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## EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

No. 2017/03

IN THE GAMBIA

Period: May 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

The ITD is the boundary zone that separates the moist warm air from the South and the dry hot air from the Northeast. The average surface position of the ITD compared to the last dekad has experienced a northward shift, stretching across northern Guinea Bissau, south-eastern Senegal, southwest Mali, northern Burkina Faso, south-western Niger and sloping onto Chad.

To the north of the ITD, dust has been observed over Mauritania, Algeria, and the north of Mali. Elsewhere over the north of the ITD the atmosphere was generally stable. Conversely, convective activities prevailed to the south of the ITD; with rain and thunderstorms reported over Guinea Conakry, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Togo and northern Nigeria.

#### 1.1 WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE GAMBIA

Generally warm and partly cloudy conditions prevailed over the entire country during the day whilst fairly cool nights occurred over the western sector and mild to warm conditions affected inland sector. The key phenomenon was the gradual increase of humidity values across the country.

#### 1.2 OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT DEKAD

Warm, humid and variably cloudy conditions will prevail with chances of rain and thunderstorms, especially over the eastern sector.

### 2.0 AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

#### 2.1 RAINFALL SITUATION

The rainfall situation of the country during this dekad is nil similar to the first and second dekads of this month.

## **2.2 Temperature**

Average temperatures recorded during the dekad varied between 32°C in the Western Third to 35°C in the Middle Third and 36°C in the Eastern Third. Lowest minimum temperatures during the dekad was 20° recorded over the Western Third (Banjul). Extreme maximum temperatures reached 43°C recorded over the Eastern Third of the country.

## **2.3 Winds**

Winds were generally light to moderate in speed across the country; however a maximum gust of 39km/h was recorded over the Middle Third of the country.

## **2.4 Sunshine Duration**

Average sunshine varied during this dekad. 8 hours of sunlight was recorded over the Western Third increasing slightly to 9hours over the Middle and Eastern Thirds respectively.

## **2.5 Relative Humidity**

Relative Humidity (RH %) in this dekad was above 50% over the entire country.

## **3.0 AGRICULTURAL SITUATION**

The main agricultural activity continues to be dominated by field clearing, seed acquisition and reparation of farming implements in upland fields across the country. Dry ploughing for lowland rice cultivation is ongoing in some regions like North Bank, Lower River and West Coast. Rice fields in the Central River Region North are at booting stage, whereas in the Southern part of the Region, in Tidal irrigated and pump perimeter fields, farmers are busy on harvesting and bird scaring. Harvesting of vegetables in the West Coast Region is at final stages for most vegetable growers, although transplanting of shallot is at its peak in this region.

## **4.0 Livestock**

The Livestock situation in the Country is not impressive as farmers have started clearing their fields in preparation for the rainy season. This often results to the burning of grazing lands. This exercise is likely to increase the number of clinical cases due to the warm weather which is conducive for some disease vectors. In view of that, clinical treatments figures are rising on a daily basis due to feed inadequacy. The following clinical cases were seen during the month of May 2017. Cattle heads:

CRRS 113 CRRN 145, LRR 101, NBR, 221, WCR 221 and URR 186. Clinical cases for other animals have also increased.

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

Banjul, June 01 2017.

National MWG of The Gambia

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