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# EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

No. 2017/15

**IN THE GAMBIA**

Period: September 21 - 30, 2017

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Government of The Gambia

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Multidisciplinary Working Group (MWG)

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## 1 SYNOPTIC SITUATION

The mean surface position of the ITD is continuing on its southward retreat with its western axis over northern Senegal, stretching across western Mali, southwestern Niger and then sloping onto Chad.

The places to the south of the ITD depicted isolated to scattered rain showers and thunderstorms, occasionally associated with strong winds. The occurrences were mainly in the evenings and nights. However, places to the north of this position were characterized by dry and stable atmosphere, with dust haze reported over some parts of Morocco, central Algeria, northern Mali and Libya.

### 1.1 WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE GAMBIA

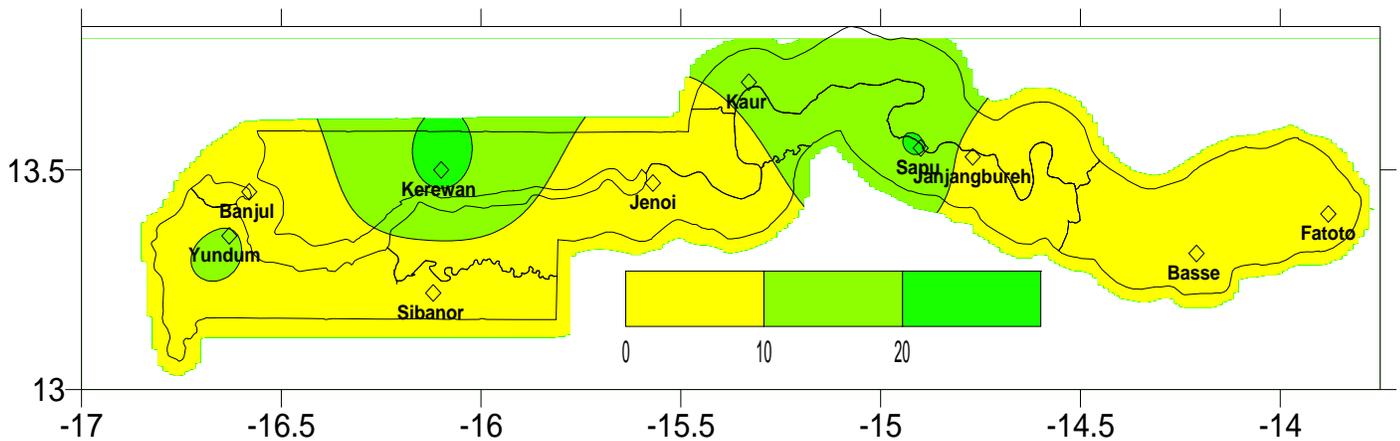
The dekad was characterized by warm and humid atmospheric conditions with disorganized convective activities and hence very little rainfall. There were few storms occasionally associated with strong winds.

### 1.2 OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT DEKAD (1<sup>st</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017)

Warm and less saturated atmosphere will prevail through the next dekad. However, occasional sporadic outbreaks of rain showers and thundery activities associated with strong winds will also occur during the early days of the dekad. The three quarter of the period from the 04<sup>th</sup> October 2017 will experience dry spell.

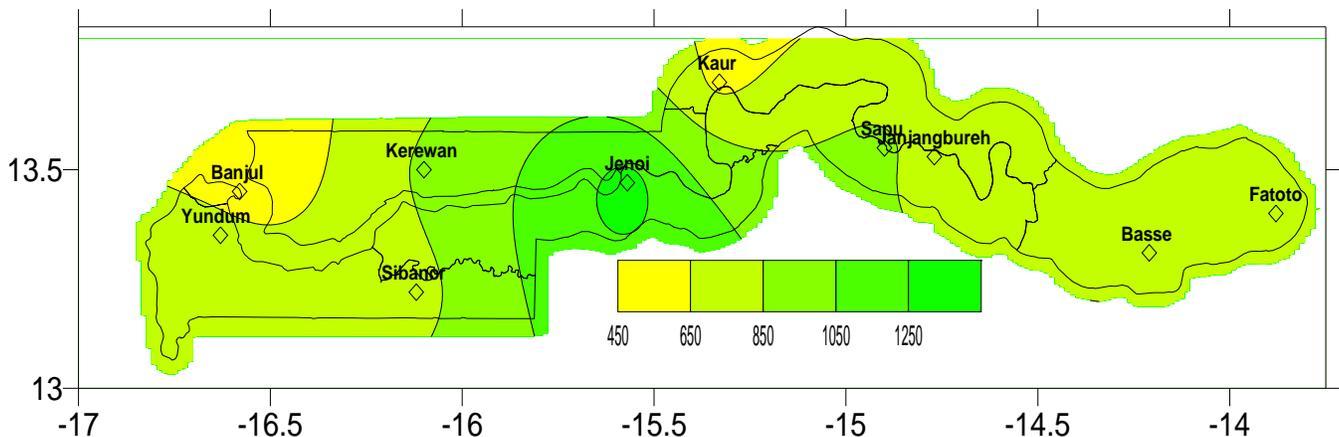
## 2 RAINFALL SITUATIONS

The rainfall situation in this dekad was extremely poor compared to the previous one. With the exception of Yundum, Kerewan in the Western Third, Sapu, Kaur both in the Middle Third, all the other stations in the country experienced a dry dekad with some stations (Banjul, Sibanor, Jenoi and Basse) recording less than 1mm of decadal rainfall total. Highest decadal totals recorded during the dekad were 23.8 over Kerewan in the Western Third, 21.2mm and 12.0mm over Sapu and Kaur in the Middle Third, figure 1a.



**Figure 1a:** Dekadal rainfall totals from September 21<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

Seasonal cumulative rainfall totals in the country as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017 reveals that there is still high variations in recorded rain fall amounts. Some stations maintain the same cumulative total from the previous dekad due to lack of rainfall recorded in those stations during the dekad in review (21<sup>st</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017). Even though Jenoi in the Middle Third, falls among the stations that experiences dry dekad, it still has the highest seasonal total of above 1000mm, followed by Yundum and Kerewan both in the Western Third and Basse in the Eastern Third all recording seasonal totals of above 800mm, figure 1b.



**Figure 1b:** Rainfall Seasonal totals from May 1<sup>st</sup> 2017– September 30<sup>th</sup> 2017.

In comparisons, the country average as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017 stood at **798.4mm**, which is **7%** below last year’s amount (**858.9mm**) and **3%** above the long term mean (30 year period) of **775.3mm**,

### 3 AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

Average temperatures recorded during this dekad vary from 27°C in the East to 31 °C in the Western Third of the country. Minimum temperature reached 23°C over the Western and Middle Thirds, whereas maximum temperature reached 37°C recorded over the Middle Third of the country.

Average relative humidity (RH) recorded during the dekad was 66% recorded over Banjul in the Western Third to above 70% over the rest of the country. Winds were light to moderate in speed with a maximum gust of 33km/h recorded over the Eastern Third during this dekad. Average sunshine duration recorded during the dekad was between 5 - 7 hours across the country.

### 4. AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

Agricultural situations in the country continue to vary per region depending on the variety of crops grown and planting dates. In the Eastern and most parts of the Western Thirds, most maize fields are being harvested while some few fields are at maturity. Early millet is at full maturity and some farmers have started harvesting and gathering their early millet crops. Late millet and sorghum are at various stages of development ranging from panicle initiation to full maturity. However, late planted sorghum and late millet crops are still at their vegetation stage.

Leguminous crops such as groundnut and beans are at maturity stages. Harvesting of beans and phillipine pink groundnut variety have started in some areas, and the product could be found in the markets.

Transplanting of rice in the lowlands is almost completed across the country and most fields are at advanced stage of tillering. While most rice grown in the upland fields are at maturity and some are being harvested particularly in the CRR.

Harvesting and sale of water melon is in progress across the country.

Banjul 02<sup>nd</sup> October 2017  
National MWG of The Gambia

#### **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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