

# EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

No. 2018/06

## IN THE GAMBIA

Period: June 21 - 30, 2018



Government of The Gambia

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Multidisciplinary Working Group

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### 1.0 SYNOPTIC SITUATION:

The mean surface position of the Inter-Tropical Discontinuity (ITD) (imaginary line separating south-westerly humid & warm winds from north-easterly cold and dry winds) in its northward motion has oscillated over central Senegal, stretching across southwestern Mali, central Niger and then sloping onto Chad.

The places to the north of the ITD were dry and stable with observance of dust haze over northern parts of Mauritania, Mali and central Algeria during the period.

To the south of the ITD, moderate to heavy rains and thunderstorms, occasionally associated with strong winds affected the sub-region during the dekad as well as places in the Gulf of Guinea States.

#### 1.1 OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT DEKAD (01<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2018)

Rain and thunderstorms is expected to affect the country from the 04<sup>th</sup> – 05<sup>th</sup> July, 2018. Thereafter, the atmosphere will be generally warm, humid with development of variable clouds towards the rest of the dekad.

### 2.0 RAINFALL SITUATION

In this dekad, rainfall situation further improved across the country with all stations recording significant amounts of rainfall. In the Western Third, dekadal totals ranging from 15.3mm to 47.5mm were recorded over Banjul and Sibanor respectively. In the Middle Third, dekadal total of 15.2mm was recorded at Jenoi and 32.7mm at Janjanbureh, whilst in the Eastern Third, dekadal totals ranging from 14.5mm to 19.7mm were recorded over Fatoto and Basse respectively (**figure 1a**).

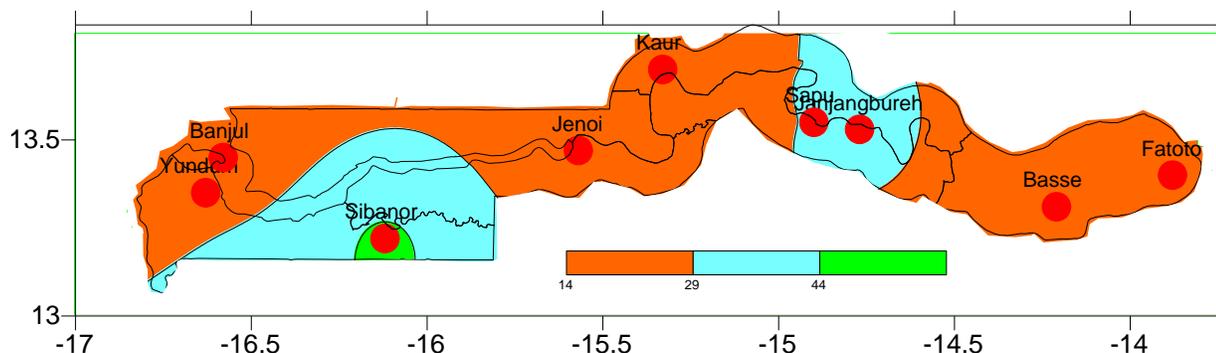
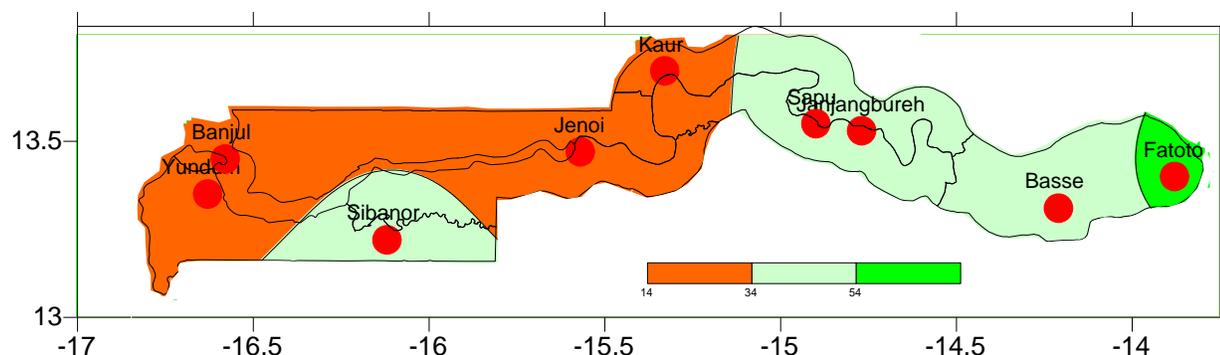


Figure 1a: Dekadal rainfall totals from 21<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2018.

As at this dekad, seasonal totals ranging from 15.3mm to 47.5mm were recorded over the Western Third, 15.3mm to 45.6mm were recorded in the Middle Third and 50.6mm to 55.4mm were recorded in the Eastern Third (**Figure 1b below**). These seasonal totals did not vary much with the dekadal totals due to the fact that many stations especially those at the Western Third have just started recording rainfall in this period under review as forecasted in this year's seasonal outlook.



**Figure 1b: Rainfall seasonal totals as at 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2018.**

## 2.1 RAINFALL COMPARISON

In comparison with the same period last year (2017), deficits ranging from 1.4mm to 37.9mm were recorded in the Western Third. In the Middle Third, apart from Kaur which recorded a surplus of 1.4mm, significant deficits ranging from 45.1mm to 161.6mm were recorded, whilst in the Eastern Third deficits ranging from 84.8mm to 88.5mm were also recorded.

## 3.0 AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

During this dekad, average temperatures recorded ranged between 16.8 °C to 27.6 °C over the Western Third, 28.8°C to 30.6 °C over the Middle Third and 28.6 °C to 30.2 °C over the Eastern Third of the country.

Minimum temperature of 15.4 °C was recorded over Banjul in the Western Third of the country, whilst maximum temperature recorded was 41.2 °C over Kaur in the Middle Third of the country. This has indicated a slight drop in the minimum temperature but a slight increase in the maximum temperature when compared with the last dekad.

Due to the storm that was experienced across the country on the 27 June, 2018, wind speed recorded was strong that led to massive destruction. A maximum wind speed of 31km/hr was recorded over Sapu and Fatoto in the Middle and Eastern Thirds respectively.

Average sunshine recorded were 7 hours in the Western Third, 2 to 6 hours in the Middle Third and 6 hours in the Eastern Third. This has shown a drop in the sun shine duration compared with the last dekad which can be denoted to the appearance of convective clouds over places that eventually led to the rainfall of the 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2018.

Average relative humidity recorded in this dekad has increase from a maximum of 73% to 77% in the Western Third, 58% to 80% in the Middle Third and from 61% to 64% in the Eastern Third of the country compared with the previous dekad. This has indicated further improvement of high water content in the atmosphere.

#### 4.0 AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

Farmers across the country are busy sowing cereals such as maize and early millet after the heavy downpour that was received during this dekad. Farmers who have been caught not cleared their farm lands by the heavy rain are now clearing in full force.

#### 5.0 MARKET SITUATION

Market prices of cereals across the country mainly depend on the availability in stock and the rate of demand for them. The minimum price of maize has drop slightly from 13.00 Dalasis per kilo to 12.96 Dalasis per kilo in some rural markets as compared to the previous dekad. It has also dropped by 5.00 dalasis in other rural markets that sold the commodity during the last dekad as high as 25.00 Dalasis per kilo.

The price of imported rice (broken) has also dropped in the provinces from a minimum value of D24.00/kg in the last dekad to D20.00/kg in this period under review. This commodity has also further increase slightly in other markets in this dekad from as high as D26.92/kg in the last dekad to D28.00/kg in this present one.

Beef was sold at varying prices of D 150.00/kg, D 175.00/kg and D 180.00/kg in different provincial markets in the country. In Serekunda, in the urban area, it is sold at D200.00/kg. The price of mutton has drop slightly from a minimum value of D225.00/kg in the previous dekad to D200.00/kg in this dekad but was sold as high as D250.00/kg in many towns in the provinces.

#### 6.0 LIVESTOCK

Livestock situation in this period under review is slightly impressive because of the rainfall received over the period, that have enable livestock with additional drinking points and pasture for grazing. This can augment the capacity of milk production, livestock regaining strength as well as improving the living standards of those in the milk production.

Banjul July 06, 2018

National MWG of The Gambia

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