
EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY IN THE GAMBIA

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Government of The Gambia

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AGRHYMET Regional Programme

PRESS RELEASE

The Department of Water Resources is pleased to present the **climate forecast** for this **Wet Season (2013)**.

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 forecast 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 July, August and September 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 80per cent of the total seasonal rainfall occurs in the sub-region, including The Gambia.

Consequently, for the rainy season of JAS 2013, the forecast is one of Normal (most likely) to Above Normal rainfall (likely), that is a threshold of at least 750mmrainfall 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 2013.

Furthermore it is worthy of note that the 2013 rainfall season is expected to undergo more variability than the 2012 season with events such normal onset, occasional flash flooding and disruptions and wet/dry spells. Accordingly, this department will undertake to provide weekly climate and short to medium range weather forecast to better anticipate impacts of intra-seasonal climate events.

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

1. PROGRESS OF RAINY SEASON

The surface position of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) (imaginary boundary separating warm and moist winds from dry northerly winds over West Africa) during the dekad was on average above 3 degree latitude north of the Gambia as it continued its north ward movement. This shows that the rain bearing winds from the south Atlantic are moving progressively over the Gambia, hence resulting to the rains recorded across the country during the Dekad.

1.1 RAINFALL OUTLOOK FOR JUNE 1 - 20, 2013

Cloudy, humid and warm atmosphere combined with rain and thunderstorm is expected during the period.

2. RAINFALL SITUATION

Rainfall was recorded across the country during this dekad, however, the must heavier daily downpours were recorded in the Middle Third. Janjanbureh twice recorded 42.8 and 45.4 mm, Kaur Recorded 34mm and Njau 25.7mm, elsewhere in the Eastern Third, Basse and Sutukoba recorded 21 and 22mm respectively. In the Western Third only Sibanor recorded 10.4mm the rest were less than 3mm.

Meanwhile, this year's seasonal totals compared to the long-term mean (1981 - 2010) during the same period, deficits were only observed in the Western Third of the country ranging from 4.6 to 20.6 mm. In the Middle and Eastern Thirds, surpluses of 8.7 to 116.7 mm were observed.

As at June 10, the country average stood at 37.9mm, 48% above the long term mean (18mm) of 1981 to 2010. Meanwhile, the seasonal totals across the country ranged from 0.5mm of Banjul to 138.1mm at Sapu. This year's country average compared to last year during the same period, deficits are observed in the Western and Eastern Thirds, whilst the Middle Third recorded surpluses. The deficits in the Western Third ranges from 7 to 79mm and the Eastern third ranges from 8 to 30mm.

4. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

Average temperature across the country varied from 26 °C in the coast to 31°C in Basse in the East. Highest temperatures were between 32 °C and 37 °C in the Western Third, 39°C and 40 °C in the Middle and Eastern Thirds of the country.

As weather becomes more humid and warm, minimum temperatures have increased to the lowest of 20 °C in Banjul and 25°C in Basse.

Average maximum relative humidity (RH) varied 92 and 99%, whilst the minimum fluctuates between 19 and 59%.

Winds during the dekad were generally light, moderate and strong in speed, ranging from 7.5km/hr to 64km/hr across the country.

5. AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

During this dekad planting was not a major on-field activity, meanwhile, with the rains recorded during the dekad coupled with the previous one, cereal planting especially early millet will be a dominant field activity during the coming dekad (June 11 – 21) in some parts of the Middle and Eastern Thirds.

6. SITUATION OF MARKETS

The table below shows cereals, vegetables, fruits and roots and meat was in supplied in Markets in the Greater Banjul Area, however the prices continued to fluctuate from one market to another.

Table 1: Average market prices

	Banjul	Latrikunda	Bakau	Brikama	Serrekunda	Average
CEREALS	Price per kilogram					
Maize	22.23	19.70	20.27	21.97	19.92	20.82
Late Millet	25.41	18.49	24.52	23.69	19.92	22.41
Early Millet	25.41	N/A	21.06	N/A	N/A	23.24
Sorghum	28.55	19.17	N/A	19.36	18.91	21.50
Local Rice	32.00	28.00	33.03	28.00	28.00	29.81
Broken Rice	22.00	22.20	22.07	25.00	22.50	22.75
Long Grain Rice	23.00	24.00	24.55	26.00	24.26	24.36
Findo	79.99	75.05	75.20	74.25	75.00	75.90
VEGETABLES						
Cabbage	30.86	27.00	26.86	28.89	27.50	28.22
Lettuce	19.00	17.00	16.26	16.75	17.77	17.36
Hot Papper	85.00	83.34	79.52	83.00	83.54	82.88
Large Papper (Hot)	115.00	114.44	114.20	113.89	114.50	114.41
Okra	50.00	48.77	48.22	49.00	49.00	49.00
Egg Plant	20.00	17.16	15.33	18.10	18.00	17.72
Sorrel	20.00	18.08	20.73	16.66	17.88	18.67
Ammaranthus	18.15	14.44	14.03	14.00	14.21	14.97
Kerenkereng	19.43	18.04	17.26	18.87	18.00	18.32
Wonjo	79.81	77.86	78.68	73.20	77.77	77.46
Bitter Tomato	22.18	19.36	18.44	21.86	19.26	20.22
Tomato Big	37.85	32.85	34.26	33.80	35.00	34.75
Tomato Small	17.71	16.98	16.05	17.00	16.97	16.94
Imported Onion	28.85	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	29.77
Local Onion	25.00	20.00	26.01	25.00	25.00	24.20
ROOTS & TUBERS						
Carrot	40.00	35.00	33.67	N/A	35.00	35.92
Cassava	14.85	14.50	16.34	14.78	14.44	14.98
Sweet Potato	20.92	16.66	19.03	19.25	16.00	18.37
Irish Potato	25.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	29.00
FRUITS & LEGUMES						
Mangoes	10.00	9.10	9.25	8.36	9.15	9.17

Lemon	26.46	25.00	26.00	N/A	25.00	25.62
Pumkin	40.04	37.37	35.35	35.44	37.00	37.04
Banana	40.00	36.66	38.10	38.00	35.00	37.55
Pawpaw	28.05	N/A	20.00	N/A	25.00	24.35
Decorticated G/Nut	38.25	35.57	37.16	38.89	26.92	35.36
Undercorticated G/nut	33.00	31.31	32.58	32.22	32.00	32.22
Beans	45.00	40.00	44.12	40.00	39.50	41.72
LIVESTOCK						
Meat&Bones	110.00	130.00	120.00	120.00	125.00	121.00
Steak	140.00	150.00	150.00	140.00	150.00	146.00
Mutton	150.00	150.00	N/A	150.00	150.00	150.00

Source: Planning Services Unit, Department of Agriculture in collaboration with the Early Warning Systems (EWS), here present the 4 week of May 2013 Agricultural commodity Average Prices per KG of selected markets For more information please contact: Planning Services MIS on 4225210/9938218/7618921

Composition of MWG:

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 Communication, Extension & Education Services - DOA
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 Plant Protection Services - DOA
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