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# EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

No. 2016/16

## IN THE GAMBIA

Period: October 1 - 10, 2016

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Government of The Gambia

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Multidisciplinary Working Group (MWG)

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## 1 SYNOPTIC SITUATION

The average position of ITD fluctuates over southern Mauritania, central Mali, sloping over southern Niger onto Chad.

The north of the ITD had experienced dry and stable atmosphere with dust haze. On the other hand, to the south of the ITD scattered convective cloud development resulting to rain and thunderstorms prevailed over the Gulf of Guinea States, Burkina Faso, Mali and the Senegambia region.

### 1.1 WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE GAMBIA

Warm and mainly sunny conditions with cloud patches affected the country during most part of the dekad. There were a few occurrences of scattered light rains, over places during the first half of the dekad.

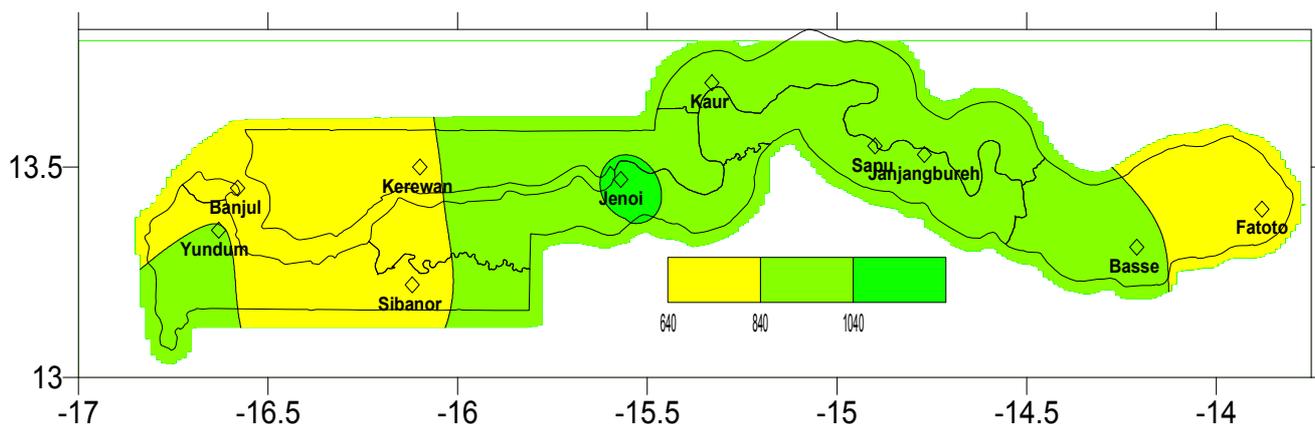
### 1.2 OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT DEKAD (01<sup>st</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> October 2016)

Misty mornings with warm and partly cloudy to sunny conditions are expected.

### 1.3 RAINFALL SITUATION

During the dekad under review, there is significant drop in rainfall amount compared to the previous dekad. Only Basse in the Eastern Sector and Yundum Airport in the Western Third recorded dekad totals of 2.4mm and 14.9mm respectively, recorded in a single day. When compared to the previous dekad it shows a winding trend of this year's rainy season.

Seasonal totals recorded as at this dekad (May 1 to October 10) shows little increase in rainfall amounts. With the exception of Yundum Airport that recorded a seasonal total of **852.9mm** compared to **838.0mm** in the previous dekad and Basse recording **889.4mm** compared to **887.0mm**, all other stations seasonal totals remained the same from the previous dekad (Figure 1 below).



**Figure 1: Rainfall Seasonal totals from May 1<sup>st</sup> 2016– October 10<sup>th</sup> 2016.**

In comparisons, the country average as at 10<sup>th</sup> October 2016 stood at **860.6mm**, which is **5.8%** below last year’s amount (**913.7mm**) and **6.4%** above the long term mean (30 year period) of **808.3mm**

## 2 AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATIONS

Average temperatures recorded in this dekad varied from 27°C in the Eastern Third to 28°C and 30°C over the Western and Middle Thirds respectively. Minimum temperature reached 24°C over Jenoi in the Middle Third, whilst maximum temperature increased by two degrees in this dekad (36°C) over most parts of the country.

Average relative humidity (RH) remained high above 60% during the dekad. Maximum RH is above 80% over the entire the country, while the minimum RH dropped significantly as low as 41% in the Middle Third of the country.

Winds were generally light to moderate in speed (9km/h to 18km/h), however wind speed of 31km was recorded in the Western Third of the country.

Sunshine duration on average recorded in this dekad was 8hrs compared to an average of 7hrs in the previous dekad. However, Fatoto in the Eastern third was exception as it recorded 7hrs of sunlight during the dekad under review.

## 3. AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

### 3.1 CROP

As the rainy season reaches its peak, most crops have also reached their peak in growth and development; however there are still some variations in terms of crops phenological phases depending on variations in sowing dates.

**Maize:** some farmers have finished harvesting maize. Although late sown maize crops are either at harvesting or in their final reproductive stages.

**Early millet** fields are being harvested in almost all parts of the country.

**Rice:** rice across the country is growing as expected and most of the crop is at tillering and booting phases. Upland rice like The NERICA variety is being harvested especially in the CRR in the Middle Third. In Swamp rice fields, transplanting and hand weeding is continuing in most rice growing parts of the country.

**Groundnut:** The Philippine pink is being harvested across the country, whereas other groundnut varieties are at different growth stages and some crops have reached full maturity depending on the variety and date of sowing.

**Cowpea and Watermelon:** Harvesting of watermelon is in progress and already in the markets in West Coast; whereas some cowpea fields are at maturity stages and few have started harvesting especially in the west coast.

### 3.2 Pests and Diseases

As at the end of this dekad no outbreaks of pests were reported.

### 3.3 LIVESTOCK

The Livestock situation in the Country has improved greatly in the Month of October, due to the availability of feeds and water. However, in this dekad, there is slight increase in clinical cases as a result of the warm weather which is conducive for some disease vectors. CRRS 113 heads of cattle, 161 Sheep 121 goats, 70 donkeys and 77 horses. In CRRN 213 heads of cattle 122 Sheep 115 goats, 63 donkeys and 29 horses. LRR 205 heads of cattle, 114 Sheep, 175 goats, 65 donkeys and 92 horses. NBR, 314 cattle, 168 Sheep, 102 goats, 50 donkeys and 80 horses. URR 231 heads of cattle, 210 Sheep, 142 goats 56 donkeys and 171 horses. WCR 202 heads of cattle 201 Sheep 101 goats 68 donkeys and 40 horses.

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

#### **Composition of MWG:**

Department of Water Resources  
Planning Services - Department of Agriculture (DOA)  
Communication, Extension & Education Services - DOA  
Department of Livestock Services  
Plant Protection Services - DOA  
National Environment Agency

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