
EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

No. 2017/17

IN THE GAMBIA

Period: October 11 - 20, 2017



Government of The Gambia

Produced and Published by The Gambia National
Multidisciplinary Working Group (MWG)

Focal Point: Department of Water Resources

TEL: (+220) 4227631 / 4224122 / 8905229 - FAX: (+220) 422 50 09

E-MAIL: dwr@mofwrnam.gov.gm / WEB: www.mofwrnam.gov.gm



1 SYNOPTIC SITUATION

The mean surface position of the ITD is continuing on its southward motion with its western axis fluctuating over central Senegal, southern parts of Mali and Niger; and then sloping onto Chad.

The places to the north of the ITD was characterized by dry and stable atmosphere, with slight dust haze observed over Western Sahara, Morocco, northern Mauritania, Algeria and Libya.

However, places to the south of the ITD depicted occasional rain showers and thunderstorms, especially over some parts of Gulf of Guinea States.

1.1 WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE GAMBIA

The past dekad was characterized by warm and fairly humid conditions with occasional isolated to scattered rain showers and thundery activities, particularly over eastern sector.

1.2 OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT DEKAD (21st - 31st October 2017)

Warm and mostly stable atmosphere will prevail during the period.

1.2 RAINFALL SITUATION

Rainfall situation in this dekad has improved slightly in terms of dekadal totals with most stations recording significant dekadal totals; however, there are still variations in the rainfall amount recorded countrywide.

Highest dekadal totals were recorded over Sapu and Jenoi in the Middle third (41.7mm, 24.8mm). In the Western Third, Kerewan and Yundum both recorded dekadal totals above 20mm whereas Basse in the Eastern Third recorded a dekadal total of 23.1mm. Dry dekads were experienced over Banjul, Kaur, Janjanbureh and Fatoto. Figure 1a.

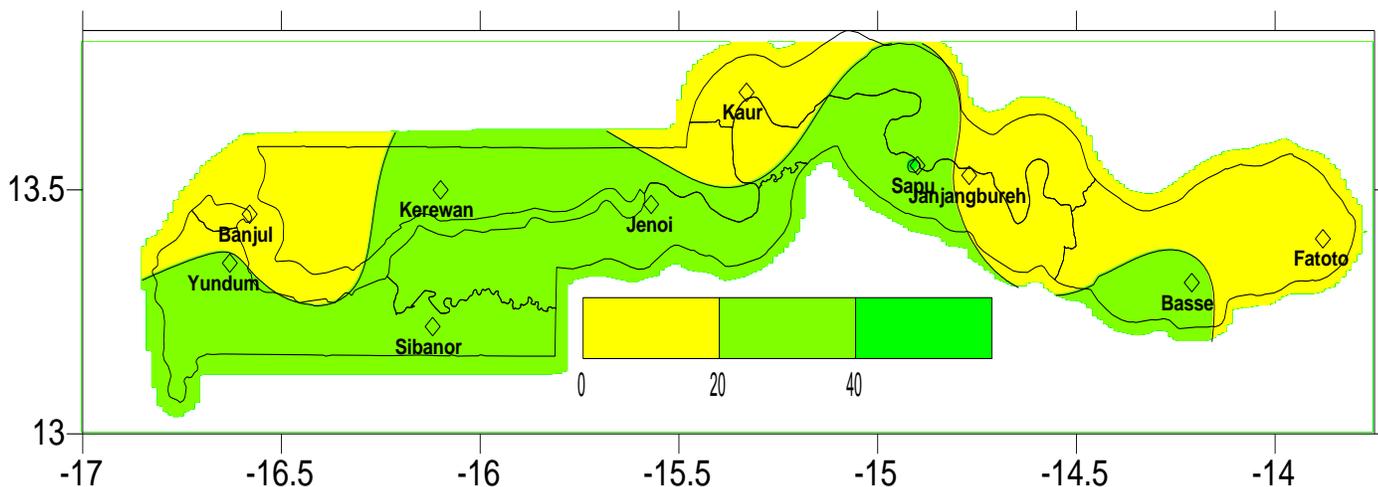


Figure 1a: Rainfall dekadal totals from October 11th – October 20th 2017.

Seasonal cumulative rainfall amount recorded as at this dekad (May 1st to October 20th) shows some increment from the previous dekad. Cumulative totals recorded indicate high variations across the country. Jenoi and Sapu both in the Middle Third recorded the highest seasonal cumulative totals (1444.5 and 1011.5). Kerewan, Yundum both in Western Third, and Basse in the Eastern Third recorded rainfall between 800mm to 900mm. However lowest seasonal amounts recorded were over Banjul, Kaur and Fatoto, figure 1b.

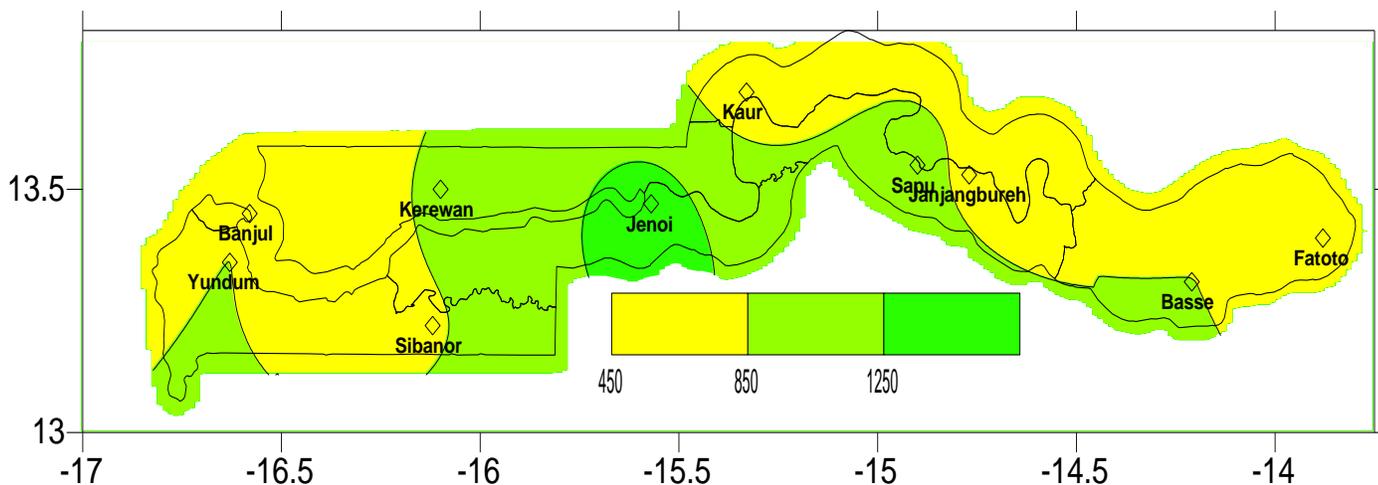


Figure 1b: Rainfall Seasonal totals from May 1st 2017 – October 20th 2017.

In comparisons, the country average as at 20th October 2017 stood at **843.8mm**, which is 8% below last year's amount (**913.7mm**) and 2% above the long term mean (30 year period) of **828.5mm**

2 AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATIONS

Average temperatures recorded during the dekad varied between 29°C and 30°C countrywide. Recorded minimum temperature peak to 23°C over the Eastern and Western Thirds. Maximum temperature reached 39°C over Basse in the Eastern Third.

Average relative humidity dropped slightly from the previous dekad (60% to 70% during the dekad in review). Maximum RH reached 98% in most stations whereas lowest RH of 43% was recorded over the Eastern Third.

Winds were generally light to moderate in speed (7 – 22km/h) during the dekad. However a maximum gust of 64km/h was recorded over the Western Third.

Average recorded sunshine was between 7 – 8 hrs recorded across the country.

3. AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

3.1 CROP

Crops situation in general varies countrywide, as at this dekad most crops are being harvested; some are at vegetative stages while others are at maturity.

In the West Coast Region, harvesting is almost completed for maize while harvesting and threshing for upland rice is in progress. Early millet and beans growers have almost completed harvesting, whereas groundnut is still being harvested. Some farmers are busy weeding on their water melon fields, while vegetable growers are on land preparation for dry season production.

In the Central River Region North, the situation is similar, harvesting is in progress for early planted groundnut fields, and early millet fields have almost completed harvesting. Upland rice and Water melon crops are at maturity.

Crop situation in the North Bank Region is basically harvesting for most crops. Harvesting has started for upland rice and groundnut, almost completed for early millet, maize, and cowpea. Some water melon farmers are weeding, others spraying their fields to control pests while some few are harvesting.

In the Lower River Region and harvesting of maize, early millet and cowpea is almost completed, upland rice is being harvested although yield is not impressive in this region for this cropping season, and lowland rice is being transplanted, while groundnut and watermelon are also being harvested.

Crop situation in other regions is similar to the ones already highlighted above; however in the Upper River Region, late millet and sorghum are at varying stages of growth, although most of these crops have reached maturity.

3.2 Pests and Diseases

There were reports of the presence of blister beetles and grasshoppers in the north Bank Region but no significant damage was noticed.

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

Direct your comments and questions to:

The Director
Department of Water Resources
7 Marina Parade, Banjul
The Gambia
Tel: (+ 220) 4227631 / 4224122 / 8905229
Email: dwr@mofwrnam.gov.gm