

EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

Nº. 2012/06

IN THE GAMBIA

Period: June 21 - 30, 2012



Government of The Gambia

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AGRHYMET Regional Programme

1. PROGRESS OF THE RAINY SEASON

The northern limit of the rain bearing winds (ITD) on the surface is positioned over northern Senegal, southern Mauritania, southern Mali, northern Burkina Faso and over Niamey (Niger). High humidity with rain and thunder storms affected regions south of this limit, which comprises the Senegambia region, Gulf of Guinea countries, Mali and Burkina Faso. During this dekad, increased rainfall amounts were also experienced as storms became frequent.

To the north of this limit, dust haze was reported over Mauritania and Algeria leading to reduced horizontal visibility.

2. RAINFALL OUTLOOK FOR JULY 01 - 10, 2012

Thunderstorms and rain associated with warm and humid atmosphere are expected over the country during the period.

3. RAINFALL SITUATION FOR THE DEKAD JUNE 21 –30, 2012

Significant amounts of rainfall were recorded across the country during this dekad. Daily rainfall amounts ranging from 1.0mm at Yundum in the Western Third to 89.0mm at Sapu in the Middle Third were recorded. Number of rainy days ranged from 1 to 8 days resulting to end of dekad rainfall totals ranging between 20 to 165mm country wide (fig. 1a).

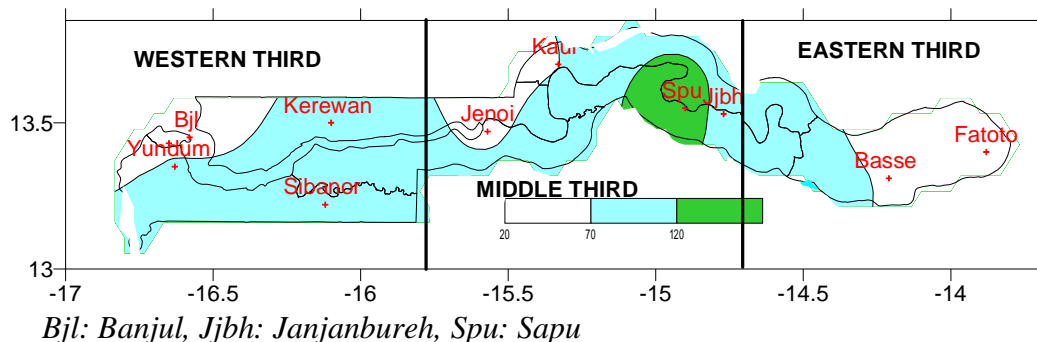


Figure 1a: Rainfall intensity during June 21 – 30, 2012

Compared to the previous one, this dekad has shown an improvement in the rainfall distribution both in space and in time.

The seasonal totals ranged from 79.9 to 108.9mm in the Western Third, 74.8 to 281.3mm in the Middle Third and from 96.0mm to 148.4mm in the Eastern Third of the country (fig.1b).

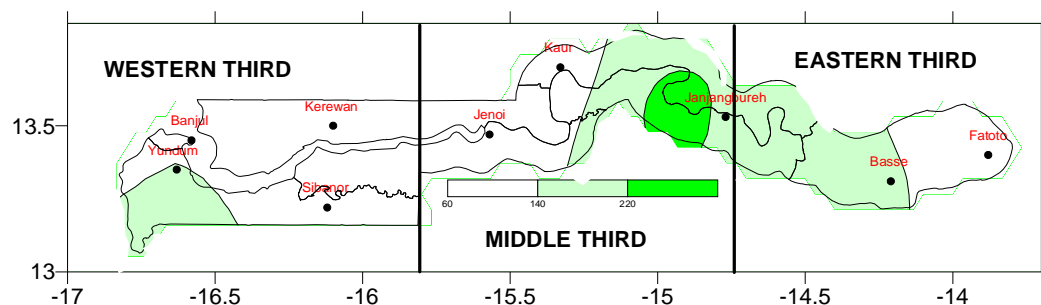


Figure 1: Cumulative rainfall from May 1 – June 30, 2012

The seasonal totals at the end of this dekad compared to the long term mean (1981 – 2010), recorded deficits of 6.4 and 16.1mm at Jenoi and Fatoto in the Middle and Eastern Thirds respectively were observed, elsewhere in the rest of the country, surplus amounts ranging from 8.3 to 178.8mm were observed. Compared to last year (2011), this dekad is largely in deficits across the country.

4. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

During this dekad, highest temperature recorded was 39.0°C at Kerewan in the Western Third, whilst the lowest was 20.2°C at Fatoto in the Eastern Third. Temperatures dropped significantly during this dekad compared to the previous one as cloud cover in the atmosphere increased.

Average sunshine durations ranged between 3.8 and 7.0 hours across the country. Winds were generally moderate in speed. However a line squall of 64.2km/h in speed was recorded at Janjangbureh on the 27th June but no damage was reported. Average relatively maximum humidity remained above 80% throughout the period, whilst the minimum was also above 60%.

5. AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

Generally across the country, farmer field activities are sowing, ploughing, and tillering as soil moisture conditions improved. Earlier sowed crops such as millet and maize are at stages of germination/emergence.

6. Market situation (June 21 to 30, 2012)

Table 1: AVERAGE MARKET PRICE OF CEREALS (DALASIS /KG)

CEREALS	Latrikunda	Bakau	Brikama	Serrekunda	Average
Maize	15.78	15.78	18.40	18.60	17.14
Late Millet	13.51	15.78	15.78	15.78	15.21
Early Millet	16.21	N/A	18.40	15.78	16.80
Sorghum	16.21	15.78	17.69	18.60	17.07
Local Rice	20.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	23.00
Broken Rice	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00
Long Grain Rice	24.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	21.00
Findo	62.50	75.00	67.50	62.50	66.88
Decorticated G/Nut	37.50	11.37	31.20	37.50	29.39
Beans	40.00	25.00	40.00	40.00	36.25

Source: DOP

As shown in Table 1 above, coarse grains (i.e. millet, maize and sorghum), as well as rice and “hungry” rice locally called *Findi* are available in the retail markets within the Greater Banjul Area (GBA).

Prevailing prices of these commodities fluctuate from market depending on the volume supplied and the demands. Average price of coarse grains remains lowest (D13.51 per kg for late millet) at Latrikunda retail market and highest (D18.60 per kg for sorghum) at Serrekunda. The average price of rice (broken and long grain) remained at D20 and D21 respectively, whilst local rice sold at an average price of D23 in the Greater Banjul Area.

Price of Beef

The price of beef (meat & bones) remained stable at D100.00/Kg for all markets in GBA during the period under review, whilst the price of Beef steak varied from D120.00 to D130.00.

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
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