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# EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY IN THE GAMBIA

No. 2013/08

Period: July 11 - 20, 2013

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Government  
of The Gambia

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Group of the AGRHYMET Regional Programme

Focal Point: Department of Water Resources

TEL: (+220) 4227631 / 4224122 / 8905229-FAX: (+220) 422 50 09

E-MAIL: [dwr@mofwrnam.gov.gm](mailto:dwr@mofwrnam.gov.gm) / WEB: [www.mofwrnam.gov.gm](http://www.mofwrnam.gov.gm)



AGRHMET Regional Programme

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## 1. PROGRESS OF RAINY SEASON

The surface position of the ITD during this dekad continued with its northward movement to over central Mauritania stretching towards northern Mali, over Niamey (Niger) and onto central Chad. This configuration allow the inflow of rain bearing winds into the sub-region including the Gambia hence resulting to convective cloud development, rain and thunderstorms over the Senegambia region, Mali, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone, Nigeria and in Niger. However, sand storms were reported to the north of the ITD, where weather conditions are generally stable and dry.

### 1.1 WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE GAMBIA

Thunderstorms and/or rain accompanied with strong winds (squall lines) affected parts of the country during the period.

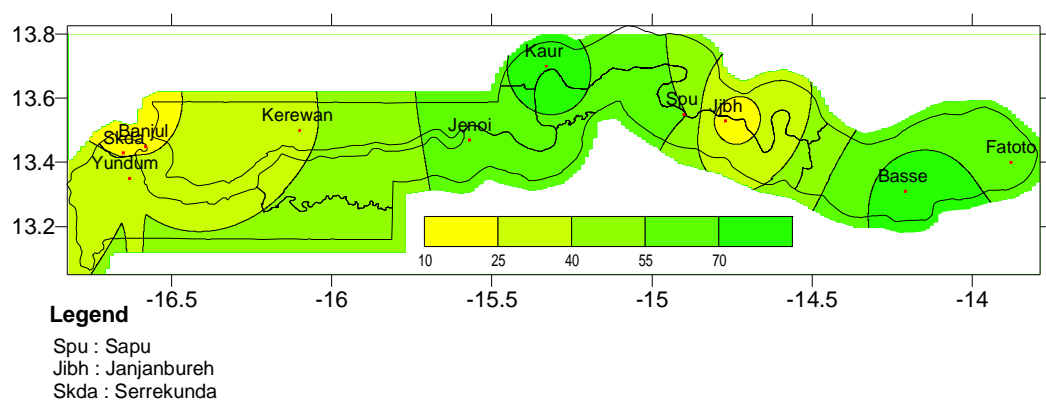
### 1.2 RAINFALL OUTLOOK FOR JULY 21 – 31, 2013

Rain and thunderstorm accompanied at times with strong wind (squally winds) will affect the country during the period.

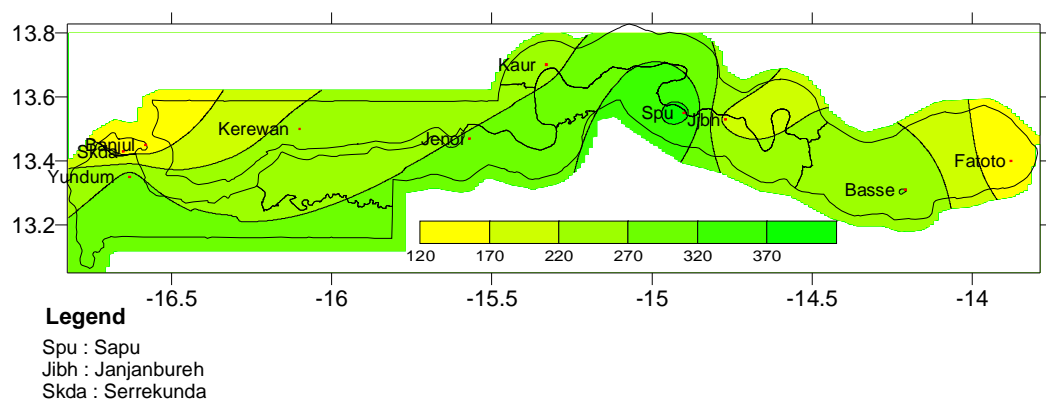
## 2. RAINFALL SITUATION

As in the previous dekad, rainfall was recorded across the country, but this time the distribution across the dekad was largely even. Rainfall events that were countrywide were those of the 12<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> of July. However, heavier daily down pours occurred on the last day (20<sup>th</sup>) of the Dekad. Highest daily rainfalls were 38.2mm over Yundum in the Western Third, 38.5mm over Jenoi in the Middle Third and 49.2mm over Basse in the Eastern Third, elsewhere records varied between 1.6mm and 36.8mm. The Number of rainy days ranges between 2 and 3 across the country.

Dekadal totals varied from 13mm over Janjanbureh in the Middle Third to 81.1mm over Basse in the Eastern (figure 1a), whilst the seasonal totals varied from the lowest of 130.7mm over Fatoto in the Eastern Third to 389.0mm over Sapu in the Middle Third (figure 1b).



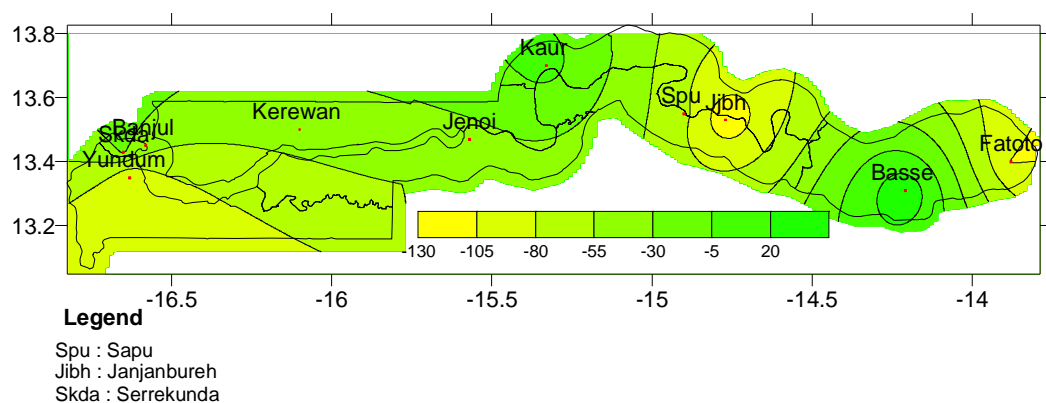
**Figure 1a: Dekadal rainfall distribution**



**Figure 1b: Seasonal rainfall distribution**

As at July 20, the country average stood at 234.1mm, 14.5% below last year's (273.9mm) and 18.5% above the long term mean (197.6mm) of 1981 to 2010.

The seasonal totals compared to last year during the same period, only Basse and Kaur recorded surpluses of 41 and 4.1mm respectively, whilst all the other stations recorded deficits ranging from 27mm to 386mm (figure 1c).



**Figure 1c: Seasonal rainfall difference to last year**

#### **4. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION**

Average temperatures across the country were 26°C along the coast to 29.5°C in the East. Highest temperatures were between 33°C and 35°C over the Western Third, 35.0°C and 38°C over the rest of the country.

Minimum temperatures remained largely unchanged across the country, 20°C over the coast to 25 further inland.

Average maximum relative humidity (RH) stood at 95%, whilst the minimum also stood at 52%. This shows the extent of humidity in the air, thus keeping it warm and leading to discomfort through sweating, hence increasing the need for cooling.

Wind speeds during the dekad were light to moderate in speed, ranging from 7.5km/hr to 29.5km/hr across the country.

#### **5. AGRICULTURAL SITUATION**

Generally, across the country fields activities varied between planting and weeding. Information received from some areas gave the following field activities:

- ✓ Bakendic (NBR): Early millet planting is progress and some farmers have started planting groundnuts;
- ✓ Njau (CRR-North): Farmers are weeding early and some are planting groundnuts;
- ✓ Dankuku (CRR-South): Planting of groundnuts and weeding of early millet is in progress;
- ✓ Sutukoba (URR-North): Farmers are weeding crops such as early and late millet, groundnuts and up-land rice;
- ✓ Giroba (URR-South) Farmers are planting groundnuts and weeding of early millet and up-land rice is in progress together with ploughing;
- ✓ Pirang (WCR): Farmers are planting maize, up-land rice, late millet and groundnuts.

No serious pest incidence is reported across the country.

Planning Services Unit, Department of Agriculture in collaboration with the Early Warning Systems (EWS), here present the 3rd week of July 2013 Agricultural commodity Average Prices per KG (Dalasis) of selected markets

Commodity	Banjul	Bakau	Serekunda	Latrikunda	Brikama	Sukuta/Tipper Garage	Average
<b>Cereal</b>							
<b>Price Per Kilogram</b>							
Maize	26.46	22.00	23.51	24.67	22.87	24.62	24.02
Early Millet	26.50	24.90	20.30	20.59	20.27	22.00	22.43
Late Millet	24.47	20.09	19.20	NA	NA	23.45	21.80
Sorghum	23.39	23.20	20.60	19.61	19.80	18.42	20.84
Local Rice	30.00	NA	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.40
Broken Rice	22.00	21.73	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	21.96
Long Grain Rice	25.00	24.00	26.00	NA	24.00	1.33	20.07
Findo	76.00	75.00	65.00	75.00	68.75	72.65	72.07
<b>Vegetables</b>							
Cabbage	35.10	32.53	33.59	30.00	32.44	30.50	32.36
Hot pepper	112.51	110.00	110.25	112.20	111.10	110.00	111.01
Large pepper (Hot)	60.58	58.00	60.00	61.00	57.73	58.93	59.37
Okra	58.21	55.50	54.86	56.00	55.55	57.83	56.33
Egg plant	29.19	25.79	26.53	25.81	26.97	29.17	27.24
Sorrel	20.48	NA	NA	NA	NA	21.05	20.77
Ammaranthus	20.77	19.81	NA	20.46	18.09	19.73	19.77
Kerenkereng	28.13	27.21	25.51	NA	26.69	27.14	26.94
Wonjo	110.54	107.56	NA	107.16	109.03	108.21	108.50
Bitter tomato	42.52	40.37	42.17	NA	40.64	41.13	41.37
Tomato big size	34.04	30.00	31.80	32.00	30.28	30.86	31.50
Tomato small size	40.22	NA	NA	NA	NA	42.20	41.21
Imported Onion	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Local Onion	35.00	30.00	30.21	30.00	35.00	30.99	31.87
<b>Roots &amp; Tubers</b>							
Carrot			50.38			50.04	49.87

	50.47	50.06		50.00	48.28		
Cassava	19.78	19.31	18.42	NA	16.42	18.57	18.50
Sweet Potato	17.18	15.68	16.63	NA	15.09	16.10	16.14
Irish Potato	30.00	35.00	31.08	35.00	35.00	32.02	33.02
<b>Fruits, Nuts &amp; Legumes</b>							
Mangoes	7.90	7.50	6.88	6.75	6.16	7.42	7.10
Lemon	28.50	NA	26.06	NA	NA	23.32	25.96
Banana	38.50	40.00	37.50	40.00	35.00	40.00	38.50
Decorticated G/Nut	48.33	44.78	43.82	44.11	42.85	47.76	45.28
Undecorticated G/nut	32.04	31.76	30.63	30.66	31.42	31.19	31.28
Beans	40.00	37.50	36.85	36.50	35.00	38.14	37.33
Baoba Fruit	43.09	43.58	42.48	NA	39.27	43.10	42.30
<b>Livestock</b>							
Beef Meat&Bone	130.00	125.00	150.00	140.00	125.00	130.00	133.33
Beef Steak	150.00	140.00	170.00	175.00	150.00	150.00	155.83
Mutton	160.00	150.00	NA	NA	150.00	NA	153.33

**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](mailto:dwr@mofwrnam.gov.gm)