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# EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

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## IN THE GAMBIA

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Government of The Gambia

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Working Group of the AGRHYMET Regional  
Programme

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AGRHYMET Regional Programme

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### 1. WEATHER SITUATION

During the period under review, the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), separating the moist and dry regions over northern Africa, was located south of The Gambia. This indicates that the country is still in the dry zone as manifested by the dry and cool weather during the night and early morning, becoming sunny and warm in the daytime.

### 2. RAINFALL SITUATION

No rainfall was recorded throughout the country during this dekad.

However, during the same period last year, measurable rainfall was recorded in Basse (10.1mm) in the eastern part of the country, whilst other stations (Jar Kunda, Sutukoba, Sare Soffie and Naudeh) in the surroundings recorded un-measurable rainfall.

### 3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

Temperatures were highest in the Eastern and Middle Thirds of the country, where they ranged from 42.0 to 44.8°C, whilst those in the Western Third remained generally below 40.0°C. This depicts an East- West temperature gradient, with the eastern and middle parts of the country being hotter than the western parts.

Minimum temperatures followed the same trend as the maximum temperatures; ranging between 15.0°C at Banjul in the Western Third to 23.3 °C at Basse in the Eastern Third.

Relative humidity followed a reverse in trend to that of the temperatures, as the Western and Middle Thirds recorded the highest values ranging from 74% to 93%, whilst the Eastern Third recorded the lowest ranging from 60% to 73%.

Winds during the dekad were generally moderate to light in speed (24km/hr maximum).

### 4. AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

The major on-field activities by farmers are field clearing, acquisition and preparation of seeds and the repair of farming implements.

## 5. Situation of Cereal Markets

The situation of cereal markets is satisfactory and is characterized by a general availability of stocks in households and products in retail and weekly markets.

Average prices at the cereal markets continued to fluctuate depending on the volume of the commodities supplied and the demand at the markets. In the Greater Banjul Area, the average price of coarse grains (maize, millet and sorghum) ranged from D12/kg to D15/kg whilst the price of the same commodities in the rest of the country ranged from D7/kg to D12/kg.

Compared to the same period last year, commodity prices remained relatively lower this year.

### **Composition of MWG:**

Department of Water Resources  
Department of Planning - NADA  
Department of Agricultural Services - NADA  
Department of Veterinary Services - NADA  
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