

EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

Nº. 2012/11

IN THE GAMBIA

Period: August 11 - 20, 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 Inter-Tropical Discontinuity (ITD) oscillated slightly over central Mauritania, stretching to northern Mali, Niger and Chad.

With the continued intensification of the St. Helena High Pressure centre, coupled with upwelling over the Gulf of Guinea, increased inflow of moisture into the West African sub-region resulted in heavy downpour of rain accompanied by occasional squally thunderstorm over Guinea, Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali, Senegal and The Gambia.

2. RAINFALL SITUATION

Significant amounts of rainfall were recorded during this dekad. Daily intensities ranged from 1.2mm to 77.4mm in the Western Third, 0.2mm to 66.3mm in the Middle Third and from 0.2mm to 45.5mm in the Eastern Third. The number of rainy days ranged from 3 days to 10 days thus dekadal totals ranging from 32.8mm to 191.9mm were recorded across the country (fig. 1a), generally resulting in increase rainfall recorded this dekad as compared to the previous one.

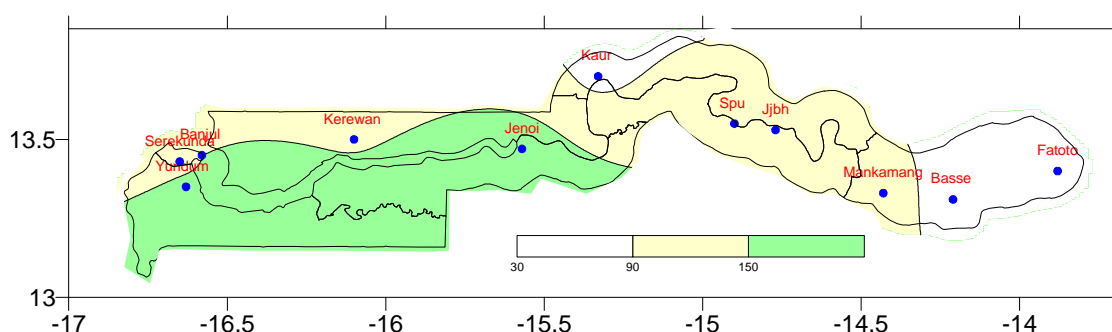


Figure 1a: Rainfall intensity during August 11 – 20, 2012

The seasonal totals as at August 20 ranged from 361.5mm at Basse in the Eastern Third to 888.4mm at Sapu in the Middle Third of the country (fig.1b).

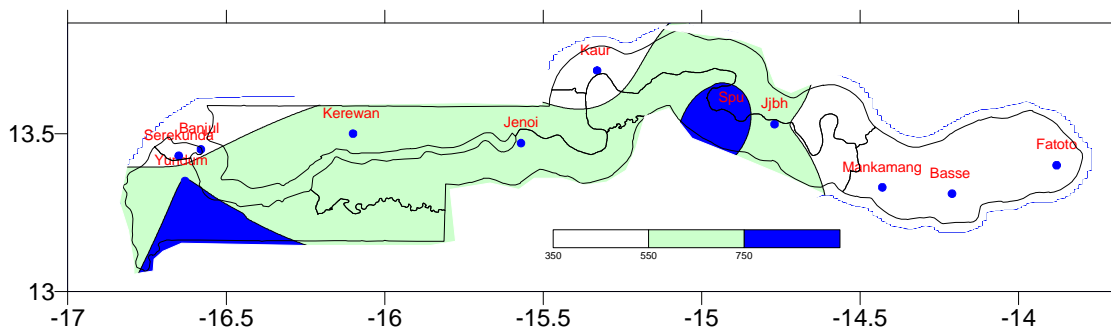


Figure 1b: Cumulative rainfall from May 1 – August 20, 2012

As at August 20, the seasonal total compared to the same period last year (2011) have recorded surpluses in all stations except at Serekunda in the Western Third of the country that recorded a deficit of 66.5mm. This also gives an increased generally in rainfall as compared to the long term mean (1981 – 2010) (figure 1c).

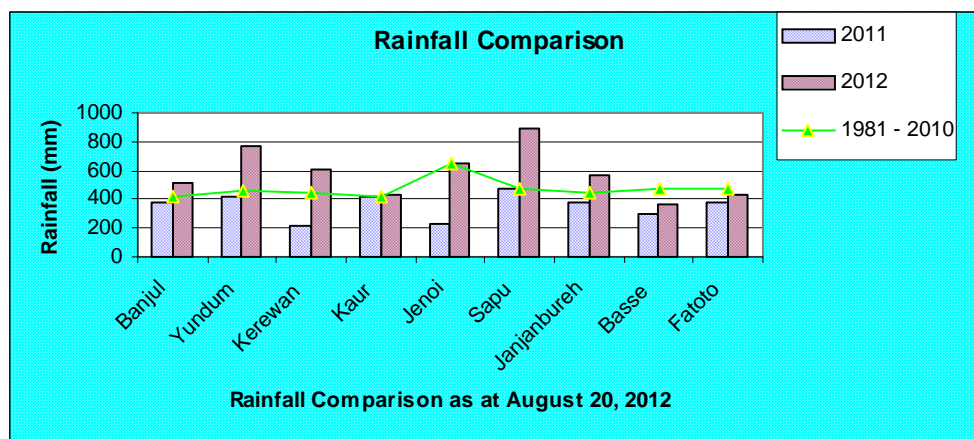


Figure 1c: Comparison of this year rainfall against 2011 and the long term mean

3. RAINFALL OUTLOOK FOR 21 – 31 AUGUST 2012

Partly cloudy to cloudy conditions are expected to prevail during this dekad, resulting in moderate rains to thunderstorms occasionally squally in places.

4. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

Minimum temperature recorded was 20.5 °C while maximum temperature recorded was 37.5 °C, both of which were recorded at Jenoi and Kaur respectively, all in the Middle Third of the country.

Average sunshine duration varied between 3.4 hrs and 7.0 hrs indicating average drop of 2.5hrs to the minimum value and 1.4hrs to the maximum value. Winds were generally light to moderate in speed with a squall of 50km/hr in speed recorded at Sapu in the Middle Third of the country.

Maximum relative humidity remained above 90%, whilst the minimum relative humidity was generally 70% and above. Evaporation from water bodies varied between 24mm to 40mm across the country during the dekad.

5. AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

Generally, crops continue performing well across the country with their phenological stages varying in different regions depending mainly on planting dates and soil conditions. Most farmers are on their second weeding which was impeded by the month of Ramadan.

No significant pest was reported, however stem borers were reported in some regions and farmers were advised accordingly on how to tackle them.

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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