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# EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

No. 2015/12

## IN THE GAMBIA

Period: August 21-31, 2015

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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 ITD on the surface sloped over the coast of Mauritania, rising onto northern Niger via Mali before sloping again over northern Nigeria. Weather to the south of this position was characterized by convective cloud development which gave rise to thunderstorms and or rains over most places. Occurrences were mostly scattered, but occasionally squally and widespread, especially over the Sahel. North of the ITD, by contrast, was generally dry and stable with sand storms/rising sand observed over much of North Africa where least visibility values of 2000 to 3000 metres were reported. The Azores and St Helena high pressure systems had mean core values of 1019 and 1033hpa respectively during the period. Both highs remained quasi-stationary over the North Atlantic and South Atlantic Oceans respectively. The wind flow at low levels was mostly moist Southerlies to south-westerly feeding into cyclonic vortices that traversed the sub-region during the period. At mid-levels the West African easterly wave was persistently in place.

### 1.2 WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE GAMBIA

General cloudiness with moderate to heavy downpour affected most parts of the country during the decade

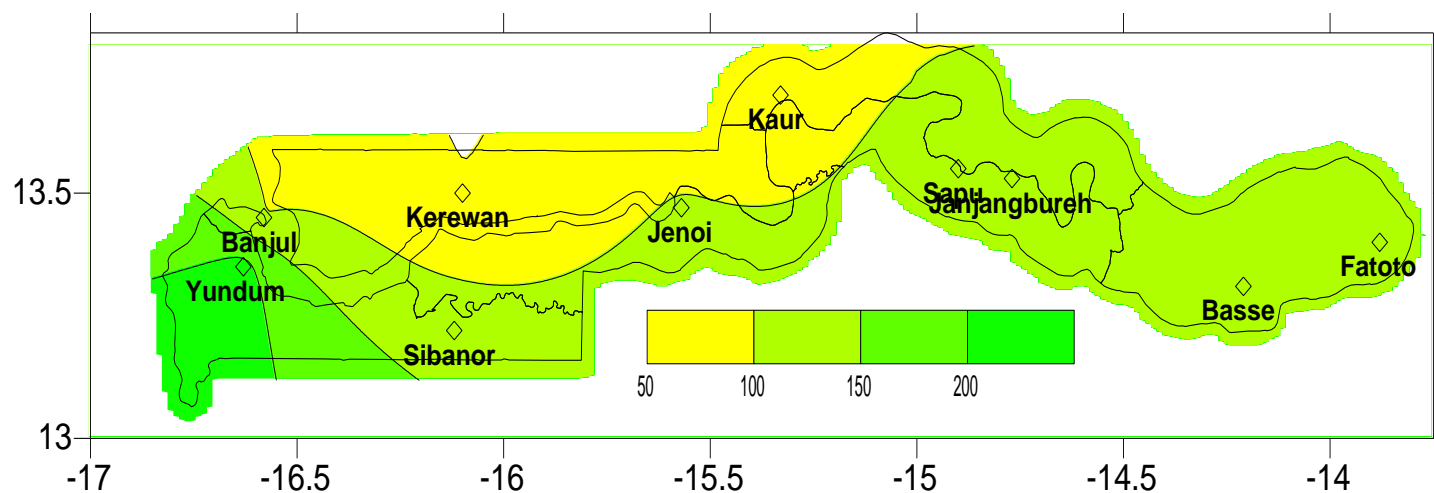
## 2.0 AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

### 2.1 RAINFALL SITUATION

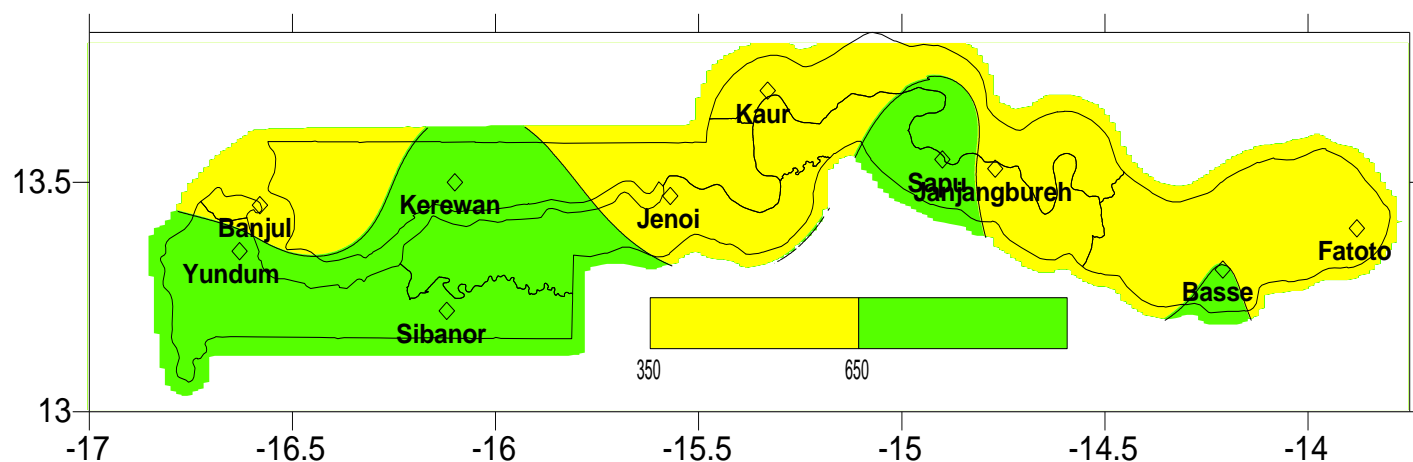
Rainfall situation in this dekad across the country showed significant improvements. Dekad totals varied from 51.2mm over Kerewan to 215.7mm (highest) over Yundum Airport in the Western Third. In the Middle Third dekadal totals also varies from 61.8mm over Kaur to 135.4mm over Squpu, while in the Eastern Third dekadal totals recorded were 104.1mm and 141.3mm over Basse and Fatoto respectively. (Figure 1a).

Seasonal rainfall amounts recorded as of 31st August showed very promising figures in almost all the stations. However, data received showed the Western Third leading in seasonal totals as this d at this dekad with Yundum Airport recording **822.0mm** highest so far and Kerewan and Sibanor both recorded over 700mm respectively. In the Middle Third, rainfall Figures vary from 369.8mm over

Kaur to 813.6mm over Sapu, where as in the Eastern Third, Basse recorded 652.5mm and Fatoto recorded 604.1mm (Figure 1b).



*Figure 1a: Rainfall dekadal totals 21<sup>st</sup>–31<sup>st</sup> August 2015.*



*Figure 1b: Rainfall Seasonal totals from May 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 – August 31<sup>st</sup> 2015.*

## 2.2 RAINFALL COMPARISMS

The Country average as at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015, stand at **618.5mm**, **52.7%** above the country average of last year (31<sup>st</sup> August 2014; **405.0mm**), and **8.5%** above the long term mean (1981-2010); **569.9mm**.

## 2.3 Temperature

Average temperatures in this dekad, varied between 25°C and 26°C across the country, except for Fatoto that recorded 20.0 °C. highest temperatures were between 33<sup>o</sup>C and 35<sup>o</sup>C countrywide, while lowest temperatures fluctuated between 21°C and 25°C.

## 2.4 Winds

Winds were light to strong across the country. Maximum gusts recorded were 83km/h in the Western Third, 64km/h in the Middle Third and 59km/h in the Eastern Third. However there were some structural damages reported particularly in the Western and Middle Thirds of the country as a result of these strong winds.

## 2.5 Sunshine Duration

Sunshine duration during this dekad was between 6 to 8 hours across the Country.

## 2.6 Relative Humidity

Highest average relative humidity across the country was over 70%

## 3.0 Hydrological Situation

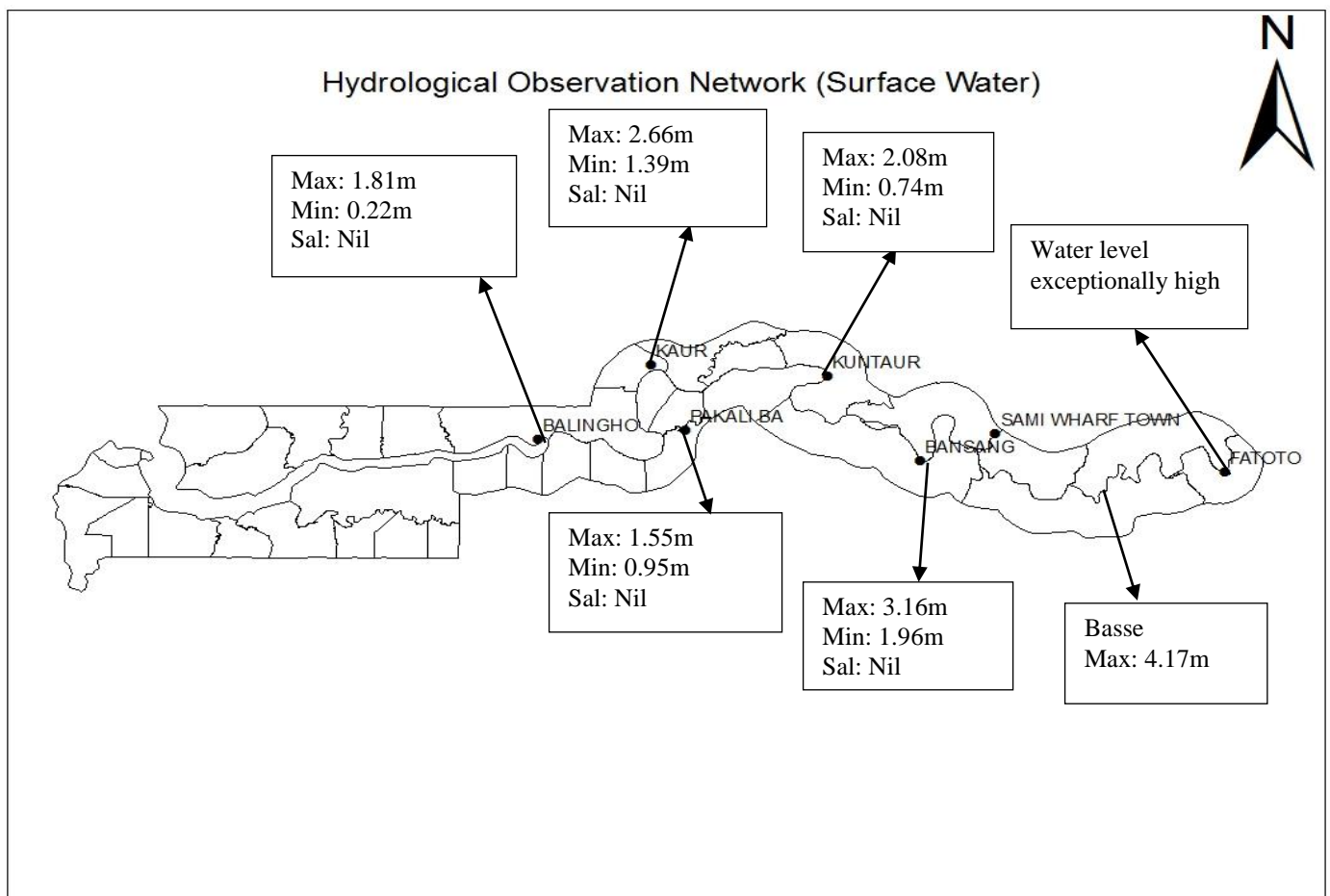


Figure 2: The map of the Gambia showing the Hydrological Observation Network

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The changes in the river Gambia and its tributaries within the past one month has been very remarkable and overwhelming. As can be seen from the map above, the water levels in all the stations rose exceptional high accompanied with an upward shift in the minimum water levels.

These indicates an increase in the river water volume and communities settling along the river banks should be watchful of any possible flooding as we anticipate more water due to continuous torrential rains. For Example at Fatoto, the flow measurement device and its infrastructure has been completely submerged due to the surge in river water levels.

Most of the rice fields on low lying areas along the river have been flooded thereby hampering some rice cultivation activities.

On the salinity front, all the stations that lie within the seasonally saline region (i.e. Kaur, Pakaliba and Balingho) have indicated a great decrease in salinity. In fact, the saline front retreated around the early, mid and end of August at Kaur, Pakaliba and Balingho respectively. Tendaba which is further downstream of Balingho is also free from salinity few days after Balingho.

#### **4.0 AGRICULTURAL SITUATION**

##### **West Coast Region**

Agricultural activity in this region is basically weeding and fertilizer application; most crops are at their vegetative stages.

##### **North Bank Region**

Weeding is still in progress this region. Crops are at varying phonological stages, groundnut Philippine pink is pegging and flowering, early millet is at booting stage while maize is at tasseling. Some watermelon and cowpea have started seeding. Generally there is hope for bumper harvest if the rainfall situation continues for the next month.

##### **Lower River Region**

Agricultural activities in this region varies, weeding is in progress for upland rice, while there is preparation of permanent base for swamp rice. Some cereals are at reproduction stages, groundnut is at pegging and flowering, while early sown upland rice is at panicle initiation.

##### **Central River Region North**

In this region weeding is in progress for upland crops like groundnut, cowpea and sesame, while weeding for cereals is completed. Early millet and maize are at reproduction stage, transplanting is in progress for swamp rice.

##### **Central River Region South**

In this region bird scaring, harvesting and threshing is in progress concurrently for late plantation in the pump perimeter, while others are on nursery preparation. Nursery preparation and transplanting is also ongoing in the tidal areas. For upland fields, weeding is the main activity, planting is going on for

some water melon. For crop phonology, early millet is heading and some few maize fields are tasseling while others are at vegetative stages, some groundnut fields have started flowering and pegging.

## Upper River Region

In this region weeding is the main agricultural activity. Crop phonology varies, Rice in the swamp ecology are being harvested for some while others are at booting stage, some fields are at vegetative stage and some farmers are still transplanting. For upland crops maize is at tasseling stage and millet and sorghum are at vegetative stages, while groundnut is flowering.

## 4.1. COMMODITY PRICES

Planning Services Unit, Department of Agriculture present the 4<sup>th</sup> Week of August Agricultural Commodity Average Prices per KG (in Dalasi) of selected markets - Date: 26/08/15

Comodities	Banjul	Bakau	Sereku nda	Brikama	Latrikunda	Tipper Garage	Bansa ng	KerrP ateh	Farafenni	Brikama ba	Sami	Wassu	Averag e
<b>EREALS</b>													
Maize	24.08	24.69	22.19	24.07	24.27	23.48	N/A	16.00	15.00	14.00	15.00	14.65	19.77
Millet	25.40	24.98	22.04	24.48	23.90	23.65	15.00	15.00	14.00	15.00	15.00	14.00	19.37
Sorghum	23.52	23.59	22.09	24.88	23.40	29.81	N/A	15.00	12.00	12.0	14.75	14.50	19.59
Local Rice	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00	26.00	N/A	26.00	26.00	N/A	26.00	27.20
Broken Rice	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	25.00	26.00	26.00	26.00	N/A	25.00	24.73
Long Grain Rice	26.00	26.00	26.00	26.00	26.00	26.00	28.00	N/A	28.00	28.00	N/A	28.00	26.80
Findo	94.87	N/A	90.45	88.75	87.50	81.25	N/A	N/A	75.00	N/A	75.00	N/A	84.69
<b>VEGETABLES</b>													
Cabbage	33.67	40.00	32.04	33.33	39.23	32.47	30.97	30.00	30.00	34.00	34.88	31.42	33.50
Lettuce	34.49	N/A	32.20	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	166.66	77.78
Large pepper (Hot)	128.33	127.54	129.11	129.66	128.75	126.91	100.76	101.50	105.00	102.45	102.00	100.00	115.17
Okra	69.49	68.82	71.01	N/A	69.90	64.58	66.67	65.00	60.00	63.75	70.00	72.00	67.38
Egg plant	N/A	40.00	41.83	38.83	42.54	41.66	30.00	35.00	30.00	38.33	N/A	40.00	37.82
Wonjo	138.00	144.05	139.00	140.22	139.71	141.56	101.25	102.16	104.23	103.69	89.61	N/A	122.13
Bitter tomato	37.27	40.69	38.45	35.24	N/A	36.15	N/A	50.00	50.00	43.47	41.57	42.50	41.53
Tomato big size	37.83	40.00	39.43	34.14	37.37	35.06	52.63	N/A	50.00	50.00	N/A	48.33	42.48
Imported Onion	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	35.00	N/A	35.00	
Local Onion	30.00	30.00	30.00	35.00	35.00	32.50	45.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	35.00	30.00	32.71
<b>ROOTs &amp; TUBERS</b>													
Carrot	62.14	60.5	60	61.41	60	63.23	N/A	40.00	70.00	47.61	N/A	50.00	57.49
Cassava	N/A	37.76	35.22	37.16	N/A	N/A	43.47	40.00	40.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	38.94
Sweet Potato	41.87	N/A	43.69	44.88	43.38	43.56	40.00	30.00	40.00	30.00	N/A	30.00	38.74
Irish Potato	40	35	35	40	40	40	35.00	40.00	40.00	35.00	N/A	35.00	37.73
<b>Fruits, Nuts and Legumes</b>													
Mangoes	N/A	N/A	53.19	N/A	N/A	N/A	20.42	20.00	20.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	29.09
Lemon	46.53	40.00	46.55	N/A	N/A	N/A	41.73	39.00	40.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	42.30

Pumkin	N/A	N/A	43.56	N/A	N/A	N/A	30.41	N/A	35.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	36.32
Banana	45.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	45.89	N/A	N/A	35.00	30.00	N/A	25.00	37.88
Decorticate d G/Nut	40.76	47.51	42.85	45.47	48.48	N/A	35.29	30.00	30.00	30.00	35.00	28.00	37.58
Undecortica ted G/nut	N/A	37.59	35.92	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	39.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	30.00	35.63
Beans	45.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	45.00	40.00	50.00	50.00	40.00	60.00	30.00	25.00	42.08
<b>LIVESTOCK</b>													
Beef Meat&Bone	175.00	190.00	200.00	175.00	200.00	200.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	140.00	N/A	N/A	173.00
Beef Steak	225.00	225.00	225.00	225.00	225.00	225.00	150.00	180.00	200.00	150.00	N/A	160.00	199.0
Mutton	200.00	N/A	225.00	200.00	N/A	200.00	N/A	200.00	N/A	N/A	150.00	175.00	192.86

Source: Planning Services Unit DOA

## 4.2 CROP PROTECTION

N/A

## 4.3 DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK SERVICES

The Livestock situation in the Country is now satisfactory due to the abundance of feed and water in all the regions. Clinical treatment figures have scaled down and animals' health status and productivity rose owing to the availability of succulent palatable shrubs and grasses in all pastures fields.

In CRR-N, 48 heads of cattle 60 goats 36 Sheep 11 horses 6 Donkeys were treated for suspected cases of multiple diseases.

LRR reported that 90 heads of cattle, 66 Sheep, 59 goats, 8 horses, 14 donkeys and 6 dogs were treated. Clinical treatment for CRR-S, 21 heads of cattle 12 Sheep 9 horses' 13 goats and 3 donkeys were treated. URR clinical treatment figures for cattle 300 Sheep 110 goats 180 horses 98 donkeys 45. Clinical treatment figures for NBR and WCR were not available for the final dekad of August.

It is pertinent to note that the clinical cases received in the last dekad of August were suspected cases of various diseases. The Department of Livestock Services will not relent in its drive to curb the menace of animal diseases in the Country.

## 4.4 FISHERIES

N/A

## 5.0 NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AGENCY (NDMA)

N/A

## 6.0 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (NEA)

N/A

Banjul September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2015

National MWG of The Gambia

<b>Composition of MWG:</b> 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	<b>Direct your comments and questions to:</b> The Director Department of Water Resources 7 Marina Parade, Banjul The Gambia Tel: (+ 220) 422 76 31 / 422 41 22 / <b>890 52 29</b> Email: <a href="mailto:dwr@mofwrnam.gov.gm">dwr@mofwrnam.gov.gm</a>
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