
EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

No. 2008/10

IN THE GAMBIA

Period: August 1 - 10, 2008



Government of The Gambia

Produced and Published by the Multidisciplinary
Working Group of the AGRHYMET Regional
Programme

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AGRHYMET Regional Programme

1. PROGRESS OF RAINY SEASON

During this dekad the position of the ITD is located over southern Mauritania, stretching towards central Mali, Niger and Chad. Convective clouds evolved resulting to severe thunderstorms with rain over Senegambia and the rest of West Africa during the night and early morning of the dekad. Dust haze/drifting sand was reported over central and south Mali and eastern Nigeria. Over north and southern Africa medium clouds were observed associated with dry and stable atmosphere.

Weather Summary for the Gambia

Rain and thunderstorm accompanied with strong winds propagated over the entire country during the dekad.

Weather outlook for the Gambia for August 11 to 20, 2008

Rain and thunderstorm (sometimes squally) is expected to prevail over the country during the period

2. RAINFALL SITUATION

During this dekad the average rainfall intensity dropped to 36.6mm compared to the previous dekad 86.7mm. The number of rainy days decreased from 9 days in the previous dekad to 8 days in the present dekad. The daily values of this dekad ranged from 0.6mm to 104.5mm, and the dekadal totals ranged from 39.6mm at Banjul to 175.2mm at Kerewan both in the Western Third (Fig 1a).

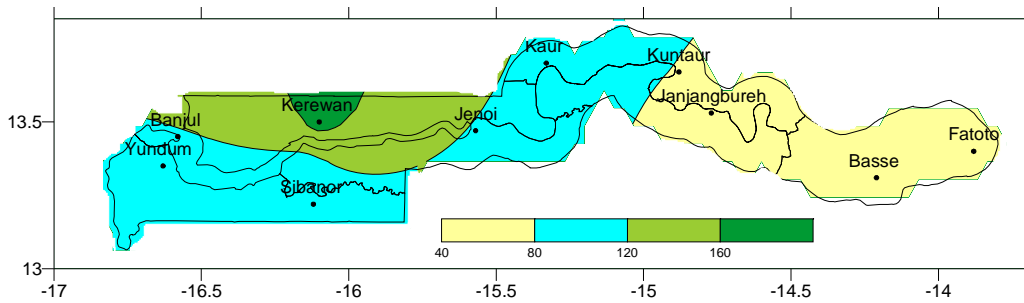


Figure 1a: Rainfall intensity during August 1- 10, 2008

The seasonal amount of rainfall as at August 10 ranged from 372.8mm at Banjul to 708.5mm at Yundum, both of which are in the Western Third of the country (Fig 1b). This brings the country average to 485.1mm which is 46% above last year (378.1mm) 14% above the normal during the same period..

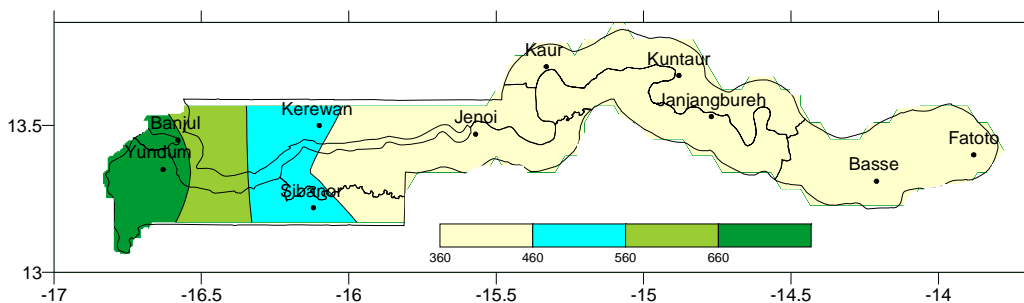


Figure 1b: Seasonal total from August 1- 10, 2008

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

Since the last dekad up to this present dekad, the maximum temperatures continue to drop across the country, but the drop was more remarkable in the Western Third. Highest temperatures ranged from 34.2°C at Banjul to 30.7°C at Jambanjelly. Minimum temperatures also dropped slightly across the country and ranged between 18.3 at Kerewan to 24.1°C at Jambanjelly and Basse.

Maximum relative humidity generally increased slightly compared to the previous dekad, with all stations recording over 90%.The minimum relative humidity recorded was 64%.

The highest wind speed across the country was 10.3 m/s (37.1 km/hr) during the period.

4.0. AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

4.1. Early millet: beginning of heading in North Bank, Central River, Lower River and part of Upper River Regions while in the Western Region tillering is in progress.

Maize: tasseling in Upper River, North Bank, Lower River and Central River Regions and on vegetative and stem elongation in the Western Region.

Sorghum: vegetative stage in Central River and Upper River Regions where it is mostly grown. Groundnuts advanced vegetative in all the regions and flowering of the early maturing variety Philippine pink.

Rice transplanting in the low lands and weeding of the nurseries for the swamp rice. In the swamp rice areas land preparation plowing by women in high gear.

Major preoccupation of farmers is weeding and high weed infestation in many crop fields.

4.2. PEST

There is no significant outbreak of pests only few grasshopper species in the natural vegetation.

5.0. Cereal Prices

It is determined by the existence of stockpiles in the peasants and availability of products in the markets. However commodity prices remain high and unchanged since the previous dekad.

The food situation is satisfactory and is characterized by a general availability of stocks in households. A large quantity of imported rice is evident in both retail and weekly markets all over the country.

Average prices at the cereal markets continued to fluctuate depending on the volume of the commodities supplied and demand at the markets. As compared to the previous dekad the price of cereals remained the same. At Ndugukebbeh, the price of millet is D6.00 and D8.00 for maize whilst it is D17 to D19.00/kg in the Greater Banjul Area (table 1).

Table 1. Average Prices of Cereal production during 1st to 10th August, 2008 (in Dalasi/kg)

Market	Millet	Maize	Sorghum	Imported Whole Rice	Local Milled Rice	Imported Broken Rice	Findo	Groundnut
Banjul	15.43	15.85	15.27	21.66	Na	18.00	54.79	30.53
Serekunda	17.01	19.08	19.39	21.33	18.00	18.00	Na	34.94
Latrikunda	12.31	12.80	12.31	18.00	Na	18.00	Na	Na
Brikama	17.17	17.17	12.54	18.00	Na	18.00	Na	Na
Bakau	16.50	16.50	17.00	20.35	Na	18.00	Na	39.44
Ndugukebbeh	6.00	7.00	Na	18.00	Na	18.00	Na	Na
Kerr pateh	8.00	9.00	Na	18.00	Na	17.00	Na	Na
Farafenni	11.00	11.00	12.00	19.00	Na	19.00	Na	24.00
Soma	10.00	11.42	Na	25.00	Na	24.16	Na	Na
Bureng	8.67	16.00	Na	25.00	Na	25.00	Na	Na
Kaur	10.00	9.00	8.00	18.00	18.00	20.00	Na	24.00
Wassu	12.00	11.50	9.66	22.50	Na	20.00	Na	20.00
Brikamaba	10.00	10.00	10.00	17.66	14.00	17.66	Na	23.25
Sarre Ngai	Na	Na	Na	22.00	Na	22.00	Na	Na
Basse	15.00	15.00	15.00	22.00	Na	22.00	Na	Na
Average	12.07	12.95	13.11	20.43	16.66	19.65	54.79	28.02

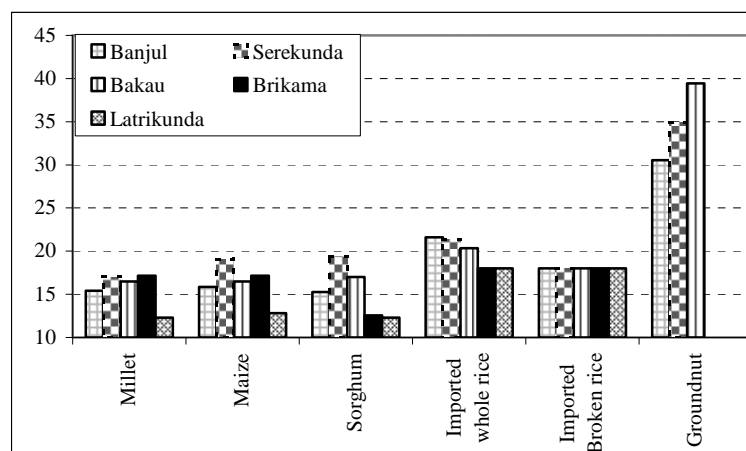


Figure 2: Cereal prices during August 1 to 10, 2008 (Source: Department of Planning)

5.1. Prices of Meat

The price of beef (meat and bone) continued to remain stable during the period under review. In the Greater Banjul Area the price of beef (meat and bone) is D80.00/kg, whilst at Brikamaba and Basse the prices are between D60 to D65.00/kg. For steak (beef) the price ranges from D75/kg in Brikamaba and Basse to D100/kg elsewhere. The price of mutton ranged from D80/kg to D 120/kg (Details in table 2.).

Table 2. Average Prices of Livestock Products (in Dalasi/kg)

MARKETS	BEEF		MUTTON	MILK(in Liters)	
	Meat & Bone	Steak		Fresh	Yoghurt
Banjul	80.00	100.00	120.00	40.00	35.00
Bakau	80.00	90.00	110.00	45.00	35.00
Serekunda	75.00	90.00	120.00	40.00	35.00
Latrikunda	75.00	90.00	100.00	38.00	35.00
Brikama	75.00	90.00	100.00	25.00	30.00
Soma	75.00	80.00	Na	Na	Na
Bureng	70.00	80.00	Na	Na	Na
Ndugukebbeh	75.00	100.00	110.00	30.00	25.00
Farafenni	70.00	90.00	90.00	Na	Na
Kerrpateh	75.00	100.00	100.00	Na	Na
Kaur	70.00	80.00	80.00	15.00	15.00
Wassu	70.00	80.00	80.00	Na	Na
Brikamaba	60.00	75.00	80.00	15.00	20.00
SareNgai	70.00	80.00	Na	Na	Na
Basse	65.00	75.00	90.00	Na	Na
Average	77.00	86.66	90.83	31.00	28.75

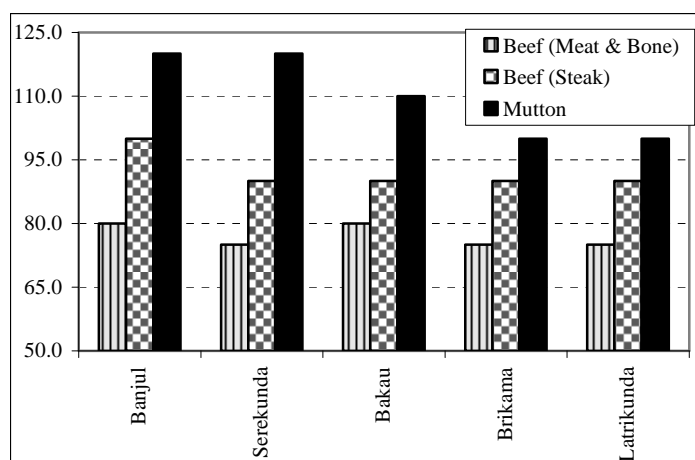


Figure 3: Average Prices of Livestock Products (in Dalasi/Unit)

Composition of MWG:
Department of Water Resources
Department of Planning - NADA
Department of Extension Services – NADA
Department of Veterinary Services – NADA
Department of Technical Services - NADA
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