

EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

Nº. 2012/07

IN THE GAMBIA

Period: July 01 - 10, 2012



Government of The Gambia

Produced and Published by the Multidisciplinary Working Group of the AGRHYMET Regional Programme

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AGRHYMET Regional Programme

1. PROGRESS OF THE RAINY SEASON

The surface position of the ITD during this dekad oscillated towards northern Senegal, stretching Southern Mali, northern Burkina Faso and onto southern Niamey.

Heavy rains accompanied with severe thunderstorms affected the Senegambia region, Burkina Faso, Gulf of Guinea states, Ghana, Togo and Nigeria due to atmospheric instability during the evenings and nights.

Dust haze was reported over Mauritania and northern Mali.

2. RAINFALL OUTLOOK FOR JULY 11 - 20, 2012

Humid atmosphere resulting in thunderstorms and/ or rain are expected over the country during the dekad.

3. RAINFALL SITUATION FOR THE DEKAD JULY 01 –10, 2012

During this dekad, daily rainfall intensities ranged from 0.5mm to 60.0mm in the Western Third, 0.3mm to 68.2mm in the Middle Third and from 0.8mm to 34.2mm in the Eastern Third. Dekadal total ranged from 10.3mm at Janjangbureh to 137.7mm at Jenoi, all in the Middle Third of the country (fig. 1a).

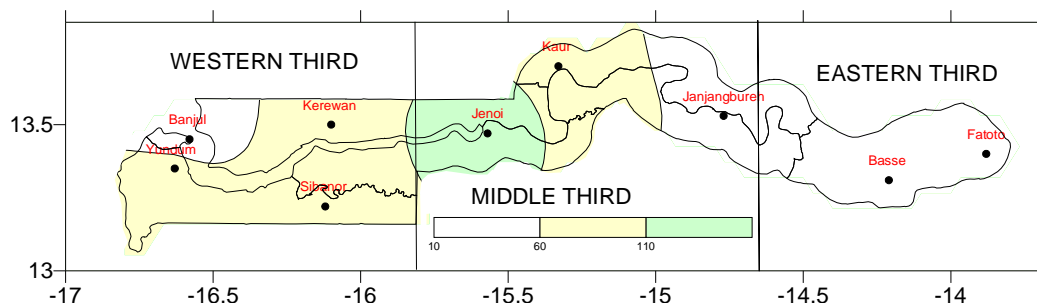


Figure 1a: Rainfall intensity during July 01 – 10, 2012

Compared to the previous dekad, significant amount of rainfall was also recorded but generally with a decrease in the number of rainy days during this dekad.

The seasonal totals ranged from 112.3mm to 244.6mm in the Western Third, 179.2mm to 332.4mm in the Middle Third and from 140.0mm to 190.2mm in the Eastern Third of the country (fig.1b).

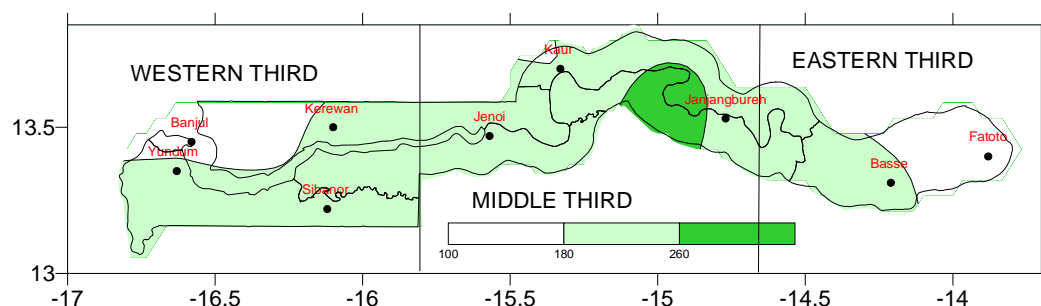


Figure 1b: *Cumulative rainfall from May 1 – July 10, 2012*

As compared to the same period last year (2011), surpluses were recorded across the country except at Serekunda in the Western Third which recorded a deficit of 5.3mm. In the same vein, comparison with the long term mean (1981 – 2010) surpluses were recorded across the country except at Fatoto in the Eastern Third which recorded a deficit of 32.2mm. This generally presupposes that an increase in rainfall is recorded this year as compared to last year as well as the long term mean.

4. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

Significant drop of temperatures occurred during this dekad. The highest temperature recorded was 33.8 °C at Basse in the Eastern Third, whilst the lowest temperature recorded was 22.7 °C at Yundum in the Western Third of the country. The highest average temperature recorded was 37.0 °C at Sapu in the Middle Third and the lowest average temperature recorded was 20.7 °C at Yundum in the Western Third of the country.

The total sunshine hours recorded range between 4.3hours at Fatoto to 8.2hours at Basse, both in the Eastern Third of the country.

Winds were generally light to moderate in speed, but a line squall that recorded a maximum gust of 56.1km/h at Janjangbureh on the 06th July 2012 caused damages to trees and buildings in the surrounding villages.

Maximum Relatively Humidity was above 80% throughout the period, whilst minimum relative humidity was 60% and above, except at Kaur in the Middle Third and Basse in the Eastern Third that recorded 59% and 56% respectively.

5. AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

Generally, farmers are continuing the sowing of groundnuts. The earlier grown maize, sorghum, early millet, upland and lowland rice are germinating and weeding is in progress in most places. No outbreak of pest has been reported throughout the country.

6 SITUATION OF MARKETS

Cereal Prices

Cereals are available in all the markets visited during the period under review. A large quantity of imported rice is evident in both retail and weekly markets all over the country.

However, at the retail markets, average prices of coarse grains (maize, sorghum and millet) remained high and varied from D13.15 to D18.60 per kilogramme, whilst the price of rice (both local and imported) remained above D20.00 per kilogramme.

When compared to the same period last year, average price of coarse grain increased by 20%, also the average price of rice increased by 17% (fig. 2).

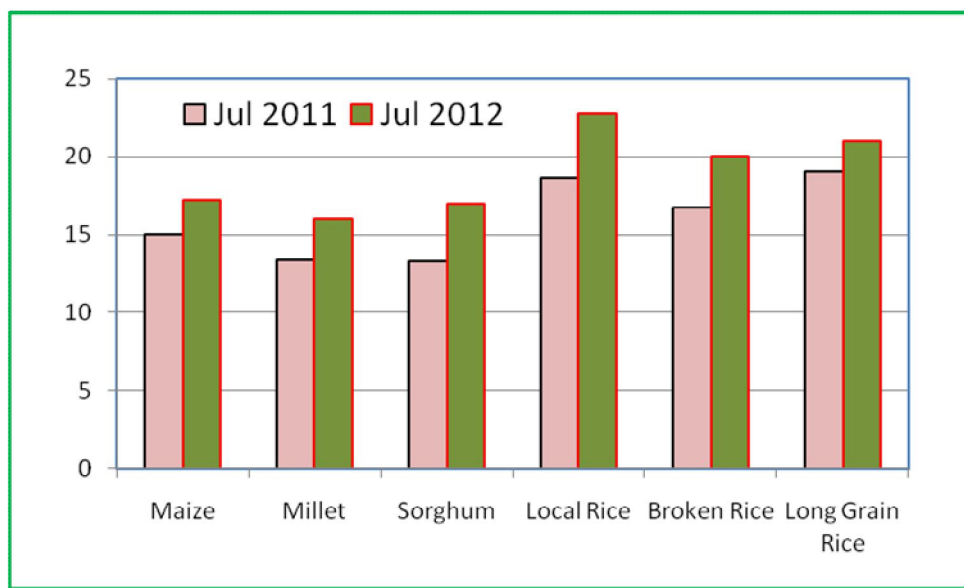


Figure 2: Evolution of cereal prices (Dalis/kg) - (Source: Planning Services - DOA)

Price of beef

Average price of beef (meat & bone) is D100.00/Kg during the period under review, whilst steak beef is D120.00/kg. During the same period last year the price of meat & bone and steak beef was D80 and D100.00/kg respectively.

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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