
EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

No. 2018/03

IN THE GAMBIA

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Government of The Gambia

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Multidisciplinary Working Group

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1. SYNOPTIC SITUATION

The mean surface position of the Inter-Tropical Discontinuity (ITD), demarcating boundary between the dry and moist regions over West Africa, still continue on its northward motion with its western axis lying over the border of Guinea Bissau/Senegal, stretching across eastern Gambia, southern Mali, northern Burkina Faso, north-west Niger and then sloping onto Chad.

The places to the north of the ITD were characterized by dry and stable atmosphere, with invading dust storm reported over central Mali and southern Mauritania. The places to the south of the ITD experienced heavy rains and thunderstorms, particularly over Guinea Conakry, Nigeria and its environs.

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT DEKAD (01ST -10TH JUNE 2018)

The atmosphere will remain generally dry and stable with intrusion of dust haze from the 01st June 2018 and will persist for more than 24 hours. The rest of the dekad is expected to be relatively warm, especially over inland regions.

3. RAINFALL SITUATION

No rainfall has been recorded across the country as in the last two dekads and the same period last year (2017).

4. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

The mean temperature in this dekad has increased in all the stations across the country as compared to the last dekad. Minimum temperature of 16.0°C was recorded over Kerewan in the Western Third of the country, whilst maximum temperature of 43.2°C was recorded over Fatoto in the Eastern Third of the country.

In this dekad, the prevailing wind speed recorded across the country continued to be light to moderate in speed similar to the first and second dekad of May 2018.

In this dekad, the average sunshine duration recorded across the country varied from 8 to 10 hours in the Western Third, 4 to 9 hours in the Middle Third and 9 hours in the Eastern Third of the country.

As compared with the last dekad, the lowest mean Relative Humidity (RH) across the country has drop from 41% to 38%, whilst the Maximum Relative Humidity increases slightly from 66% to 70% and were recorded over Fatoto in the eastern Third and Banjul in the western Third of the country.

5. AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

Farmers' across the country main dominating activity in this dekad continues to range from clearing and burning of agricultural fields, acquisition of farming implements and different seeds for sowing in the forth coming rainy season. Vegetable gardening in low land fields in the West Coast Region is still in progress.

6. SEASONAL HYDROLOGICAL FORECAST

The elevation map (figure 1) shows The Gambia to be a generally low lying terrain with most part of the country lying between 0 and 20 m above sea level. This leaves the country highly prone to flooding.

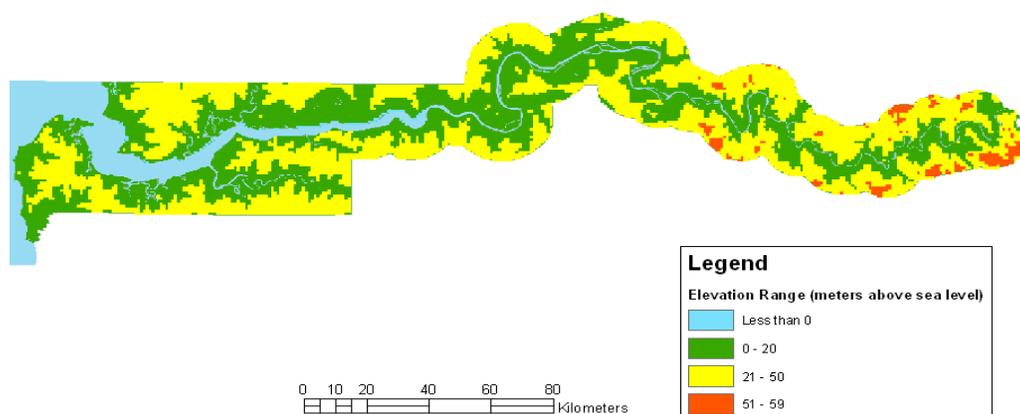


Figure 1: Elevation map of The Gambia

The seasonal hydrological forecast assesses the likelihood of higher, equivalent to or lower runoff levels for the upcoming rainy season compared to the mean runoff levels over the 1981 - 2010 reference period. The forecast considers major river basins in the CILSS/ECOWAS region.

The forecast as shown in figure 2 indicates that:

Flows greater than or equivalent to the average for the 1981-2010 reference period are expected for all CILSS/ECOWAS basins including the Gambia River basis.

Significantly, the usual disastrous floods experienced in The Gambia are expected to persist this season.

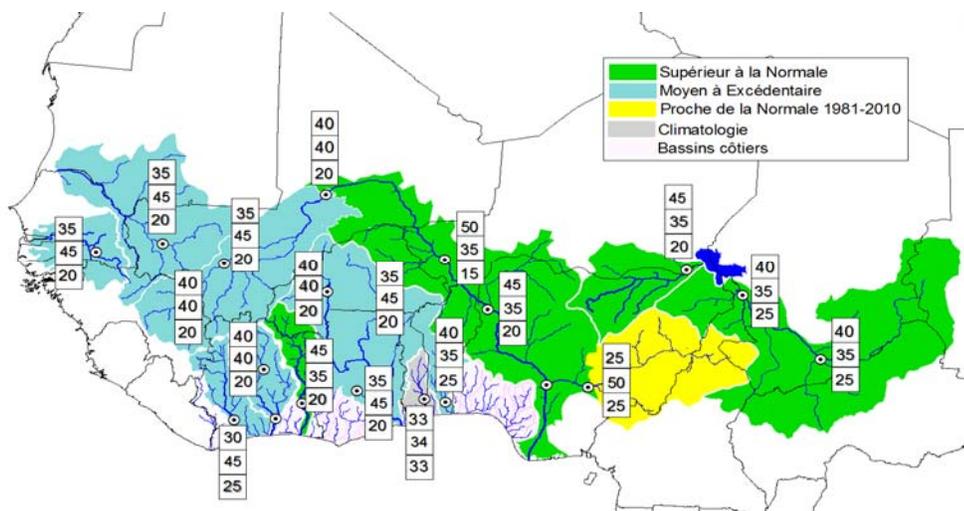


Figure 2: Prospects of river flows for 2018 rainy season

Riverine floods resulting from rising river water level will affect populations living along waterways as well as all activities (mostly agricultural) near river banks.

Flash floods resulting from intense rainfall events will occur across the whole country.

In view of the uncertainties related to the evolution of oceanic predictors especially in the Atlantic Ocean, it is recommended that particular attention be paid to the update that will be made in June and available on the website www.cilss.int

7. LIVESTOCK

The clearing and burning of farm lands that farmers started in earnest for this year's coming rainy season is continuing to impose difficulties in the grazing process. This has caused major reduction of milk productivity and weaknesses to livestock.

8. SITUATION OF MARKETS

9.1 Cereal Prices

As cereals market prices is largely determine by their availability in stock and demand in the markets, the price of maize range from as low as 13.00 Dalasis per kilo at Brikamaba in the Central River Region to as high as 26.74 Dalasis per kilo at Brikama in the West Coast Region of the country indicating slight increase at Brikama as compared to the last dekad.

In this period under review, the price of imported rice (broken) remained the same D24.00/kg to D26.00/kg as compared with the last dekad except at Bansang in the Central River Region. where it is sold as high as D28.00/kg.

9.2 Price of beef and mutton

The price of beef steak during this dekad range from D200.00 per kilo to D220.00 per kilo in the provinces and from D225.00 per kilo to D 250.00 per kilo in the greater Banjul area, whilst the price of mutton is sold at D200.00 per kilo to D250.00 per kilo and at D225.00 per kilo to D250.00 per kilo at the provinces and greater Banjul area respectively.

Banjul June 04, 2018.

National MWG of The Gambia

Composition of MWG: Department of Water Resources Planning Services - Department of Agriculture (DOA) Communication, Extension & Education Services - DOA Animal Health & Production Services - DOA Plant Protection Services - DOA National Environment Agency	Direct your comments and questions to: The Director Department of Water Resources 7 Marina Parade, Banjul The Gambia Tel: (+ 220) 422 76 31 / 422 41 22 / 890 52 29 Email: dwr@mofwrnam.gov.gm
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