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# EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

## IN THE GAMBIA

No. 2013/10 Period: August 1 - 10, 2013

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Government of The Gambia

Produced and Published by the Multidisciplinary Working  
Group of the AGRHYMET Regional Programme

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AGRHMET Regional Programme

### 1. PROGRESS OF RAINY SEASON

The ITD (imaginary line separating warm and moist winds from dry northerly winds over West Africa) continued with its seasonal northwards movement. In the Western, Central and Eastern Africa, the mean position of the ITD was approximately 20.0 degrees north, about 7 degrees latitude above the Gambia. Thus, allowing more moisture influx into the country, resulting to increased rainfall events over the Gambia and the sub-region. A rainfall value of more than 50 mm in a day was recorded over some places in Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal and The Gambia.

#### 1.1 WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE GAMBIA

Warm, humid and variably cloudy condition prevailed during the early parts of the dekad, whilst heavy down pour of rain dominated the weather during the latter part of the dekad

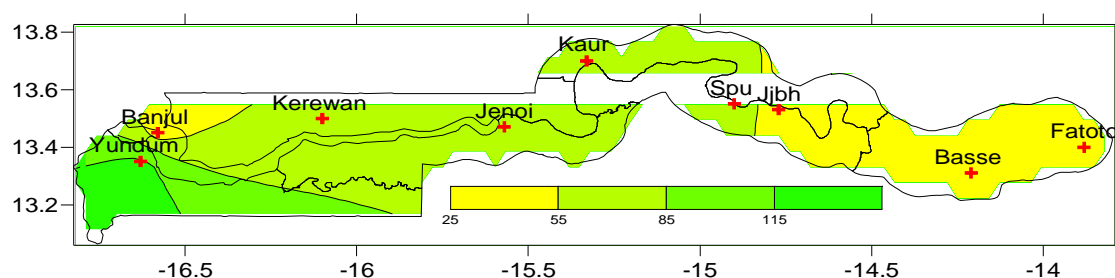
#### 1.2 RAINFALL OUTLOOK FOR AUGUST 11 – 20, 2013

During the early part of the dekad, rain and thunderstorm will dominate the weather over the coastal area, whereas rains (sometimes up to 60 mm per day) with strong winds is expected to affect some places during the latter part of the dekad.

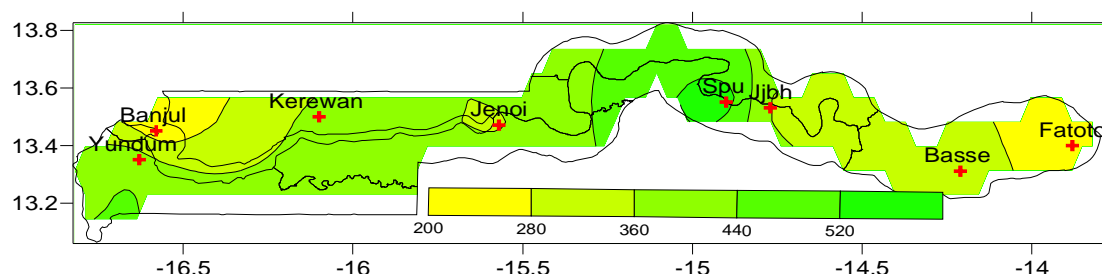
### 2. RAINFALL SITUATION

This dekad has witnessed an increased in rainfall events across the country both in time and in space. , The frequency of rain has increased significantly, whilst the intensities varied between low and moderate. Daily down pours ranged from 0.9 mm to 41 mm and number of rainy days also varied between 3 and 7. No cases dry spell was recorded across the country, thus this situation will aid on-farm activities such as ploughing.

Dekadal totals varied from 37.7 mm over Banjul to 129.1 mm over Yundum both in the Western Third (figure 1a), whilst the seasonal totals varied from the lowest of 198.2 mm over Banjul in the Western Third to 567.6 mm over Sapu in the Middle Third (figure 1b).



**Figure 1a: Dekadal rainfall distribution**



**Figure 1b: Seasonal rainfall distribution**

As at August 10, the country average stood at 352.1 mm, 20% below last year's (424.7 mm) and 3% below the long term mean (365.8 mm) of 1981 to 2010.

#### 4. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

Average temperatures fluctuate between 25°C (over the coastal areas) and 28°C (over the inland areas) across the country, a drop of about 2°C compared to the previous dekad. This drop is due to the increased humid conditions experienced during the dekad. Highest temperatures were between 31°C and 32°C over the Western Third, 31°C and 33°C over the rest of the country, whilst a minimum temperature fluctuates between 19°C (along the coast) to 24°C (inland).

Average maximum relative humidity (RH) stood at 98%, whilst the minimum stood at 60%. This shows a continued increase in air humidity, thus keeping the weather warm hence the need for cooling and refreshing, but equally disagreeable to asthmatic patients and household laundry.

Wind speeds during the dekad were light to moderate in speed, ranging from 7.6 km/hr to 27 km/hr across the country. This dekad was marked by a lot of cloudiness resulting to sunshine duration varying between 4.4 hrs to 6.7 hrs across the country.

## 5. AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

Across the country major field activities varied between planting and weeding (first and second). Meanwhile, in most areas plant growth is at variable stages ranging from seedlings to early vegetative stages. Generally, no serious pest incidence is reported across the country.

This information is received from the following extension centres:

- ✓ **NBR: Bakindic:**-- Crops are doing fine. Farmers are on their first and second weeding. No pest incident reported.
- ✓ **NBR: Njaba Kunda:**-- Some farmers have already completed their first weeding, while others are on second weeding. Both maize, early millet, and groundnut are at early vegetative stages. No pest incident reported.
- ✓ **CRR-NORTH: Njau:**-- Farmers are on their second weeding for groundnut, millet, maize, and early millet. For Low land rice, farmers just started planting. However, the major concern for some is lack of enough seedlings. No pest incident reported.
- ✓ **URR: Naudeh:**-- Farmers have just started planting groundnut due to lack of enough rainfall on time, but for other crops like maize, early millet and sorghum are in germination stages of development.
- ✓ **URR: Jah Kunda:**-- The crops are doing very fine and in good shape. Farmers are on their second weeding. No pest incident reported.
- ✓ **URR: SUTUKOBA:**-- Most farmers have completed their first weeding, while some are in their second weeding. All crops are doing fine at the moment. No pest incident reported.
- ✓ **URR: GIROBA:** -- Some farmers are still planting crops like groundnut, maize, and early millet. Weeding is in progress. No pest incident reported.
- ✓ **LRR; Kwinella:**-- Crops are doing fine and farmers have finished their first weeding, while others are in their second weeding. No pest incident reported.
- ✓ **WCR: Somita :**-- Farmers are active on weeding moment. Generally crops are in good progress. Rainfall pattern is very promising at the moment. No pest incident reported.

## 6. SITUATION OF MARKETS

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

**Table 1: Average market prices**

Commodity	Banjul	Bakau	Serekunda	Latri Kunda	Brikama	Sukuta/Tipper Garage	Average
<b>Cereal Price Per Kilogram</b>							
Maize	26.12	22.70	26.66	24.60	21.54	24.62	24.37
Early Millet	26.33	23.82	21.80	21.63	23.96	NA	23.51
Late Millet	26.07	21.14	26.68	NA	NA	23.09	24.25
Sorghum	26.61	19.39	21.36	24.60	21.69	16.47	21.69
Local Rice	20.00	NA	28.00	24.00	28.00	24.00	24.80
Broken Rice	24.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.33
Long Grain Rice	28.00	24.00	26.00	NA	NA	24.00	25.50
Findo	78.50	75.00	65.00	75.00	75.00	66.48	72.50
<b>Vegetables</b>							
Cabbage	35.43	30.00	30.93	32.10	25.43	28.69	30.43
Lettuce	NA	NA	36.96	34.67	34.72	36.99	35.84
Hot pepper	111.25	108.33	103.98	NA	NA	105.58	107.29
Large pepper (Hot)	62.50	NA	NA	64.17	54.76	59.87	60.33
Okra	55.06	54.23	51.48	NA	51.91	57.83	54.10
Egg plant	25.75	25.79	24.16	26.69	27.77	25.05	25.87
Sorrel	19.15	NA	18.33	NA	23.04	NA	20.17
Ammaranthus	15.63	32.29	NA	75.19	NA	21.16	36.07
Kerenkereng	28.17	28.13	23.19	NA	NA	26.57	26.52
Wonjo	113.88	119.38	111.28	108.57	109.79	109.23	112.02
Bitter tomato	42.78	NA	40.56	NA	35.56	38.43	39.33
Tomato big size	35.71	40.00	NA	50.48	40.58	41.19	41.59
Tomato small size	48.61	NA	51.43	NA	NA	NA	50.02
Imported Onion	32.35	30.00	NA	NA	31.72	NA	31.36
Local Onion	30.00	30.00	34.17	35.00	30.91	32.32	32.07
<b>Roots &amp; Tubers</b>							
Carrot	50.61	51.96	51.75	48.05	48.03	48.97	49.90
Cassava	22.12	25.35	24.67	NA	19.26	23.71	23.02
Sweet Potato	24.40	20.37	22.13	NA	19.88	16.92	20.74
Irish Potato	40.00	35.00	34.36	30.00	36.02	34.42	34.97
<b>Fruits, Nuts &amp; Legumes</b>							
Mangoes	11.50	NA	10.10	NA	9.70	12.69	11.00
Lemon	55.56	NA	25.76	NA	NA	24.32	35.21
Pumkin	33.01	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	33.01
<b>Commodity</b>	<b>Banjul</b>	<b>Bakau</b>	<b>Serekunda</b>	<b>Latri</b>	<b>Brikama</b>	<b>Sukuta/Tipper</b>	<b>Average</b>

				kunda		Garage	
Banana	NA	40.00	40.00	NA	40.00	NA	40.00
Pawpaw	NA	NA	20.00	NA	NA	NA	20.00
Decorticated G/Nut	48.75	47.82	47.96	47.50	42.01	44.45	46.42
Undecorticated G/nut	32.83	NA	31.40	NA	32.56	31.45	32.06
Beans	35.00	40.00	NA	40.00	35.00	39.61	37.92
Baoba Fruit	48.33	43.38	46.28	NA	42.44	46.53	45.39
<b>Livestock</b>							
Beef Meat&Bone	140.00	120.00	150.00	140.00	140.00	150.00	140.00
Beef Steak	160.00	140.00	150.00	175.00	175.00	170.00	161.67
Mutton	150.00	150.00	175.00	NA	150.00	NA	156.25

*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:**

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

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