

EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

No. 2010/06

IN THE GAMBIA

Period: June 21 - 30, 2010



Government of The Gambia

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Group of the AGRHYMET Regional Programme

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AGRHYMET Regional Programme

1. PROGRESS OF 2010 RAINY SEASON

The mean surface position of the demarcating boundary between the dry and moist region over West Africa (Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone- ITD) was located over Saint Louis (Senegal), Kiffa (Mauritania), Gao (Mali) and Agadez (Niger). Thus, the ITD continued with its northward movement.

The development of convective cloud , rain and thunderstorms (sometimes squally) characterized the weather to the south of the ITD. However, to the north, warm, dry and sunny afternoons characterized the weather with occasional dusty/hazy conditions notably over Northern Mauritania, Mali and Niger.

2. RAINFALL OUTLOOK FOR JULY 1 - 10, 2010

Warm and variable cloudiness will prevail with rain and/or thunderstorm over some places during the early part of the dekad.

3. RAINFALL SITUATION

During this dekad, significant rainfall was recorded with improved frequency and intensity throughout the country. Daily rainfall amounts of above 50mm were recorded in Banjul (95.4mm), Sibanor (58.2mm) and Kaur (55.4mm). The number of rainy days varied between 3 and 6 and resulted in end-of-dekad totals ranging from 38.0mm to 148.8mm in the Western Third, 46.5mm to 82.4mm in the Middle Third and 49.4mm to 65.3mm in the Eastern Third of the country (fig. 1a).

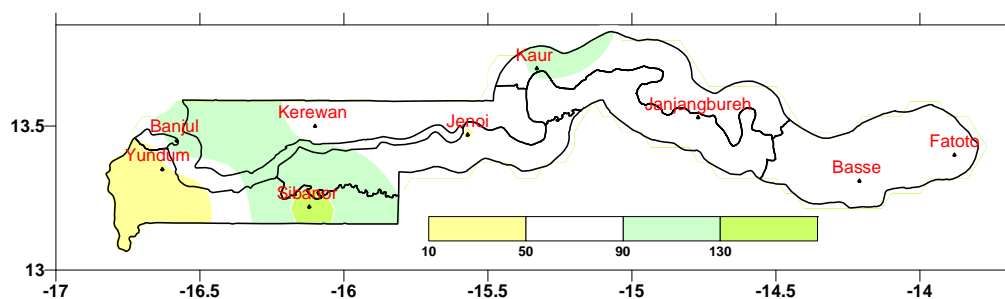


Figure 1a: Rainfall intensity during June 21 – 30, 2010

As at June 30, the distribution of rainfall in the country shows that the Middle Third has received more rainfall, followed by the Western Third and the Eastern Third received the least (fig. 1b). The seasonal totals from May 1

to June 30 varied between 100.0mm to 109.9mm in the Eastern Third, 52.0mm to 174.8mm in the Western Third and between 113.5mm to 193.4mm in the Middle Third of the country.

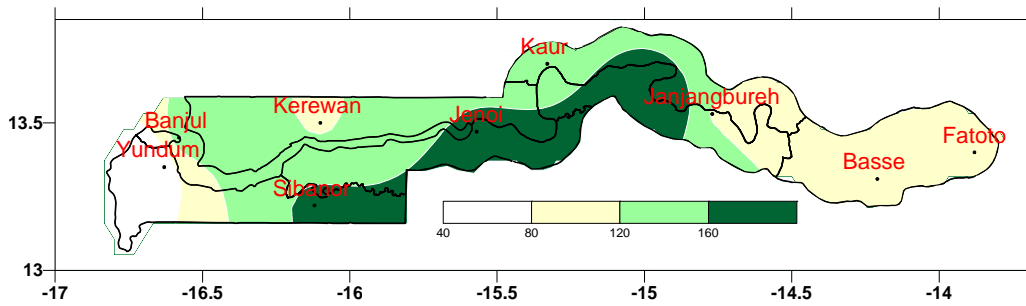


Figure 1b: Cumulative rainfall as at June 30, 2010

When compared to the preceding year at the same period, the entire network stations recorded a surplus of more than 30.0mm except Fatoto and Yundum that recorded a deficit of 4.9mm and 6.6mm respectively.

4. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

As in the previous dekad, temperatures during this dekad remained high throughout the country. Meanwhile, when compared to the preceding dekad, mean temperatures decreased significantly in all the network stations

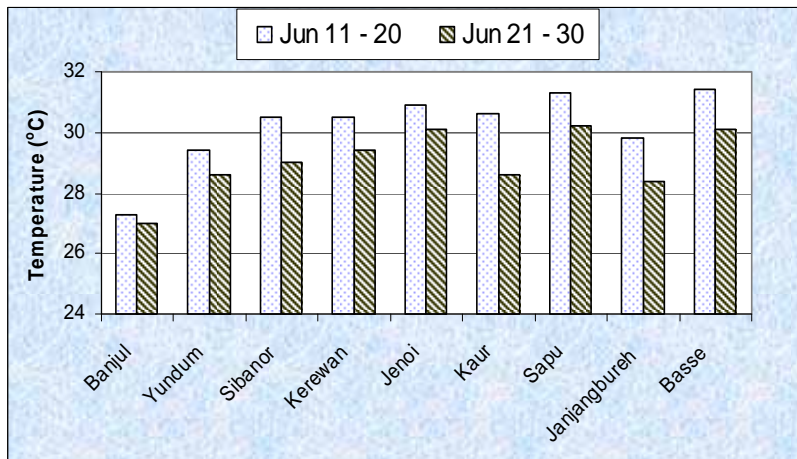


Figure 2: Evolution of mean temperature

(fig. 2). This could be attributed to the moisture influx into the country. Thermal distributions within the country show that the Eastern and Middle Thirds remained hotter than the Western Third.

Extreme maximum temperatures were 40.0°C at Kerewan in the Western, 38.5°C at Jenoi in the Middle and 39.4°C at Fatoto in the Eastern Thirds of the country.

During this dekad, mean relative humidity (RH) saw an increase from 64% during the preceding dekad to 73%. Maximum RH varied between 81 and 95% in the Western Third and between 86 and 94% in the Middle and between 90 and 92% in the Eastern Thirds of the country.

Generally, winds across the country were light to moderate in speed. However, on June 29, 2010, there was a line squall that produced a maximum wind gust of about 60 km/hr.

5. AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

Sowing of early millet is continuing across the country. The crop has reached a phenological stage ranging from seedling to tillering and weeding is also in progress in these fields.

Sowing of maize, late millet, sorghum and groundnut has also gained momentum in North Bank, Central River and Upper River regions. Elsewhere, in Lower River and Western Regions, preparation of farmlands and implements are the major farming activities. In these regions, women are still engaged in vegetable gardening in the low lands.

Sowing of upland rice is in progress in the North Bank, Central River and Upper River Regions. The crop is at various phenological stages ranging from germination to seedling. In the lowland rice fields, nursery and land preparation are the major farm activities across the country, notably in North Bank, Central River, Lower River and Upper River Regions.

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