
EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

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IN THE GAMBIA

Period: June 1 – 10, 2018



Government of The Gambia

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1.0 SYNOPTIC SITUATION

The mean surface position of the Inter Tropical Discontinuity (ITD), a boundary layer that separates the dry hot northeasterly winds from the moist warm southwesterly winds on its northward motion is just about one Degree (1°N) North over the Gambia, stretching across southwestern Mali, central Niger and then sloping onto Chad.

The places to the north of the ITD were dry and stable with occurrence of dust haze over Algeria and northern Niger during the latter part of the dekad that significantly reduced the horizontal visibility.

To the south of the ITD, moderate to heavy rains and thunderstorms were reported over Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, southwestern Mali, Nigeria and Cameroon.

1.1 OUT LOOK FOR THE NEXT DEKAD (11TH – 20TH JUNE 2018)

Rain and thunderstorm is expected to affect the country on or around the 13th – 14th June over eastern part of the country. Thereafter, the atmosphere is expected to remain warm, humid and stable for the rest of the dekad.

2.0 RAINFALL SITUATION

In this dekad, slight rainfall amounts were recorded in the Middle Third (0.3mm over Kaur and 6.7mm over Sapu) and the Eastern Third of the country (1.5mm over Fatoto and 3.2mm over Basse). This has shown a slight improvement in the rainfall situation as compared to the last three dekads when no rainfall was recorded across the country.

However, as compared to the same period last year (2017), a deficit of 19.0mm and 18.6mm were recorded in the dekadal total over Fatoto and Basse respectively.

3.0 AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

Average temperatures in this dekad varied between 27.4°C to 32.5°C over the Western Third, 29.7°C to 31.7°C over the Middle Third and 31.1°C to 33.1°C over the Eastern Third of the country. Lowest minimum temperature recorded across the country was 13.8°C over Banjul in the Western Third, whilst the highest maximum temperature recorded was 42.1 °C over Basse in the Eastern Third of the country as shown in the figure 1 below.

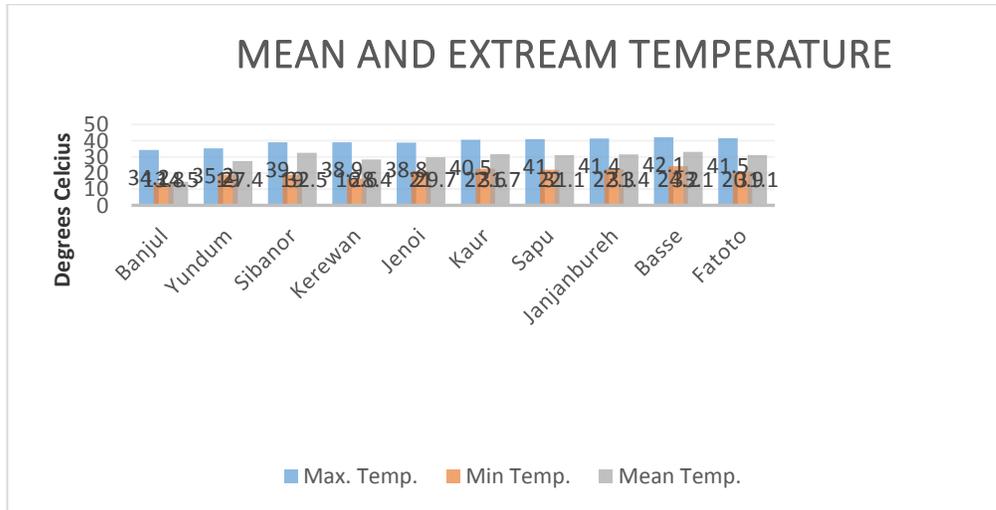


Figure 1: Mean and extreme temperatures across the network of meteorological stations

Wind speed recorded in this dekad was generally light to moderate in speed.

Average duration of sunshine recorded across the country ranged between 7 to 8 hours in the Western Third, 4 to 8 hours in the Middle Third and 6 hours in the Eastern Third of the country.

Average relative humidity (RH) in this dekad has increased slightly in all the stations across the country except Yundum in the Western Third as compared with the last dekad. This can be attributed to the approaching rainy season when the atmosphere is expected to be with high water content for precipitation.

4.0 AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

Clearing and burning of farm lands, acquisition of varieties of seeds and buying and repairing of farming implements are continuing to be the dominant activity of farmers in the country. However, some farmers in the North Bank Region and Upper River Region have completed clearing their fields and are engaged in dry sowing of early millet. The situation in some parts of the West Coast Region is vegetable gardening in lowland fields

5.0 MARKET SITUATION

The unsteady cereals market prices have been mainly due to their availability in stock and demand in the markets. Maize price has increased slightly in some areas of the provinces from 13.00 Dalasis per kilo to 14.00 Dalasis per kilo as compared to the last dekad. Elsewhere in Basse in the Upper River Region, the price of maize is 21.98 Dalasis per kilo during this period under review.

As compared to the last dekad, the minimum price of imported rice (broken) remained the same D24.00/kg but has drop slightly from D26.00/kg to D25.00/kg in most markets in the provinces.

Banjul , June 14, 2018
National MWG of The Gambia

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