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# EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

No. 2015/14

## IN THE GAMBIA

Period: September 1-10, 2015

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Government of The Gambia

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Multidisciplinary Working Group

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## 1.0 METEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

### 1.1. SYNOPTIC SITUATION

The average surface position of the ITD oscillated over central Mauritania, northern Mali onto northern Niger.

Dry and stable atmosphere prevailed to the north of the ITD with dust haze patches observed mostly over Algeria. On the other hand, convective activities prevailed to the entire south of the ITD during the dekad.

### 1.2 WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE GAMBIA

Variably cloudy and humid atmosphere prevailed with thunderstorms and rain particularly during the dekad.

### 1.3 WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT DEKAD (11<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> September 2015)

Variably cloudy and humid atmosphere is expected to prevail with squally thunderstorms and rain during the next dekad.

## 2.0 AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

### 2.1 RAINFALL SITUATION

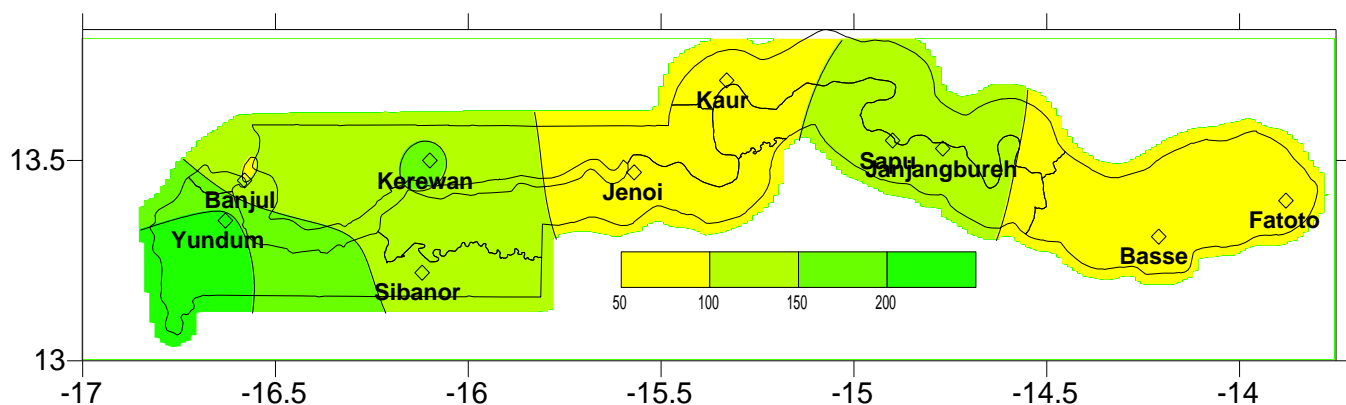
Rainfall situation in this dekad continues to show improvements across the country. Dekadal totals recorded in the Western Third showed Yundum Airport recording the highest (**222.0mm**), while Banjul recorded the lowest dekad totals of **95.7mm**. In the Middle Third dekad totals varied between **57.4mm** (lowest) over Jenoi to **144.9mm** over Sapu, while in the Eastern Third dekad totals were **66.8mm** and 75.8mm over Fatoto and Basse respectively. (Figure 1a).

Seasonal rainfall totals recorded so far showed the Western third leading with a seasonal total of **1044.0mm** over Yundum Airport, while Banjul recorded the lowest of about **479.8mm**. In the Middle third Janjanbureh recorded **925,6mm**, while Kaur recorded **431.0mm** lowest in the dekad. In the Eastern third Basse and Fatoto recorded **727.8mm** and **671.5mm** respectively. Figure 1b.

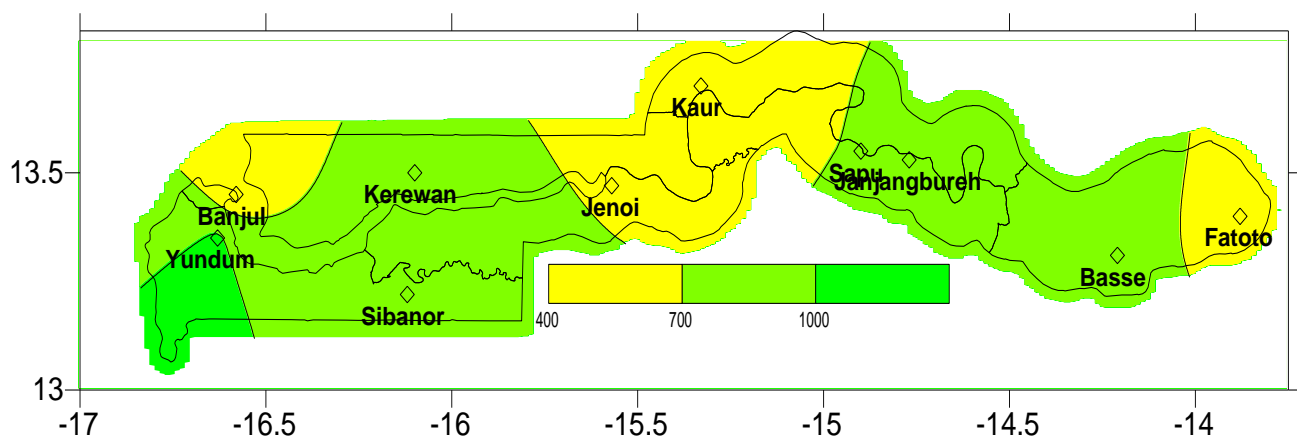
However, highest daily downpours during the dekad occurred as follows:

**Table 1: Highest daily downpours per station during the dekad**

<b>EASTERN THIRD</b>		
Station	Rainfall in Millimeters	Date
Yundum Airport	152.2	6 <sup>th</sup> /09/2015
Banjul	50.7	6 <sup>th</sup> /09/2015
Sibanor	35.6, 36.5	6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> /09/2015
Kerewan	82.9	6 <sup>th</sup> /09/2015
<b>MIDDLE THIRD</b>		
Jenoi	18.5	7 <sup>th</sup> /09/2015
Kaur	18.5	3 <sup>rd</sup> /09/2015
Sapu	55.2, 54.0	4 <sup>th</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> /09/2015
Janjanbureh	44.1, 39.0	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> /09/2015
<b>EASTERN THIRD</b>		
Bass	26.3, 27.5	5 <sup>th</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> /09/2015
Fatoto	27.4, 33.3	1 <sup>st</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> /09/2015



**Figure 1a: Rainfall dekadal totals 1<sup>st</sup> –10<sup>th</sup> September 2015.**



**Figure 1b: Rainfall Seasonal totals from May 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 – September 10<sup>th</sup> 2015.**

## **2.2 RAINFALL COMPARISMS**

The Country average as of 10<sup>th</sup> September 2015, stand at **744.2mm**, **62%** above the country average of last year (10<sup>th</sup> September 2014; **4mm58.1**), and **13.5%** above the long term mean (1981-2010 **655.2mm**).

## **2.3 Temperature**

Average temperatures in this dekad, like in the past dekad varied slightly across the country, fluctuating between 27°C and 28°C countrywide. Maximum temperatures were between 31.0°C and 32.0°C highest. Minimum temperatures fluctuated between 22.0°C to 24.0°C countrywide.

## **2.4 Winds**

Winds were light, moderate, and strong across the country. Highest winds recorded in the Western Third were 37km/h, 64km/h in the Middle Third and 20km/h in the Eastern Third.

## **2.5 Sunshine Duration**

Sunshine duration varied between 4 to 5hours of sunshine countrywide during the dekad.

## **2.6 Relative Humidity**

Average relative humidity across the country continued to be high over 75% across the country.

## **3.0 Hydrological Situation**

N/A

## **4.0 AGRICULTURAL SITUATION**

### **WEST COAST REGION**

#### **NORTH BANK REGION**

N/A

Some Farmers in this region are busy on rice planting in the lowland fields; others are planting cowpea and water melon. Few are harvesting cowpea. Crop phonological stages vary; groundnut is at pegging and flowering, while some cereals are at reproductive stage. There are reports of pest attack as blister beetles were spotted around Ngayen Sanjal.

#### **LOWER RIVER REGION**

Agricultural situation is progressing in this region as the rainy season progresses. Transplantation to the main fields is taking place for swamp rice production. Weeding is being strategized due to rainfall occurrences thus delaying work especially on upland fields. Crop phonological stages vary; some cereals are at reproductive stages while others are at maturity. Groundnut is at pegging and flowering, while some cowpea fields are at vegetative stages and others are flowering.

## CENTRAL RIVER REGION NORTH

N/A

## CENTRAL RIVER REGION SOUTH

N/A

## UPPER RIVER REGION

Some farmers in this region are on their third weeding; however there is the appearance of striga weeds in some maize and millet fields. Crop phenological stages like in other regions vary. Groundnut fields are at pod formation, some cereals are at reproductive stages while others are still at vegetative stages.

### 4.1 COMMODITY PRICES

Planning Services Unit, Department of Agriculture present the 2<sup>th</sup> Week of September Agricultural Commodity Average Prices per KG (in Dalasi) of selected markets - Date: 10/09/15

Comodities	Banjul	Bakau	Sereku nda	Brikama	Latrikun da	Tipper Garage	Bansa ng	KerrPate h	Farafe nni	Sam i	Wassu	Jerren g	Panch ang	Basse	Averag e
<b>CEREALS</b>															
Maize	24.86	24.23	21.80	23.46	24.27	23.81	N/A	14.00	17.00	15.00	12.00	10.00	10.00	20.94	18.57
Millet	25.91	23.83	21.76	24.74	23.90	22.65	N/A	13.00	15.00	15.00	14.00	8.00	8.00	19.32	18.09
Sorghu m	23.89	22.40	22.07	21.84	23.40	22.58	N/A	N/A	20.00	20.00	16.00	6.00	N/A	24.70	20.26
Local Rice	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	28.00	N/A	28.00	N/A	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00	29.00
Broke n Rice	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	26.00	25.00	26.00	N/A	26.00	26.00	25.00	26.00	24.92
Long Grain Rice	N/A	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00	N/A	N/A	28.00	N/A	N/A	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00
Findo	96.41	N/A	79.16	N/A	87.50	75.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	65.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	64.16	77.87
<b>VEGETABLES</b>															
Cabba ge	57.33	53.81	52.77	50.83	50.23	51.32	50.00	46.00	43.00	46.72	43.00	40.00	N/A	42.58	48.28
Lettuc e	42.85	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	45.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	43.93
Large pepper (Hot)	125.00	126.42	124.00	122.45	125.73	126.00	100.00	103.00	110.00	N/A	115.00	115.23	112.00	117.00	117.06
Okra	77.11	74.76	78.21	74.66	79.90	76.70	45.00	40.00	50.00	47.03	46.00	43.00	N/A	42.00	59.57
Egg plant	N/A	40.00	46.42	42.73	43.52	45.00	30.00	N/A	33.00	29.34	N/A	30.00	32.00	31.19	36.65
Wonjo	142.00	143.15	143.77	146.22	144.96	143.71	N/A	N/A	111.11	108.69	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.20	131.53
Bitter tomato	34.83	38.00	35.00	36.97	N/A	33.33	55.00	60.00	50.00	55.55	50.00	50.00	N/A	55.93	46.22
Tomat o big size	42.08	46.11	N/A	46.70	43.77	N/A	45.00	50.00	50.00	43.33	40.00	40.00	N/A	41.24	44.38
Import ed Onion	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	40.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	35.00	50.00	35.00	N/A	40.00
Local Onion	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00

ROOTs & TUBERS															
Carrot	60.79	60.00	65.00	62.49	66.6	62.22	45.00	44.36	43.00	N/A	45.00	N/A	N/A	46.16	54.60
Cassava	N/A	43.25	42.85	41.05	N/A	N/A	30.00	40.00	40.00	43.47	N/A	35.00	N/A	31.82	38.60
Sweet Potato	36.25	34.82	36.96	N/A	32.38	30.00	35.00	30.00	40.00	35.00	30.00	45.00	N/A	45.87	35.94
Irish Potato	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	35.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	45.00	35.60	39.69
Fruits, Nuts and Legumes															
Mangoes	N/A	40.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	25.00	N/A	26.91	N/A	N/A	25.00	20.40	27.46
Lemon	46.53	50.00	46.53	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	30.00	40.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	35.00	41.34
Pumpkin	N/A	50.00	54.58	N/A	N/A	N/A	40.00	40.00	35.00	N/A	40.00	N/A	N/A	42.05	43.09
Banana	35.00	30.00	35.00	30.00	35.00	33.89	N/A	N/A	30.00	25.00	25.00	30.00	N/A	30.90	30.89
Orange	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	26.78	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	30.72	28.75
Decorticated G/Nut	49.78	44.45	44.68	47.62	48.48	N/A	30.00	40.00	30.00	35.00	33.00	N/A	35.00	31.50	39.13
Undecorticated G/nut	N/A	38.48	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	25.00	N/A	N/A	30.00	N/A	30.00	31.53	31.00
Beans	45.00	45.00	40.00	45.00	45.00	40.25	50.00	40.00	40.00	35.00	40.00	N/A	35.00	35.00	41.17
LIVESTOCK															
Beef Meat & Bone	175.00	180.00	200.00	175.00	200.00	225.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	140.00	140.00	150.00	150.00	166.79
Beef Steak	225.00	200.00	225.00	200.00	225.00	200.00	150.00	180.00	200.00	N/A	150.00	160.00	180.00	175.00	190.00
Mutton	200.00	225.00	225.00	200.00	N/A	225.00	N/A	200.00	N/A	175.00	175.00	N/A	200.00	175.00	200.00

## 4.2 CROP PROTECTION

N/A

## 4.3 DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK SERVICES

The Livestock situation in the entire Country is generally good due to the abundance of feed and water in all the regions. Clinical treatment figures have scaled down and animals' health status and productivity rose owing to the availability of succulent palatable shrubs and grasses in all pastures fields and a drastic reduction in pest and pathogen load in the grazing areas.

In CRR-N, 41 heads of cattle 37 goats 33 Sheep 8 horses 4 Donkeys were treated for suspected cases of multiple diseases.

LRR reported that 71 heads of cattle, 56 Sheep, 53 goats, 5 horses, 11 donkeys were treated. Clinical treatment for CRR-S, 18 heads of cattle 11 Sheep 4 horses' 15 goats and 2 donkeys were treated. URR clinical treatment figures for cattle 290 Sheep 113 goats 117 horses 87 donkeys 42. Clinical treatment figures for NBR were 75 heads of cattle, 21 Sheep, 38 goats, 61 horses and 11 Donkeys. However, clinical figures for WCR were not available during the first dekad of September 2015.

It is worth noting that the clinical cases received in the first dekad of September were suspected cases of various diseases. The Department of Livestock Services will not relent in its drive to curb the menace of animal diseases in the Country.

#### **4.4 FISHERIES**

N/A

#### **5.0 NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AGENCY (NDMA)**

N/A

#### **6.0 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (NEA)**

N/A

Banjul September 12<sup>th</sup> 2015

National MWG of The Gambia

<b>Composition of MWG:</b> 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	<b>Direct your comments and questions to:</b> The Director Department of Water Resources 7 Marina Parade, Banjul The Gambia Tel: (+ 220) 422 76 31 / 422 41 22 / <b>890 52 29</b> Email: <a href="mailto:dwr@mofwrnam.gov.gm">dwr@mofwrnam.gov.gm</a>
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