

EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

No. 2011/04

IN THE GAMBIA

Period: June 1 - 10, 2011



Government of The Gambia

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AGRHYMET Regional Programme

1. PROGRESS OF THE RAINY SEASON

The mean surface position of the ITD during this dekad oscillated over northern Senegambia stretching towards northern Mali, Burkina Faso, Niamey and Chad.

Convective clouds development, rain and thunderstorms (sometimes squally) characterized the weather to the south of the ITD, particularly over the Gulf of Guinea States and southern Sahel including The Gambia.

2. RAINFALL OUTLOOK FOR JUNE 11 - 20, 2011

Thunderstorm and/or rain accompanied with warm and humid atmosphere is expected to prevail over the entire country during the period.

3. RAINFALL SITUATION

During this dekad, rainfall was recorded on the 1st June in most stations of the climate monitoring network. Intensities ranged from 2.0 to 28.2mm in the Middle Third, 5.4 to 8.9mm in the Eastern Third and from 1.0 to 7.5mm in the Western Third of the country (Fig. 1).

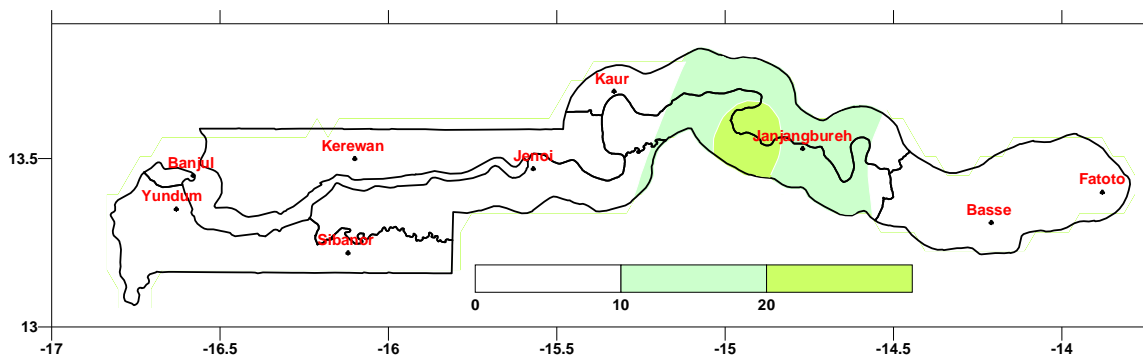


Figure 1: Rainfall intensity during June 1 - 10, 2011

The seasonal total rainfall amount in the country (May 1 to June 10) also ranged from 1.0mm at Banjul in the Western Third to 75.2mm at Janjangbureh in the Middle Third of the country.

When compared to the same period last year, deficits ranging from 6.8 to 20.4mm were recorded in the Western Third, and from 7.6 to 34.1mm in the Eastern Third. Meanwhile, surplus ranging from 2.0 to 44.3mm were recorded in the Middle Third indicating earlier arrival of rains this year than the preceding (2010) season in the Middle Third of the country.

4. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

Like the previous dekads, temperatures during this dekad remained high, particularly in the Middle and Eastern Thirds of the country. Mean temperatures remained below 30°C in the Western Third. Whilst in the Middle Third, temperatures ranged between 30 and 31°C and in the Eastern Thirds they rose above 31°C. When compared to the preceding dekad, mean temperatures registered a drop in the Middle (0.6°C) and Eastern (1.2°C) Thirds, whilst in the Western Third, mean temperatures dropped by 0.2°C.

Thus maximum temperatures ranged from 32.6°C at Banjul to 43.9°C at Fatoto whilst minimum temperatures varied between 18.0°C at Kerewan to 23.5°C at Basse.

The relative humidity (RH) is higher in the Western Third and reduced eastwards. The highest value of 91% was recorded at Yundum in the Western Third, whilst the lowest of 75% was recorded at Basse in the Eastern Third of the country.

Winds during the dekad were generally moderate to light in speed.

5. AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

The major on-field activities by farmers continued to be field clearing. Meanwhile, in the Western Third (North Bank Region) certain farmers have started dry sowing of early millet.

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

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