

EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

No. 2010/07

IN THE GAMBIA

Period: July 01 - 10, 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 surface position of the ITD during this dekad oscillated over Northern Senegal, Southern Mauritania stretching towards Central Mali and Northern Chad.

Places in the Northern Sahel were dominated by dry, warm and stable atmosphere with dust haze patches observed over Niger, Mali, Chad, Nigeria and Mauritania.

Thunderstorm with rain characterised the weather over the Gulf of Guinea states, Senegambia region and Burkina Faso.

2. RAINFALL OUTLOOK FOR JULY 11 - 20, 2010

Rain and severe thunderstorm sometimes squally is expected to traverse the country during the period.

3. RAINFALL SITUATION

During this dekad, there is a decrease in rainfall both in terms of intensity and distribution as compared to the previous dekad. The highest single fall recorded for the dekad was 35.2mm at Fatoto in the Eastern Third of the country while the lowest was 1.2 mm at Sapu in the Middle Third. The number of rainy days ranged from 1 to 4 while the dekadal total ranged from 15.8mm and 72.0mm both of which in the Middle Third of the country (fig.1a).

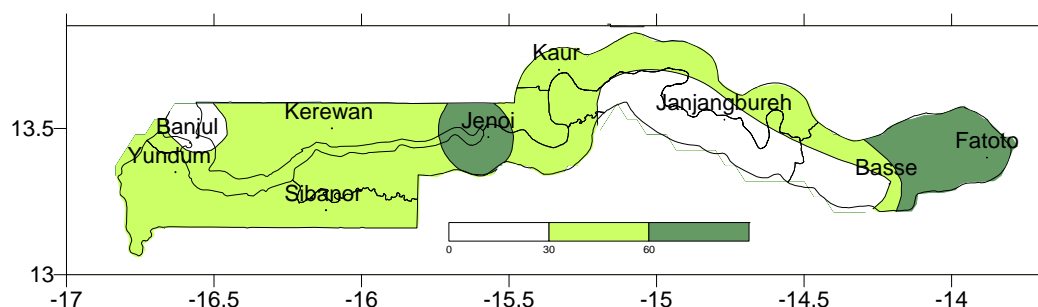


Figure 1a: Rainfall intensity during July 01 - 10, 2010

The highest seasonal rainfall total recorded as at July 10 was 241.4mm at Jenoi in the Middle Third while the lowest was 95.3 mm at Yundum in the Western Third of the country, the distribution of rainfall in the country shows that the Middle Third has continued to receive more rainfall than the other Thirds of the country (fig. 1b).

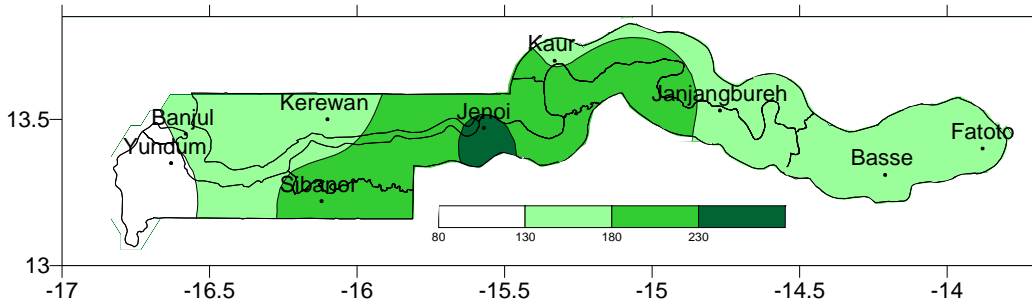


Figure 1b: Cumulative rainfall as at July, 2010

As compared to the preceding year at the same period, all stations in the country recorded a surplus except Yundum, Basse and Fatoto which recorded deficits of 8mm, 53.3mm and 96.0mm respectively. However when compared to the long term mean, only Basse recorded a deficit of 38.1 mm.

4. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

Temperatures during this dekad showed the Western and Eastern Thirds recording decreases while the Middle Third recorded an increase as compared to the preceding dekad. Extreme temperatures ranged from 33.8 °C at Yundum in the Western Third to 39.8 °C at Jenoi in the Middle Third. Of the country. Thermal distribution (fig 2) in the country continue to show that the Eastern and Middle Thirds are still hotter then the Western Third, as well as some cooling during July as compared to June.

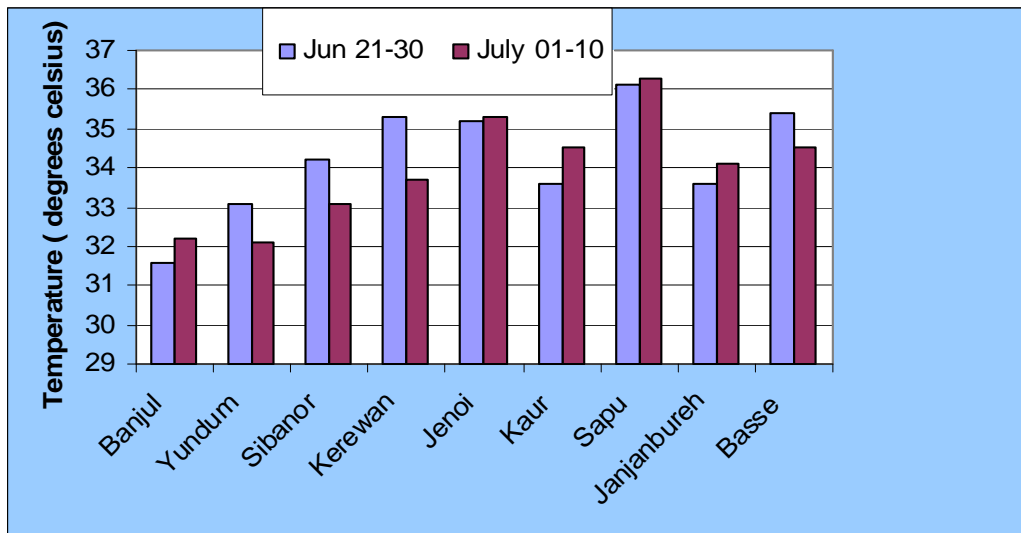


Figure 2: Evolution of temperature

During this dekad, the minimum relative humidity (RH) has increased slightly from 48% to 50% while the maximum generally increased across the country.

Across the country winds were generally light to moderate in speed however, a line squall producing a wind gust of 50km/hr was recorded on the 2nd July 2010.

5. AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

Sowing of cereals is completed but that of groundnuts is ongoing and weeding is in progress in most parts of the country. Early millet and maize are on vegetative growth stages in the North Bank, Central River and Upper River. Regions.

Planting of upland and low land rice is in progress in the Central River Region

Composition of MWG:

Department of Water Resources
Planning Services - Department of Agriculture (DOA)
Communication, Extension & Education Services - DOA
Animal Health & Production Services - DOA
Plant Protection Services - DOA
National Environment Agency

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