

EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

No. 2019/16

IN THE GAMBIA

Period: October 01 - 10, 2019



Government of The Gambia

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1. SYNOPTIC SITUATION

The ITD location is variably relative to its normal position and is steadily moving equator wards with its western axis oscillating over northern Senegal stretching across south-western Mali and then sloping on to southwestern Niger/Chad. The regions to the north of the ITD experienced dry and stable atmosphere with dust haze observed over parts of Morocco and Algeria. To the south of the ITD, rain and thunderstorms occasionally associated with strong winds affected some places within the Sahel region and the Gulf of Guinea States.

1.1. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT DEKAD (11TH - 20TH OCTOBER, 2019)

Warm conditions with gradual decrease of moisture concentration in the atmosphere will prevail which will result to few and low precipitation over the country during this dekad. The occurrence of rain showers and thunderstorms will be isolated in most cases with expecting rainy dates of 13th, 14th, 15th and 19th October 2019.

2. RAINFALL SITUATION

The rainfall situation during the dekad was good, with significant rainfall figures recorded in all the stations. Recorded decadal totals varied from **120.4mm**, highest during the dekad, recorded over Sapu in the middle third to **32.1mm** recorded over the capital city, Banjul, figure 1a below.

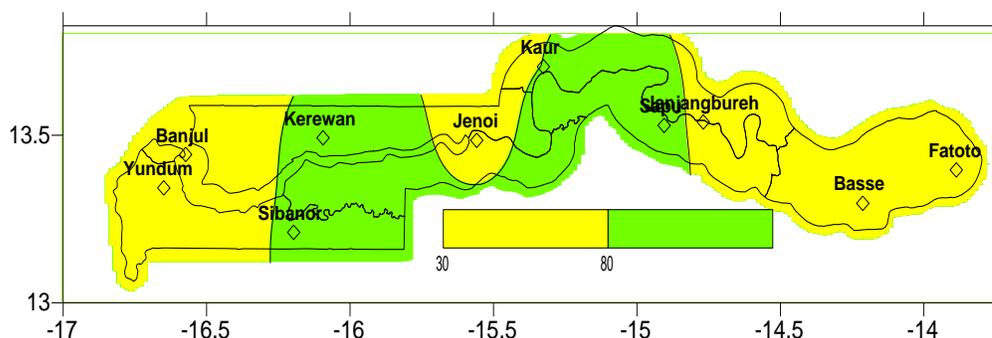


Figure 1a: Dekadal rainfall totals from 1st – 10th October 2019

Table 1: Dekadal rainfall totals and rainfall extremes for the period 1st – 10th October, 2019.

Station Name	Dekadal Total (mm)	Daily rainfall extremes ≥ 50 mm	
		Amount in mm	Date Recorded
Western Third			
Yundum	54.5	-	
Banjul	32.1	-	
Sibanor	86.2	-	
Kerewan	99.0	57.0	7 th
Middle Third			
Kaur	80.3	55.9	7 th
Jenoi	72.0	-	
Janjanbureh	48.4	-	
Sapu	120.4	-	
Eastern Third			
Basse	59.2		
Fatoto	62.8	-	-

Seasonal cumulative totals has improved significantly; Sibanon and Kerewan both in the western third recorded the highest seasonal cumulative totals of 1035.5mm and 1001.5mm respectively, In the Middle Third, Sapu recorded the highest of about 899.0mm, whereas Fatoto and Basse in the eastern third recorded seasonal totals of 937.5mm and 921.0mm respectively, figure 1b below.

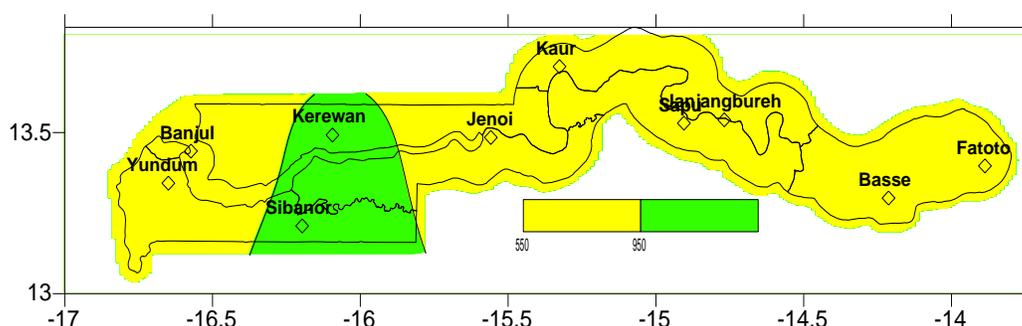


Figure 1b: Seasonal rainfall totals 1st May – 10th October 2019.

In comparison, this year’s country average as at 10th October 2019 stood at **832.1mm**, which is **8.4%** above last year same period (**767.5mm**), and **2.9%** below the country average (1981_2010), which is **808.3mm**.

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

During this dekad, there was a slight increase in recorded temperatures compared to the last dekad. Recorded mean temperatures during this dekad varied between 25°C over the Eastern Third to 29°C over the Middle third of the country. Minimum temperature also varied between 17°C over the Eastern Third to 24°C in the Middle third; whilst maximum temperature was 32°C over most stations to 34°C over Janjanbureh in the middle third. Extreme temperatures reached a minimum of 15°C in the Eastern Third, and maximum temperatures of 38°C over the middle third of the country. Winds were light,

moderate and occasionally heavy during the dekad, with maximum wind gust of 64.4.km/h recorded over the Middle third of the country. Average sunshine duration recorded during this dekad was 6 hours. Minimum Relative Humidity (RH %) recorded across the country was above 50%, whereas Maximum RH recorded was above 90%. through out the country.

4. AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

There are still variations in the agricultural situation in the country. In most regions some farmers activities are dominated by harvesting (early millet, maize, early maturing groundnuts, cowpea, and water melon).Transplanting of low land rice is still in progress, whilst others are engaged in scaring of birds and other pests as well as handpicking of weeds to easy harvesting.

Crops phenology continues to vary in all the regions ranging from vegetative stages to maturity depending on the planting date.

Banjul, October 12, 2019.

National MWG of The Gambia

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