

EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

No. 2010/11

IN THE GAMBIA

Period: August 11 - 20, 2010



Government of The Gambia

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AGRHYMET Regional Programme

1. PROGRESS OF 2010 RAINY SEASON

The surface position of the Inter Tropical Discontinuity (ITD) during the dekad oscillated over central Mauritania stretching towards northern Mali, Niger and on to central Chad. Convective clouds development leading to severe thunderstorm with rain over the Senegambia region, Mali, Niger, Algeria, Mauritania and the Gulf of Guinea States and parts of central and eastern Africa.

Wide-spread dust patches propagate over Libya, Chad, Nigeria, Mauritania and Mali resulting to reduced horizontal and vertical visibility.

2. RAINFALL OUTLOOK FOR AUGUST 21 - 31, 2010

Thunderstorms with rain (sometimes squally) are expected to traverse the country during the period.

3. RAINFALL SITUATION

During this dekad significant rainfall both in terms of frequency and intensity was recorded across the country. Single day rainfall of more than 50mm was recorded in Serekunda (70mm), Yundum (52mm) and Sibanor (84mm) in the Western Third, Jenoi (63mm) and Janjangbureh (61mm) in the Middle Third and Basse (52mm) in the Eastern Third of the country. The number of rainy days varied from 2 to 8 days leading to end-of-dekad totals to range from 38.9mm at Kerewan to 183.5mm at Sibanor both in the Western Third of the country (fig. 1a). However, consecutive rainless days from the previous dekad ranging from 6 to 7 days were recorded at Jenoi, Kerewan and Kaur.

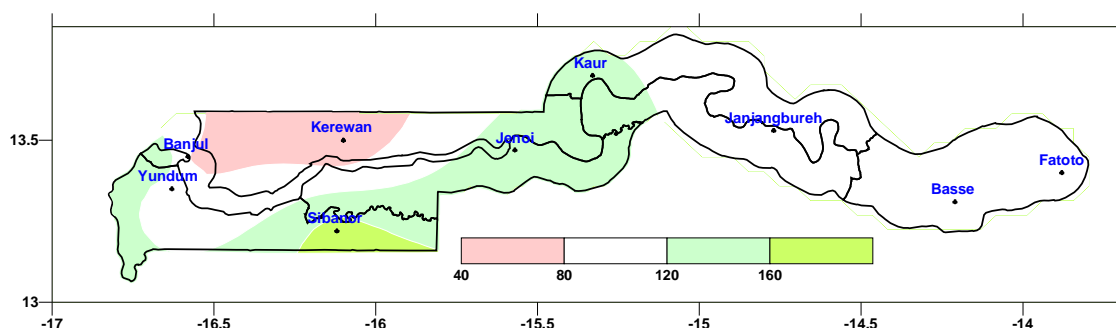


Figure 1a: Rainfall intensity during August 11 – 20, 2010

As at August 20 the seasonal total rainfall amount ranged between 349.1mm at Kerewan and 658.5mm at Sibanon in the Western Third, between 498.2mm at Janjangbureh and 851.7 at Jenoi in the Middle Third and between 628.7mm at Basse and 739.0mm at Fatoto in the Eastern Third of the country (Fig 1b).

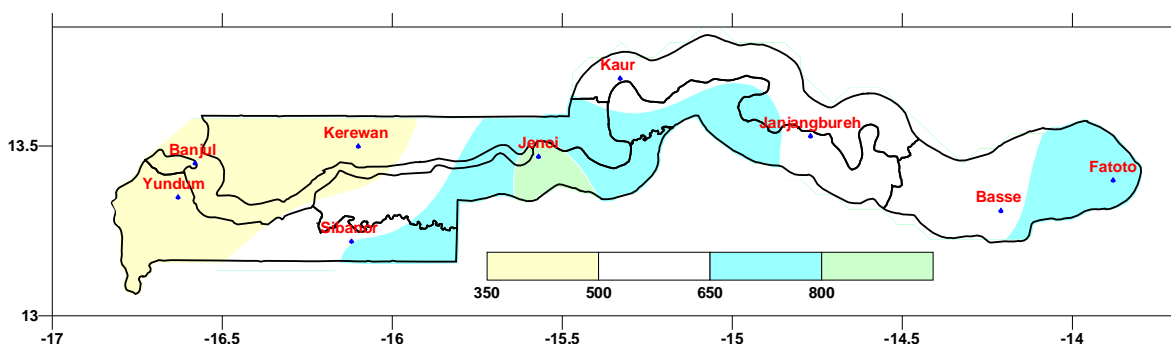


Figure 1b: Cumulative rainfall as at August 20, 2010

During the same period last year, the seasonal total rainfall ranged from 143.3mm at Janjangbureh to 469.3mm at Sibanon in the Western Third of the country. When compared to the same period last year, deficits were recorded at Kaur and the western sector of the country. The rest of the country recorded a surplus (fig.1c).

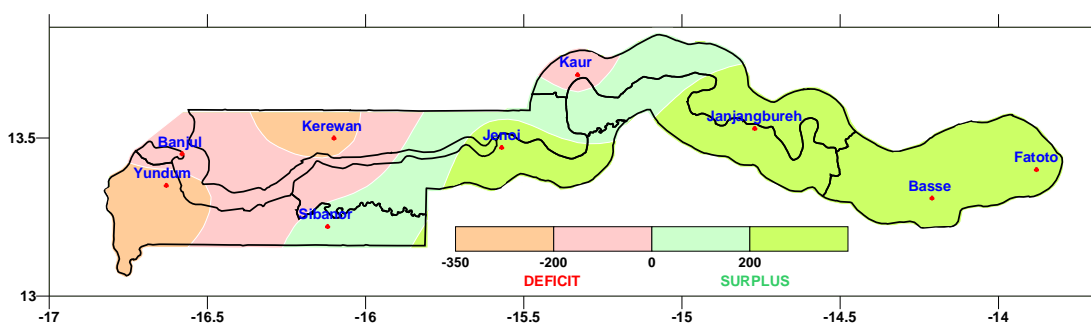


Figure 1c: Cumulative rainfall as at August 10, 2010

The country average rainfall as at August 20, 2010 rose to 580.5mm which is 10% above last year (527.2mm) 39% above the normal (417.8mm) during the same period.

4. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

Temperatures during this dekad remained high throughout the country especially in the central and eastern parts. When compared to the preceding dekad, mean temperatures increased slightly by 0.3 °C.

Extreme temperatures recorded were 34.5 °C at Kerewan and Fatoto in the Western and Eastern Thirds respectively, and 35.0 °C at Jenoi in the Middle Third of the country.

Maximum relative humidity (RH) continued to remain above 85% throughout the dekad, while the minimum RH generally remained above 60%.

Winds across the country generally varied from low, moderate to high in speed, ranging from 7km/hr to 50km/hr, the latter indicating the passage of squally weather on the 13th and 17th August 2010.

5. AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

5.1 General crop situation

Overall crop performance in terms of growth and development is progressing satisfactory across the country. Second weeding is continuing in some groundnut and upland rice fields but most fields have been completed.

5.2 Crop development

Millet: Majority of early millet fields are booting/panicle formation and flowering with few fields at grain formation. Late millet is at tillering/seedling stage (Western Region) and jointing in other areas (Upper River Region).

Maize: Most maize fields are at tasselling and cob formation with some backyard fields being harvested (URR, CRR and part of LRR).

Sorghum: Sorghum fields are at advanced jointing stage with few fields booting (short cycle varieties).

Groundnut: Groundnut fields across the country are at varying stages of development depending on the variety and date of sowing. Meanwhile, growth stages in most fields ranged from pod formation (Phillipine Pink), pegging, flowering, to vegetative stages.

Rice: Most fields of upland rice are at vegetative development. Nursery preparation has been completed for swamp rice and transplanting has begun in some fields.

Sesame: Sesame is being planted in most parts of the country, although land preparation is still on-going in some areas.

5.3 Pest Situation

No serious pest infestation was reported during the period.

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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