
EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

No. 2017/13

IN THE GAMBIA

Period: September 1-10, 2017



Government of The Gambia

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Multidisciplinary Working Group

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1.0 METEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

1.1. SYNOPTIC SITUATION:

The mean surface position of the ITD has started on its southward retreat with its axis dropping over central Mauritania, southern Mali, southwestern Niger and then slanting onto Chad.

The places to the north of the ITD experienced dry and stable atmosphere, with dust haze observed over some parts of southern Morocco, central Algeria and parts of Libya.

Conversely, the places to the south of the ITD including The Gambia, depicted general instability that resulted from convective activities with occurrence of rain showers and thunderstorms occasionally accompanied by strong winds.

1.2. OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT DEKAD (11th – 20th September 2017)

Convective activities and sporadic outbreaks of rain showers occasionally associated with thundery activities and strong winds will occur during the period, especially from the 12th to 14th September 2017. An interlude of short dry spell is expected from 15th to 17th September 2017 thereafter, to be succeeded by isolated to scattered rain showers and thundery activities towards the end of the dekad.

2.0 AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

2.1 RAINFALL SITUATION

The rainfall situation in this dekad is not impressive compared to the previous one. The highest dekadal totals recorded were 33mm recorded over Sapu and Basse both in the Middle and Eastern Thirds. Elsewhere in the Western Third Kerewan recorded the highest of about 24.3mm. However the lowest dekadal total for the dekad in review is Banjul that recorded only 8mm of rain which is considered a dry dekad, (Figure 1a).

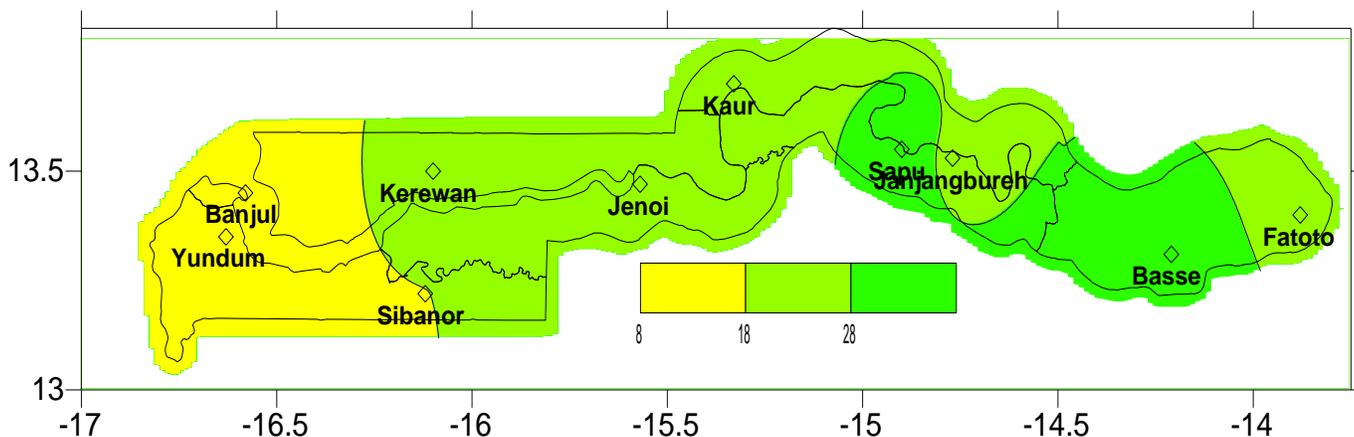


Figure 1a: Rainfall dekadal totals 1st – 10th September 2017.

Seasonal rainfall totals increased slightly with significant variations, Jenoi in the Middle Third, recorded a cumulative seasonal total of **1245.7 mm** highest in country so far. In the Western Third Kerewan recorded the highest seasonal total of a little over **800 mm**, whilst in the Eastern Third **Basse** recorded the highest amount of **824.9 mm**. However, the lowest seasonal rainfall total recorded countrywide so far is over Banjul (**less than 500 mm**) figure1b.

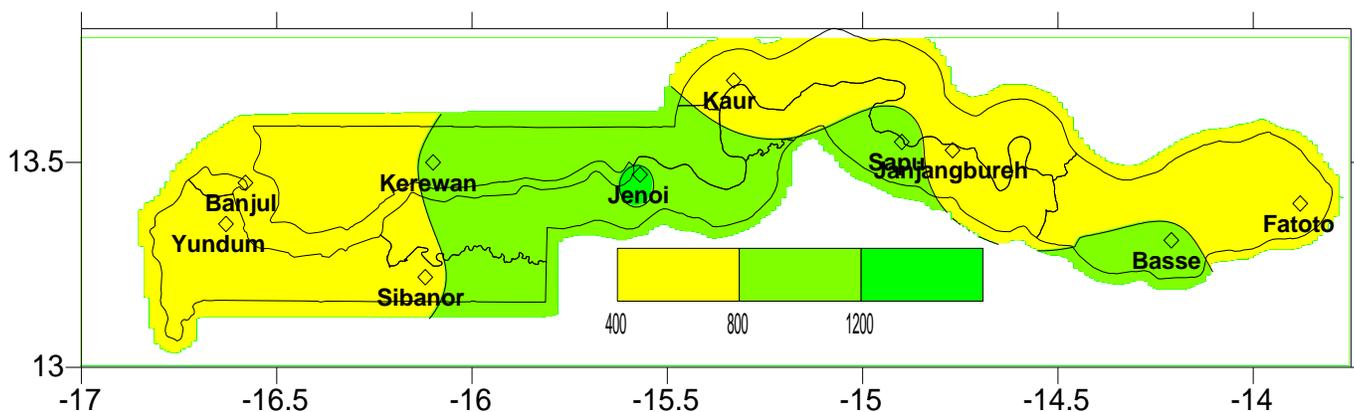


Figure 1b: Rainfall Seasonal totals from May 1st 2017– September 10th 2017.

In comparisons, the country average as at 10th September 2017 stood at **767.0mm**, which is **15%** above last year’s amount (**664.9mm**) and **17%** above the long term mean (30 year period) of (**655.2mm**).

2.2 Temperature

Average temperatures recorded in this dekad varied between 27°C over the Eastern Third and 28°C over the rest of the country. Minimum temperature reached 23°C recorded over Basse in the Eastern Third, whilst maximum temperature reached 35°C also recorded over the Eastern Third.

2.3 Winds

Winds were generally light, moderate to strong with maximum speed of 28km/h over the entire country.

2.4 Sunshine Duration

Average sunshine duration was between 5hours to 8hours countrywide.

2.5 Relative Humidity

Average relative humidity was above 75% throughout the country.

3.0 Hydrological Situation

N/A

4.0 AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

West Coast Region

The main agricultural activity in this region continues to be weeding and bird scaring in early millet fields. Some few maize crops are at maturity while rice is at panicle initiation.

North Bank Region

In this region some farmers are transplanting rice in the lowland, others are busy on land preparation for water melon. Early millet is at reproductive, Maize and cowpea are being harvested by some farmers particularly in Faas Chakho.

Lower River Region

Agricultural activities in this region involve second weeding and rice transplanting in the lowlands. Most crops are at maturity (early millet maize and cowpea are at flowering stages while groundnut is at flowering and pegging).

Central River Region North

The main agricultural activities in this region involve rice transplanting in the lowlands, and weeding is in progress in some rice fields. Due to heavy downpour some rice fields in Kuntaur were flooded. For crop phenology, maize and sorghum are at tasseling stage, some early millet fields are at vegetative stages while others have started heading. Most groundnut and cowpea crops are at flowering stages.

Central River Region South

N/A

Upper River Region

N/A

4.1 CEREAL COMMODITY PRICES

N/A

4.2 LIVESTOCK

The Livestock situation in the Country has improved greatly in the Month of September, due to the availability of feeds and water. However, as indicated in the 1st deced of September, the Clinical treatment figures have also risen as a result of the warm weather. CRRS 129 heads of cattle, 141 Sheep 153 goats, 83 donkeys and 67 horses. In CRRN 151 heads of cattle 148 Sheep 115 goats, 72 donkeys and 107 horses. LRR 102 heads of cattle, 113 Sheep, 166 goats, 81 donkeys and 74 horses. NBR, 214 cattle, 135 Sheep, 167 goats, 105 donkeys and 89 horses. URR 345 heads of cattle, 125 Sheep, 89 goats 92 donkeys and 103 horses. WCR 201 heads of cattle 105 Sheep 131 goats 85 donkeys and 89 horses.

Banjul, 12th September 2017

National MWG of The Gambia

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