
EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

No. 2017/05

IN THE GAMBIA

Period: June 11-20, 2017



Government of The Gambia

Produced and Published by The Gambia National
Multidisciplinary Working Group

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1.0 METEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

1.1. SYNOPTIC SITUATION:

The average surface position of the ITD during the previous dekad has experienced northward movement, with its western axis oscillating over central Senegal, southern parts of Mauritania/Mali borders, central Niger and then sloping onto Chad.

The north of the ITD experienced dry and stable atmosphere, with dust observed over south of Algeria while slight dust was reported over parts of northern Mali and Niger. Conversely, instability prevailed to the south of the ITD, with convective activities leading to rain and thunderstorms, mostly over the eastern Sahel, southern Senegal and Gulf of Guinea states.

1.2. WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE GAMBIA

Warm and increasing humidity continued to characterize the atmosphere with convective activities which led to rain and thunderstorms at the end of the dekad, especially over eastern part of the country.

1.3. OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT DEKAD (21st to 30th June 2017)

Generally warm, humid and convective activities will prevail during the period. Light to moderate rain and thunderstorms, occasionally associated with strong winds is expected to affect the country on the 22nd, 24th and 28th June 2017, particularly over the eastern part of the country.

2.0 AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

2.1 RAINFALL SITUATION

The rainfall situation in this dekad has steadily improved with rainfall recorded in the Middle and Eastern Thirds of the country. Rainfall figures record were 15.0mm over Basse in the east, 5.0mm over Fatoto, 9.5mm over Sapu in the Middle Third and 0.2mm over Jenoi. However there are reports confirmed by the Regional Agricultural Directorate in the URR of a heavy downpour of 69.0mm of rain over Wulli recorded towards the end of the previous dekad (9th June 2017). This depicts the early start of the rains as indicated in the 2017 Seasonal Forecast herein included.

2.2 Temperature

Average temperatures recorded during this dekad varied between 28°C over the Western Third and 35°C recorded over the Eastern Third. Lowest minimum temperatures was 20°C recorded over the capital city Banjul that continued to be influenced by the influx of moisturized winds blowing across the atlantic ocean to these areas, whereas maximum temperatures reached 35°C and 40.0°C over the Western and Middle and Eastern Thirds of the country respectively.

2.3 Winds

Wind speeds on average recorded during this dekad were generally moderate across the country. Maximum wind speed of 31km/h was recorded over the Middle and Eastern Thirds of the Country.

2.4 Sunshine

Average recorded sunshine during the dekad was between 7 to 8 hours of sunlight.

2.5 Relative Humidity

Relative humidity during this dekad was above 50% over the entire country. This indicates increase in moisture content of air, one of the conditions favorable for rainfall.

3.0 2017 Seasonal Rainfall Forecast for July August September (JAS)

The Department of Water Resources is pleased to present the **climate forecast** for this **Wet Season (2017)**.

As in past years, this product is the result of collaboration with the National Meteorological Services within the sub-region and beyond.

To understand the forecast, the following facts must be noted:

- Seasonal forecasting relies on prediction of averages over space and time, and may not reflect all the various factors that influence regional and national climate differences;
- The forecast is relevant only for the entire season and within relatively large areas, since local and month-to-month variations may occur;
- Rainfall results are usually expressed as being either **Below Normal, Normal, or Above Normal**, with Normal rainfall defined as the average rainfall during a 30-year period; and
- Finally, the forecast is only valid for the combined period of July, August and September (**JAS**), when approximately 80 per cent of the total seasonal rainfall occurs in the sub-region, including The Gambia.

Consequently, for the rainy season of JAS 2017, the forecast is one of Above Normal (*most likely*) to Normal rainfall (*likely*), that is a threshold of at least 830 mm of rainfall in The Gambia.

As at now, the above forecast is based on the best estimate of the impact of the various factors affecting rainfall in the country, and would be updated on a monthly basis starting from the end of June 2017.

Furthermore it is worthy of note that the 2017 rainfall season is expected to undergo more variability than the 2016 season with events such as onset, occasional flash flooding and wet/dry spells. Accordingly, this department will continue to provide ten-days outlooks and daily weather forecasts to better anticipate impacts of intra-seasonal climate events. This product can be obtained from our website: www.mofwrnam.gov.gm

The forecast is highly recommended for use in the planning of interventions in several socio-economic sectors.

4.0 AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

WEST COAST REGION

Agricultural activity in this region is mainly clearing of farm lands and dry ploughing in the lowland fields for rice production. Harvesting of some vegetable crops like onions, lettuce, pepper, eggplant and shallot is still ongoing.

NORTH BANK REGION

In this region, dry sowing of early millet has started ahead of the rains; land preparation is still in progress as some farmers are still busy clearing on their farm lands.

LOWER RIVER REGION

Agricultural activities in this region are similar to that of the West Coast Region. Farmers are engaged mainly on field clearing in the upland and dry ploughing in the low land fields for rice production

CENTRAL RIVER REGION – NORTH (CRR-n)

In the CRRn, field clearing in the uplands has already completed and farmers are waiting for enough moisture to plough their fields, whereas in the tidal irrigation, crop phenology varies, some fields have reached maturity and harvested, while some other field crops are at varying stages of development ranging from panicle formation to milky ripeness.

CENTRAL RIVER REGION – SOUTH (CRR-s)

N/A

UPPER RIVER REGION

In this region, farmers situated around Wulli are already sowing some cereals like maize after the heavy downpour at the end of the dekad. Activities elsewhere in the region involves land preparation 85% completed, seed acquisition and treatment and repairing of farming implements. Seed is a major problem in the region due to poor harvest in the previous season as a result farmers would welcome timely intervention in helping farmers to acquire good seeds on time.

4.1 COMMODITY PRICES

N/A

4.2 CROP PROTECTION

N/A

4.3 LIVESTOCK

The Livestock situation in the Country is not impressive as greater part of the grazing fields have been cleared by farmers in preparation for the rainy season. This often results to the indiscriminate burning of bushes that depraved Livestock access to adequate feeds. This exercise is likely to increase the number of clinical cases due to the warm weather which is conducive for some disease vectors. In view of that, clinical treatments figures are likely to rise. The following clinical cases were seen during the Month of June 2017. CRRS 67 heads of cattle, 112 Sheep 119 goats, 10 donkeys and 13 horses. In CRRN 104 heads of cattle 151 sheep 211 goats, 14 donkeys and 43 horses. LRR 173 heads of cattle, 237 Sheep, 228 goats, 36 donkeys and 21 horses. NBR,118 cattle, 146 Sheep, 161 goats, 29 donkeys and 17 horses. URR 268 heads of cattle, 175 Sheep, 227 goats 15 donkeys and 33 horses. WCR 207 heads of cattle 194 Sheep 263 goats 54 donkeys and 18 horses. The Department will not be found wanting in its fight against the destructive effects of animal diseases in the Country.

5.0 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (NEA)

N/A

Banjul June 22nd, 2017

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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