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# EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

No. 2009/04

## IN THE GAMBIA

Period: June 1 - 10, 2009

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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. PROGRESS OF RAINY SEASON

The prominent high-pressure cell centred over the north west Atlantic Ocean (Azores) had a mean core value of 1023 hectopascal (hpa), weakening by 3.75 hpa as compared to the last dekad, whereas the St. Helena High-pressure Cell centred over the south Atlantic Ocean had a mean core value of 1027 hpa, also weakening by 1.5 hpa as compared to the previous dekad. This pressure configuration favoured moisture influx into the West African sub-region, hence rain and thunderstorms observed over the Gulf of Guinea States and southern Sahel.

The Inter-Tropical Discontinuity - ITD, demarcating boundary between the dry and moist regions over West Africa continued its northward movement especially along its western and central axis. The eastern axis maintained its position as in the last dekad. However, the mean surface position of the ITD was located over Banjul (The Gambia), Segou (Mali), Tillibery and Magaria (Niger) and Ati (Chad).

### 2. RAINFALL OUTLOOK FOR JUNE 11 - 20, 2009

Warm and variable cloudiness will prevail with the likelihood of slight rain over some places in the second half (16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>) of the 2<sup>nd</sup> dekad of June 2009.

### 3. RAINFALL SITUATION

During this dekad, measurable rainfall ranged from 0.3mm in Jenoi to 5.6mm in Basse.

Compared to the same period last year, deficits were observed in the Western (10.5 to 66.2mm), Central (4.7 to 31.4mm) and Eastern Thirds (0.1 to 7mm). Only Fatoto recorded a surplus of 29.5mm. When compared to the long-term mean, deficits ranging from 1.2mm to 29mm were also recorded.

### 4. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

During this dekad, mean temperatures have increased from 30.1°C during the preceding dekad to 30.9°C. Thermal distributions within the country show that the Eastern and Middle Thirds remained hotter than the Western Third.

Extreme temperatures also increased slightly throughout the country as compared to the previous dekad. Highest values were 40.0°C at Kerewan in the Western Third, 43.0°C at Sapu and Janjangbureh in the Middle Third and 43.6°C at Basse in the Eastern Third.

Maximum relative humidity decreased slightly compared to the previous dekad. The highest recorded was 92% in Yundum, reducing gradually to a minimum of 67% in the Eastern part of the country.

Winds during the dekad were generally moderate to light in speed (50km/hr maximum).

## 5. AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

Field clearing and acquisition of seeds continue to be the major farming activities.

In the Western Third, women are still engaged in vegetable gardening in the low lands.

## 6. FOOD SITUATION

### 6.1 Cereal Prices

The food situation is satisfactory and is characterized by a general availability of stocks in households. Large quantities 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. In the Greater Banjul Area, the price of coarse grains (maize and sorghum) varied from D14.29/kg to D16.42/kg whilst in the rest of the country, the price of the same commodities ranges from D12.11/kg to 14.55 (table 1).

**Table 1:** Cereal prices during the period June 7 - 13, 2009

Market	Maize	Millet	Sorghum	Imported Whole Rice	Local Rice Milled	Imported Broken Rice	Findo	Groundnut
Banjul	15.15	15.15	12.15	14.00	Na	15.00	42.50	25.26
Serekunda	15.45	15.45	12.22	15.00	20.00	16.00	45.70	25.75
Latrikunda	14.35	14.89	12.12	15.00	20.00	16.00	Na	24.76
Brikama	14.29	15.65	12.12	15.00	20.00	16.00	58.00	22.22
Bakau	15.49	16.42	15.21	15.00	20	16.00	45.92	28
Ndugukebbeh	14.16	14.14	Na	16.35	Na	17.00	Na	Na
Kerr pateh	13.55	13.55	Na	16.55	Na	17.00	Na	Na
Farafenni	13.45	13.45	11.10	16.65	Na	17.35	Na	24.57
Soma	13.82	13.82	Na	16.72	Na	17.45	Na	23.33
Bureng	12.11	12.11	Na	16.75	Na	17.55	Na	23.33
Kaur	12.19	12.11	9.99	16.57	18.00	17.45	Na	24
Wassu	13.73	13.93	12.66	16.25	18.75	17.15	Na	20
Brikamaba	14.25	13.90	11.10	16.25	14.00	17.15	Na	23.25
Sarre Ngai	Na	13.77	Na	17.00	Na	18.00	Na	24.45
Basse	14.55	13.85	11.50	16.95	Na	17.80	Na	22.21
<b>Average</b>	<b>14.04</b>	<b>14.15</b>	<b>12.02</b>	<b>16.00</b>	<b>18.68</b>	<b>16.86</b>	<b>48.03</b>	<b>23.93</b>

### 6.2 Price of beef, mutton and milk

The price of beef continued to remain stable during the period under review. In the Greater Banjul Area the price of beef (meat and bone) is D65.00/kg, and that of steak is D85.00/kg. In the provincial areas, the price of beef (meat and bone) is D60.00/kg whilst that of stake is D80.00/kg.

#### Composition of MWG:

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