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# EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

No. 2017/09

## IN THE GAMBIA

Period: July 21-31, 2017

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Government of The Gambia

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Multidisciplinary Working Group

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## 1.0 METEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

### 1.1. SYNOPTIC SITUATION:

The average surface position of the ITD for the dekad oscillates over northern Mauritania, northern Mali and then sloping onto northern Niger.

The north of the ITD experienced dry and stable atmosphere, with dust observed over north of Mauritania, parts of Algeria and northwestern Mali and Libya. To the south of the ITD, the atmosphere was characterized by general instability and intensive convective activities resulting to thunderstorms and rain showers over Gulf of Guinea States and much of Sahel region. The occurrences were mainly moderate/heavy, widespread and occasionally associated with strong winds.

### 1.2. WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE GAMBIA

Generally cloudy, warm and very humid atmosphere with convective activities which often resulted to moderate to heavy thunderstorms, sometimes widespread and with strong winds that characterized the weather during the dekad.

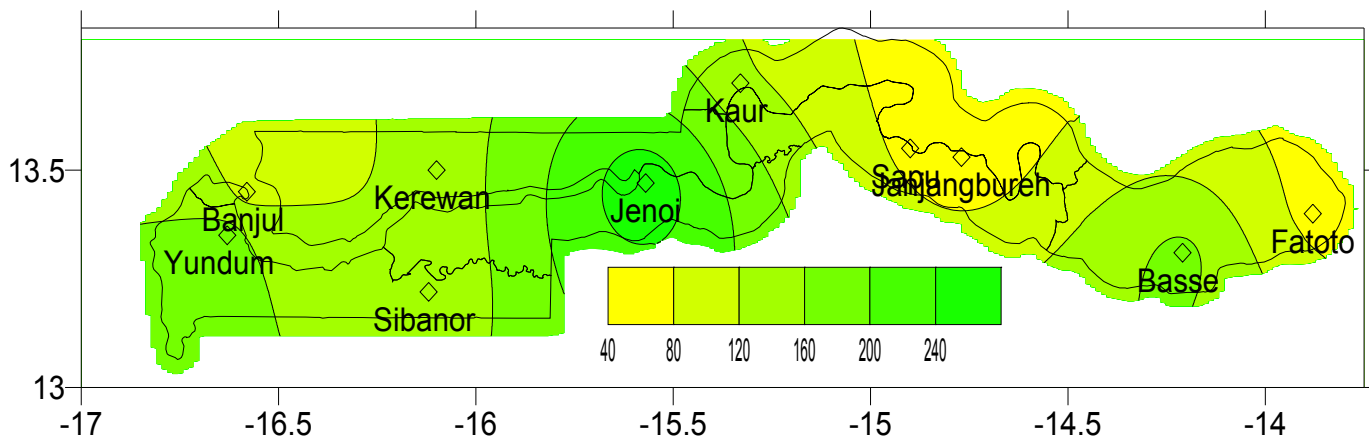
### 1.3. OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT DEKAD (1<sup>st</sup>\_10<sup>th</sup> August 2017)

Thunderstorms and rain showers (moderate to-widespread heavy rain showers and thunderstorms accompanied by strong winds will prevail over the country during the dekad, especially in the late afternoons of 04 and 05<sup>th</sup> August 2017 towards morning. The dekad will be generally marked by scattered to widespread thunderstorms and rain showers.

## 2.0 AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

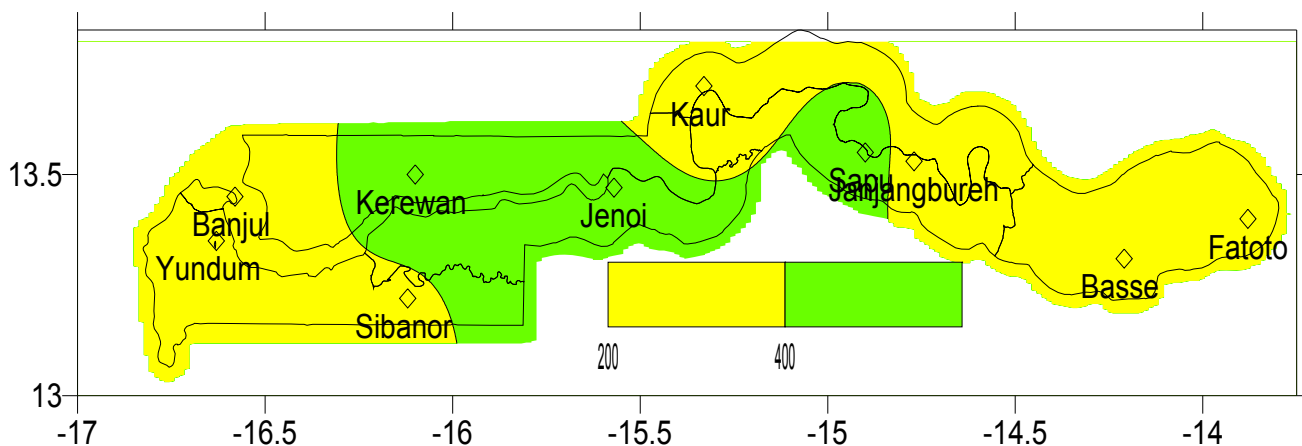
### 2.1 RAINFALL SITUATION

The rainfall situation in this dekad has improved significantly for most stations. In the Western Third, Yndum recorded the highest dekadal amount of **179.4mm**. In the Middle Third, Jenoi recorded the highest dekadal total of **272.3mm**, whereas in the Eastern Third; Basse recorded the highest dekadal total of **172.3mm** (figure 1a).



**Figure 1a: Rainfall dekadal totals 21<sup>ST</sup> –31<sup>ST</sup> July 2017.**

Seasonal rainfall totals are increasing gradually, although with significant variations across the country. The highest seasonal totals so far is recorded over Sapu 548.4mm, Kerewan, 546.6 and Jenoi 510.3 over the Middle and Western Thirds respectively. Lowest seasonal totals so far for this season were recorded over Kaur 211.4mm, Janjanbureh 256.3 and Fatoto 258.9mm, in the Middle and Eastern Thirds of the country, figure 1b below



**Figure 1b: Seasonal Rainfall totals from May 1<sup>st</sup> 2017– July 31<sup>st</sup> 2017.**

In comparisons, the country average as at 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017 stood at **371.0mm**, which is **33%** above last year's amount (**277.1mm**) and **27%** above the long term mean (30 year period) of (**289.9mm**).

**Table1: Daily highest rainfall figures per Station during the dekad (21<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017)**

STATION	RAINFALL(mm)	DATES RECORDED	NUMBER OF RAINY DAYS
Yundum Airport	73.8	21/07/2017	6
Sibanor	44.0	29/03/2016	6
Jenoi	45.6	21/07/2017	4
Banjul	38.0	31/07/2017	4
Kerewan	63.2	25/07/2017	4
Kaur	62.4	22/07/2017	6
Janjanbureh	25.6	29/07/2017	3
Sapu	30.2	30/07/2017	3
Basse	90.0/ 62.5	21/07/2017/29/07/2017	5
Fatoto	30.6	21/07/2017/	4

## 2.2 Temperature

Average temperatures across the country varied between 29°C and 31°C over the entire country. Minimum temperature reached 23°C over Basse, whereas maximum temperature reached 40°C over Yundum in the Western Third.

## 2.3 Winds

Winds were generally moderate to strong with maximum gusts of 61.5 km/h over the entire country.

## 2.4 Sunshine Duration

Sunshine duration on average was between 6 to 7 hours during the dekad.

## 2.5 Relative Humidity

Average relative humidity during this dekad was above 60% countrywide indicating existence of enough moisture in the atmosphere.

## 3.0 Hydrological Situation

N/A

## **4.0 AGRICULTURAL SITUATION**

### **West Coast Region**

Farmers in this region are still busy on sowing and planting of crops for some, others are weeding and very few are still harvesting vegetables. Crops phenology varies from seedling stages to early vegetative stages.

### **North Bank Region**

In this region main agricultural activities are weeding in the upland fields, rice transplanting and nursery preparation in the lowlands is also ongoing. Crops sown earlier like early millet, maize and groundnut are at vegetative stages and are doing well. There are reports of army worm pest on early millet, maize and groundnut fields in this region.

### **Lower River Region**

Like in other regions, farmers in the Lower River Region are busy on weeding (cowpea, maize and groundnut), others are on land preparation in the lowland fields, ploughing and nursery preparation. Crops are at early vegetative stages. There is no major pest reported in this region as of yet.

### **Central River Region North**

In this region first weeding is completed for most fields in the upland and some have started second weeding, whereas dry season harvesting is completed and most nurseries have already been transplanted in the lowland. Crops are at early vegetative stages.

## **CENTRAL RIVER REGION SOUTH**

N/A

### **Upper River Region**

Weeding had been the major undertaken activity over the period and has been favoured with the intermittency of the rains. Planting is virtually complete on the major crops but for cowpea continues with a lot of demand on it. Its cultivation is hopefully on the increase. Replanting and gap filling are being carried out where poor and germination failures are experienced.

## **4.3 LIVESTOCK**

N/A

Banjul August 02<sup>nd</sup> 2017

National MWG of The Gambia

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