

# EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

Nº. 2012/04

## IN THE GAMBIA

Period: June 1 - 10, 2012



Government of The Gambia

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Focal Point: Department of Water Resources

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

E-MAIL: [dwr@mofwrnam.gov.gm](mailto:dwr@mofwrnam.gov.gm) / WEB: [www.mofwrnam.gov.gm](http://www.mofwrnam.gov.gm)



AGRHYMET Regional Programme

### 1. PROGRESS OF THE RAINY SEASON

The Inter-Tropical Discontinuity (ITD) in the past three weeks was moving rapidly on its northward motion, having its western axis fluctuating over northern Senegal, then stretching across through southwestern Mali and its eastern axis sloping onto central Niger and Chad. This scenario enhanced the intrusion of the monsoon, resulting to heavy down pours over much of West Africa including the Gambia.

The Sub-Tropical High Pressure System, Azores High remained quasi-stationary over the north Atlantic Ocean with an average core value of 1030 hpa. This is facilitating the inflow of Northwesterly winds over the coastline of Gambia and Senegal.

### 2. RAINFALL SITUATION FOR THE DEKAD JUNE 1 –10, 2012

During this dekad, rainfall was recorded at the beginning of the dekad (June 3) in the Western Third of the country. This single day rainfall varied from 2.5mm at Sibanor to 42.0mm at Yundum. Elsewhere in the middle and eastern sectors, no rainfall was recorded (fig. 1a).

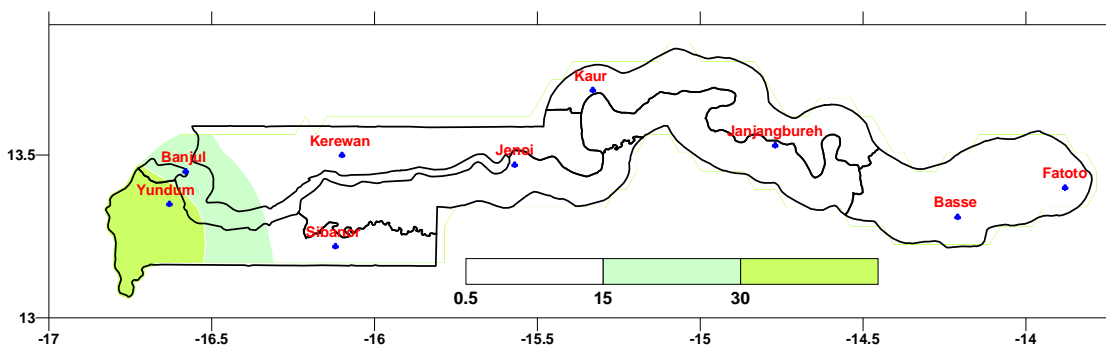


Figure 1a: *Rainfall intensity during Jun 1 – 10, 2012*

This has shown a twist in the rainfall pattern this dekad as compared to the previous one and has augmented the seasonal total as at this dekad to range from 10.1mm to 69.2mm in Western Third, 10.6mm to 69.6mm in the Middle Third and from 21.5mm to 52.9mm in the Eastern Third of the country (fig. 1b).

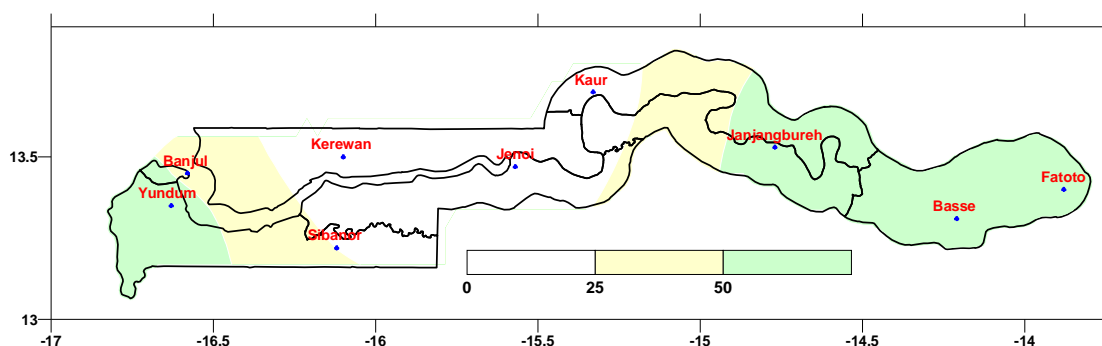


Figure 1: Cumulative rainfall from May 1 – Jun 10, 2012

As compared to the long term mean (1981 – 2010), surplus amounts ranging from 14.0mm to 61.6mm were recorded across the country. However, deficits ranging from 1.4mm to 13.0mm were also recorded in the Middle Third.

### 3. RAINFALL OUTLOOK FOR JUNE 11 - 20, 2012

Humid atmosphere and warm afternoons with convective activities will prevail with chances of rain and thunderstorms especially at the early stage of the dekad. There after, warm, humid and stable atmosphere will dominate the weather structure.

### 4. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

During this dekad, maximum temperatures decreased slightly as compared to the previous dekad, while minimum temperatures increased by 1.0°C throughout the country. Average temperature recorded was highest (39.4°C) at Jenoi in the Middle Third and lowest (26.8°C) at Banjul in the Western Third of the country.

Winds were generally light to moderate in speed. However, a line squall with a maximum wind gust of 32.7km/h was recorded at Kaur traversing the country on June 3, 2012.

### 5. AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

Most farmers in the country are waiting for the onset of rains to begin humid agricultural operations. Field clearing and acquisition of seeds continue to be the major farming activities. Meanwhile, germination of some dry sowed early millet fields has been reported in parts of North Bank and Central River Regions.

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

#### 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](mailto:dwr@mofwrnam.gov.gm)