 33, 5°C over the Eastern Third. However extreme temperatures recorded showed a minimum of 15°C over the East and a maximum of 43.0°C over the East and Middle Thirds respectively.

2.3 WINDS

Winds were light to moderate in speed with a maximum gust of 35km/h

2.4 SUNSHINE.

Average sunshine recorded was 9 hourly burns countrywide.

2.5 RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Relative Humidity recorded during the dekad was 35% over the Eastern Third, 50% in the Middle Third and 70% over the Western Third respectively. The high humidity recorded over the Western Third could be attributed to the regions proximity to the Atlantic Ocean.

3. AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

Major agricultural activity throughout the country involves field clearing in uplands, seeds acquisition and preparation of farming implements. In the lowlands, farmers' activities range from weeding to harvesting of tidal irrigated rice. In the west Coast region, vegetable gardening in lowland fields is still in progress.

4. LIVESTOCK

The Livestock situation in the Country is not impressive as farmers have started clearing their fields in preparation for the rainy season. This often results to the burning of grazing lands. This exercise is likely to increase the number of clinical cases due to the warm weather which is conducive for some disease vectors. The Department will not be found wanting in its fight against the destructive effects of animal diseases in the Country.

Clinical cases recorded includes CRRS 290 (2.9%) heads of cattle, In CRRN 113(1.13%) heads of cattle, LRR 421(4.21%) heads of cattle, NBR,91(0.19%) cattle, URR 221(2.21%) heads of cattle, WCR 211(2.11%) heads of cattle.

Banjul May 12, 2017

National MWG of The Gambia

Composition of MWG:

Department of Water Resources
Planning Services - Department of Agriculture
(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: dwr@mofwrnam.gov.gm