

EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

Nº. 2012/18

IN THE GAMBIA

Period: October 21 - 31, 2012



Government of The Gambia

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AGRHYMET Regional Programme

1. SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the last dekad of October, the ITD continued its southward retreat throughout West Africa. The mean position at the western segment lies over the Gambia and remained slightly above the long term mean position (12.9).

The Azores high pressure value to the north has been slightly rising by the day in its central value to 1030hpa plus. These increments though comparatively lower than that of the core value (1035hpa) of the St Helena high to the south Atlantic, shows the reduction of moisture flow into our sub region and signals end of our wet season.

2. RAINFALL SITUATION

Rainfall during this dekad has significantly dropped both in intensity and frequency as compared to the previous dekad. Daily intensities ranged from 0.3mm to 9.6mm in a single occurrence in the Middle and Eastern Thirds of the Country (fig. 1a). In the Western Third, only Sibanor recorded 7.3mm of rainfall.

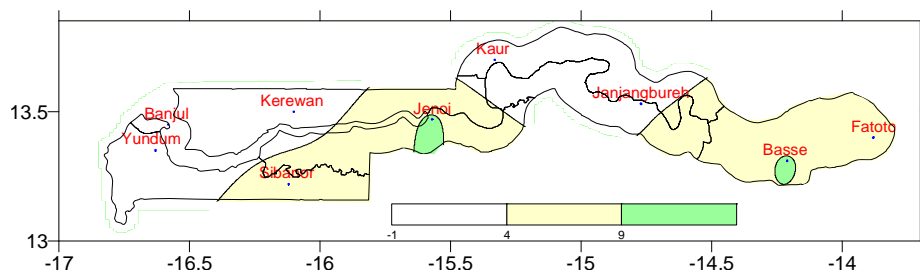


Figure 1a: Rainfall intensity during October 21 – 31, 2012

As at this dekad, the seasonal totals (May 1 to October 31, 2012) ranged from 1049.9 mm to 1593.7mm in the Western Third, 875.8mm to 1637.4mm in the Middle Third and from 759.3mm to 858.5mm in the Eastern Third of the country (fig.1b).

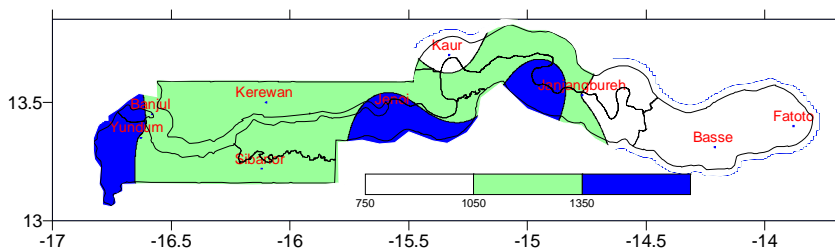


Figure 1b: Seasonal rainfall May 1 – October 31, 2012

This dekad has also continued to show the same trend as the previous dekads, by indicating surpluses in all stations across the country as compared to the same period last year (2011) and the long term mean (1981 – 2010) except at Basse in the Eastern Third (fig. 2c).

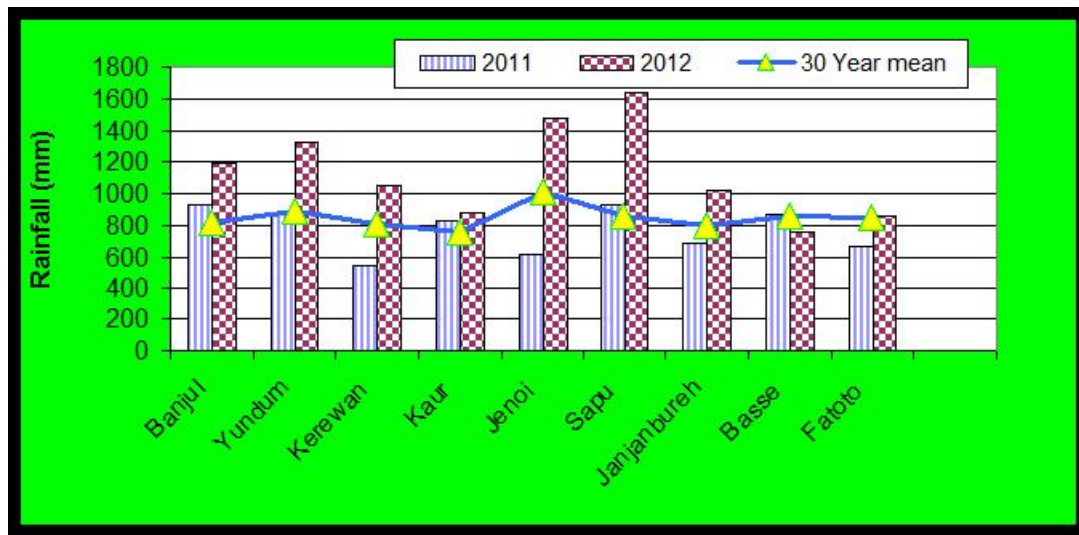


Figure 2c: Comparison of this year rainfall, against 2011 and the long-term mean

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

During this dekad, both maximum and minimum temperatures increased slightly by 0.8 and 0.3 °C respectively. Highest maximum temperature recorded was 35.8°C at Basse, while lowest temperature recorded was 21.0°C at Kaur.

The highest sunshine recorded during the dekad was 8.7 hours at Basse in the Eastern Third and the lowest sunshine recorded was 5.8 hours at Janjangbureh in the Middle Third of the country. Highest evaporation recorded was 6.4mm at Kerewan in the Western Third, while the lowest recorded was 3.9mm at Yundum.

Maximum Relative humidity remains above 80% throughout the period, while minimum relative humidity recorded 51% at Kaur in the Middle Third of the country.

Winds were generally light to moderate in speed.

4. AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

Generally, the agricultural situation across the country is impressive.

Harvesting of crops such as groundnuts, upland and lowland rice is ongoing.

Most farmers have also completed or on the verge of completing harvesting early millet. Late millet is at maturity stage in the Upper River and West Coast Regions where it is widely grown.

Sorghum is also at the stages of about maturing or fully matured in the regions that it is grown depending on the time of sowing.

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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