
EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

No. 2017/11

IN THE GAMBIA

Period: AUGUST 11-20, 2017



Government of The Gambia

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Multidisciplinary Working Group

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1.0 METEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

1.1. SYNOPTIC SITUATION:

The mean surface position of the ITD, a boundary layer that separates the Northeasterly winds from the monsoon winds has its western axis oscillating around northern Mauritania, southern Algeria, central Niger and sloping onto Chad.

The places to the south of the ITD was characterised by dry and stable atmosphere, with pockets of slight dust haze observed over Algeria and Libya.

However places to the north of the ITD experienced convective activities, generating instability which led to rain showers and thunderstorms.

1.2. WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE GAMBIA

The atmosphere was generally humid with warm conditions during the day. The weather activities were mainly the occurrence of moderate to heavy rains and thunderstorms, occasionally associated with strong winds.

1.3. OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT DEKAD (21st 31st August 2016)

The saturated atmosphere will remain humid with warm conditions during the day. Rain showers and thunderstorms, occasionally accompanying by strong winds will be dominant during the last dekad of August, especially in the evening of 22nd through 27th August 2017.

2.0 AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

2.1 RAINFALL SITUATION

The rainfall situation in this dekad showed significant variations in dekadal totals. In the Middle Third, Jenoi recorded the highest dekadal total of 338.1mm, in the Western Third Sibanor recorded 162.3mm highest, whilst in the Eastern Third Basse recorded the highest of about 135.9, (Figure 1a).

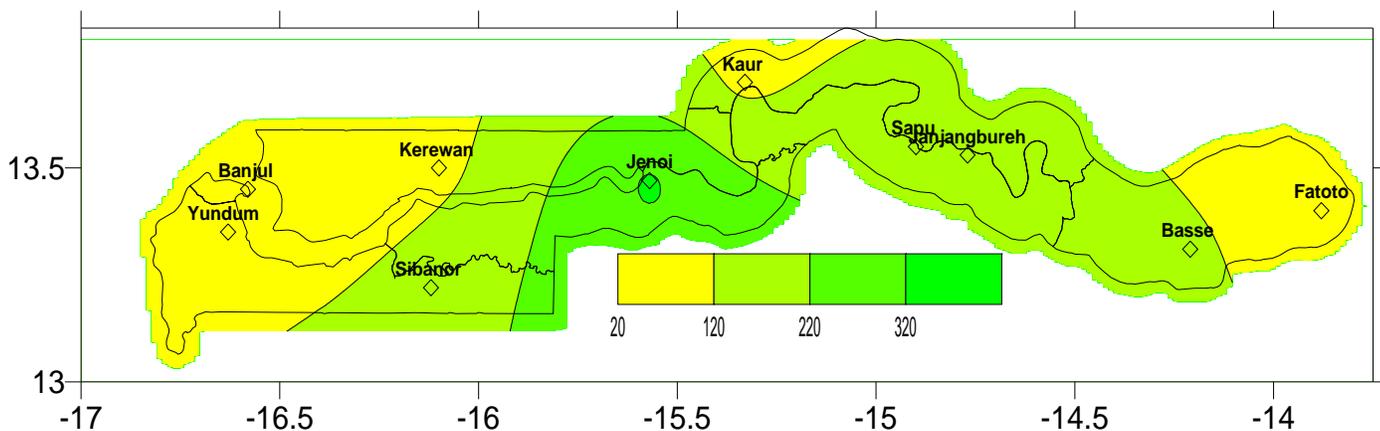


Figure 1a: Rainfall dekadal totals 11th –20th August 2017.

Seasonal rainfall totals increased but varies significantly. Jenoi in the Middle Third recorded the highest cumulative amount of **1016.9 mm**, Sibani in the Western Third recorded **625.1mm**, whereas in the eastern Third Basse recorded the highest cumulative total of **561.5mm**. However the lowest seasonal totals so far is observed over Banjul in the Western Third, Kaur and Janjanbureh in the Middle Third and Fatoto in the Eastern third, all recording cumulative rainfall totals of less than **500mm**, figure1b below

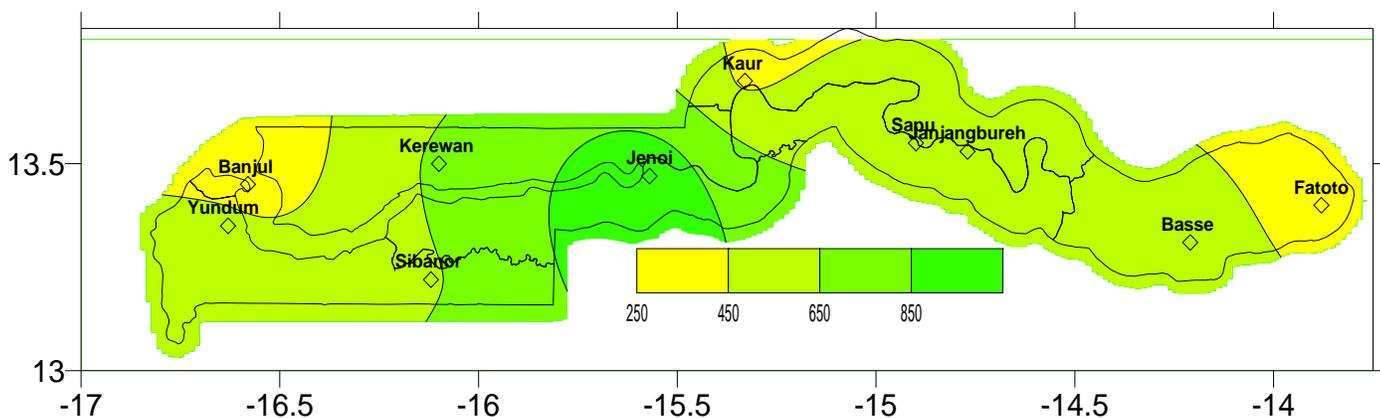


Figure 1b: Rainfall Seasonal totals from May 1st 2017– August 20th 2017.

RAINFALL COMPARISON

In comparisons, the country average as at 20th August 2017 stood at **562.1**, which is **30%** above last year’s amount (**430.3mm**) and **23%** above the long term mean (30 year period) of (**456.0mm**).

Table1: Daily highest rainfall figures per Station during the dekad (11th – 20th August 2017)

STATION	RAINFALL (Millimeters)	DATE RECORDED
Yundum Airport	27.5	18/08/2017
Sibanor	68.5	20/08/2017
Jenoi	88.8/138.8/55.7	11 th ,12 th ,18 th /08/2017
Banjul	33.0	19/08/2017
Kerewan	41.7	12/08/2017
Kaur	41.0	18/08/2017
Janjanbureh	48.4	12/08/2017
Sapu	62.5	19/08/2017
Basse	45.0	19/08/2017
Fatoto	14.1	20/08/2017

Table1 shows events of heavy precipitation during the dekad with Jenoi in the Middle Third recording the heaviest of 88.8mm and 138.8mm in two consecutive days, Sibanor and Sapu recorded daily rainfall totals of over 60mm. These heavy rainfall events could lead to flash floods, flooding and submerging of rice fields, erosions of roads and side roads and deposition of sand in lowlands areas.

2.3 Temperature

Average temperatures across the country varied between 27°C and 28°C. Minimum temperature reached 22°C recorded over the Western and Eastern Thirds, whilst maximum temperature reached 34°C countrywide.

2.3 Winds

Winds were moderate to strong with maximum gusts of 64km/h recorded over the Middle Third.

2.4 Sunshine Duration

Sunshine duration on average was between 5 to 6 hours throughout the country.

2.5 Relative Humidity

Average relative humidity continues to be high above 60% countrywide.

3.0 Hydrological Situation

N/A

4.0 AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

West Coast Region

The main agricultural activities in this region are weeding and ploughing and sowing of water melon and pumpkin fields, rice transplanting in the lowlands is also ongoing. Most upland crops are at vegetative stages, whereas rice crops are at seedling stages.

North Bank Region

In this region agricultural activity involves rice transplanting and final weeding for some farmers, while others are on fertilizer application in the upland fields. Crops phenology are at advanced vegetative stages (millet tillering, some few earlier planted groundnut are flowering and pegging, some maize tasseling). Due to a day flooding some gardens were flooded in Toroba and few structural damage at Suwareh Kunda.

Lower River Region

N/A

Central River Region North

Agricultural activities in this region are predominately third weeding in the upland crops and few transplanting of rice in the lowland fields. Phenologically some millet crops are at tillering, whereas groundnut is at vegetative stage. There are reports of fall early worm pest at Ballanghar Choya.

Central River Region South

N/A

Upper River Region

Weeding is the predominant engagement as most farmers have it done twice i.e. first and second weeding and in extreme challenges of weed competition thrive. Fertilizer application is done alongside with scarcity being experienced. Farmers are optimistic of a good season across the region if the trend continues, as the rainfall pattern has discourage the stiff challenge of weeds with crop plants, as weed condition to regain it's competitive ability is totally negated by the sun weakening and drying. A study on the Fall Armyworm is being done (FAO/PPS) partnership in the region to measure its scale of prevalence.

4.1 CEREAL COMMODITY PRICES

N/A

4.2 LIVESTOCK

The Livestock situation in the Country is gradually improving as most of the grazing fields are now green with succulent grasses and shrubs. This will provide Livestock access to adequate feeds which is key for the enhancement of Livestock production and productivity. The current projections are that clinical cases are expected to decline and animal productivity increased due to the abundance of feed and drop in the infective capacity of disease vectors. In view of that, clinical figures as of August 20th, 2017 are as follows. CRRS 63 heads of cattle, 58 Sheep 43 goats, 10 donkeys and 21 horses. In CRRN 116 heads of cattle 81 sheep 72 goats, 4 donkeys and 14 horses. LRR 142 heads of cattle, 85 Sheep, 59 goats, 3 donkeys and 31 horses. NBR, 141 cattle, 75 Sheep, 119 goats, 9 donkeys and 4 horses. URR 122 heads of cattle, 78 Sheep, 91 goats 18 donkeys and 10 horses. WCR 251 heads of cattle 118 Sheep 42 goats 38 donkeys and 32 horses.

The Department will not be found wanting in its fight against the destructive effects of Livestock diseases in the Country.

Banjul 22nd August 2017

National MWG of The Gambia

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