

EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

No. 2011/05

IN THE GAMBIA

Period: June 11 - 20, 2011



Government of The Gambia

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Group of the AGRHYMET Regional Programme

Focal Point: Department of Water Resources

TEL: (+220) 4227631 / 4224122 / 8905229 - FAX: (+220) 422 50 09

E-MAIL: dwr@mofwrnam.gov.gm / WEB: www.mofwrnam.gov.gm



AGRHYMET Regional Programme

1. PROGRESS OF THE RAINY SEASON

The ITD was averagely positioned over Senegambia, Mali and Niger.

Weather to the south of this position was characterized by movements of deep convective systems resulting in thunderstorms and rain over places in Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and gulf of Guinea states. Occurrences were mostly widespread and confined to the evenings and nights.

The Azores high pressure cell was mostly quasi-stationary over the Azores Islands, with mean core value of 1020 hpa. Its ridge extended mostly over North Africa, Northern Senegal and Mauritania. The St.Helena high on the other hand, intensified with mean core value of 1030 hpa during the period.

2. RAINFALL OUTLOOK FOR JUNE 21 - 30, 2011

Thunderstorm accompanied by rain-showers is expected during the middle of the third dekad whilst the rest of the period will be variably cloudy, humid and warm.

3. RAINFALL SITUATION

During this dekad, significant rainfall for humid agricultural operations was only recorded in the Eastern Third (Upper River Region) of the country. The single day rainfall varied from 19.3mm at Basse to 25.8mm at Fatoto (Fig. 1a). The rest of the country recorded no rainfall.

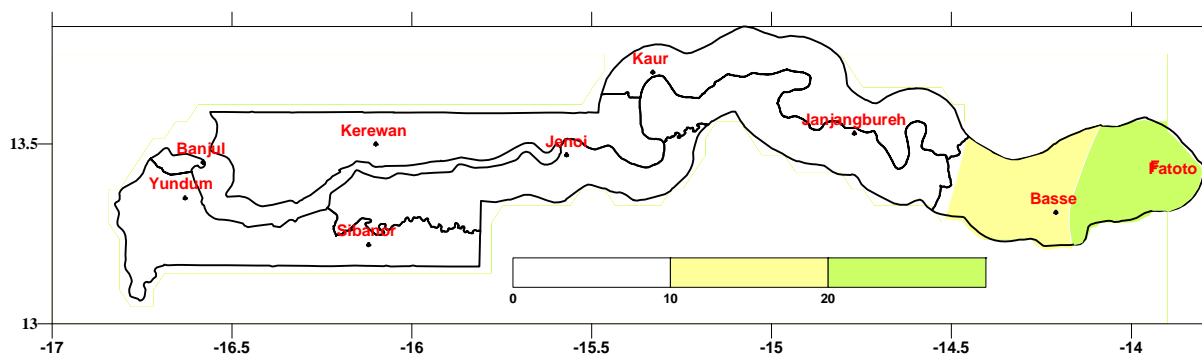


Figure 1a: Rainfall intensity during June 11 - 20, 2011

As at June 20, the seasonal total rainfall amount in the country ranged from 1.0mm at Banjul in the Western Third to 75.2mm at Janjangbureh in the Middle Third of the country (Fig. 2). Thus the distribution in space

shows that the Middle Third has received more rainfall, followed by the Eastern Third and then the Western Third (Fig. 1b).

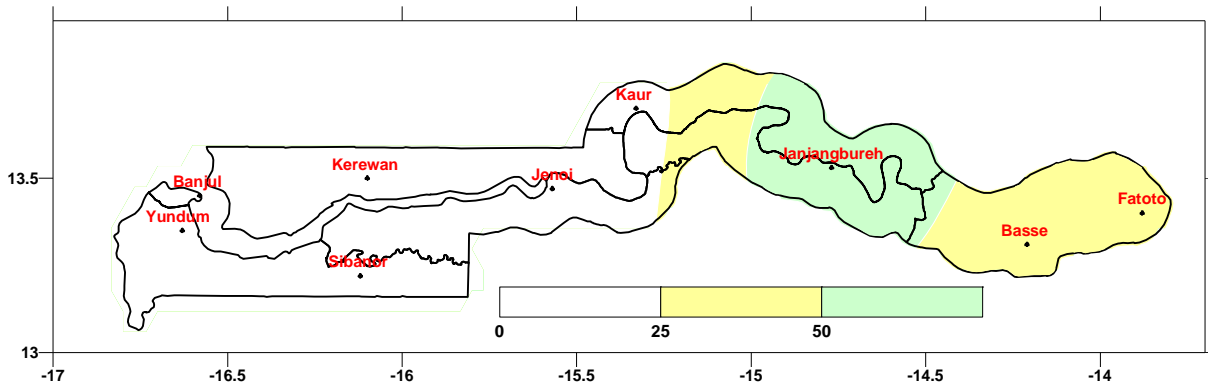


Figure 1b: Seasonal total from May 1 to June 20, 2011

When compared to the preceding year, deficits ranging from 12.4mm to 28.0mm were recorded in the Western Third, from 31.8mm to 120.9mm in the Middle Third and from 9.1mm to 30.1mm in the Eastern Third. Meanwhile, Janjangbureh in the Middle Third of the country recorded a surplus of 36.6mm.

4. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

As in the previous dekads, temperatures during this dekad remained high, particularly in the Middle and Eastern Thirds of the country.

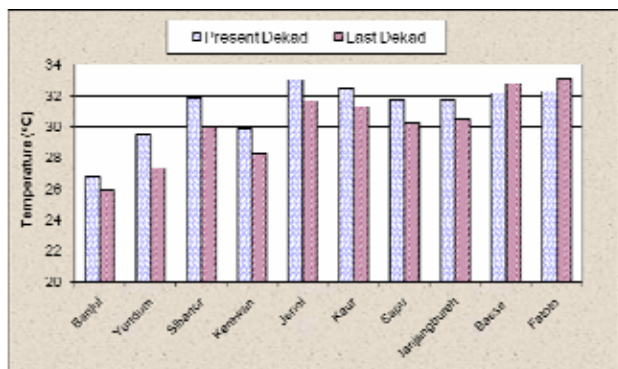


Figure 2: Evolution of mean temperature

In the Western Third, mean temperatures remained below 30°C except in Sibabor, where temperatures reached 32°C. In the Middle Third, temperatures ranged between 30 and 33°C and in the Eastern

Thirds they rose above 32°C. When compared to the preceding dekad, mean temperatures registered a drop in the Eastern Third. Elsewhere, temperatures registered a slight increase.

Thus extreme temperatures remained below 40.0°C in the Western Third. Whilst in the Middle and Eastern Thirds extreme temperatures ranged between 40°C and 44°C. Minimum temperatures followed the same trend like the maximum temperatures, lower in the Western Third and increasing eastward.

The relative humidity (RH) is higher in the Western Third and reduced eastwards. The highest value of 92% 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

Following the rains received during the last dekad, some farmers in the Central River Region have started sowing of food crops (cereals) and groundnut. However, this was followed by more than 15 rainless days and could lead to re-sowing.

In the Eastern Third (URR), farmers have started sowing food crops (cereals) and groundnut following the rainfall of June 14.

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.

6. SITUATION OF MARKETS

Cereal Prices

Average prices at cereal markets continued to fluctuate depending on the volume of the commodities supplied and the demand at the markets. Cereal prices at the weekly market remain lowest (D10.00 / kg) and high at the retail markets (Fig. 2).

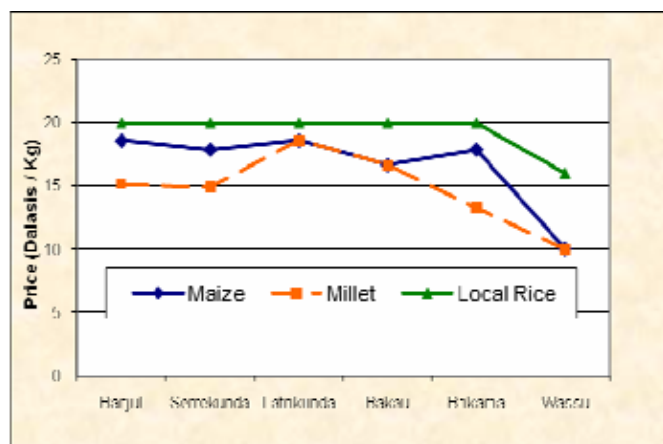


Figure 2a: Evolution of Cereal prices during June 10 – 20, 2011 (Source: Planning Services - DOA)

The price of local rice is higher followed by maize and then millet.

Average prices at cereal markets remained stable as compared to the previous dekad.

However, the prices of these commodities have slightly increased as compared to the corresponding period last year (Fig. 2a).

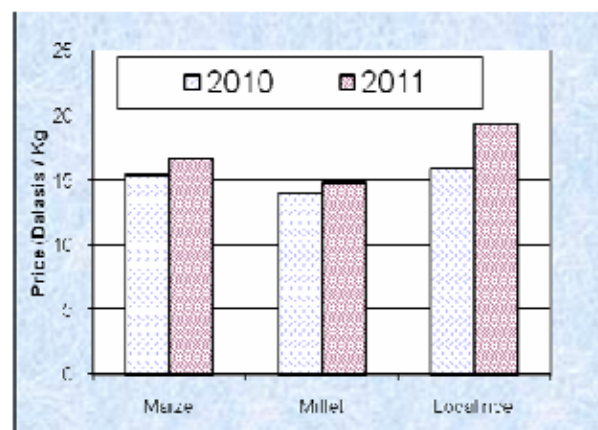


Figure 2b: Comparison of Cereal prices

Price of beef

The price of beef remained stable during the period under review. Average prices remained at D75.00/kg and D100.00/kg for meat & bone and steak respectively at retail markets, whilst at the weekly markets the price reduced to D65.00/kg for meat & bone and D85.00/kg for steak.

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

Direct your comments and questions to:

The Director
 Department of Water Resources
 7 Marina Parade, Banjul
 The Gambia
 Tel: (+ 220) 422 76 31 / 422 41 22 / 890 52 29
 Email: dwr@mofwrnam.gov.gm