
EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

No. 2017/08

IN THE GAMBIA

Period: July 11-20, 2017



Government of The Gambia

Produced and Published by The Gambia National
Multidisciplinary Working Group

Focal Point: Department of Water Resources

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

E-MAIL: dwr@mofwrnam.gov.gm / WEB: www.mofwrnam.gov.gm



1.0 METEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

1.1. SYNOPTIC SITUATION:

The mean surface position of the ITD, a boundary layer that demarcates the dry Northeasterly wind from the Southwesterly Monsoon flow has its western axis oscillating over central Mauritania, stretching across northern Mali, and Niger and then slanting onto central Chad.

Places to the north of the ITD were characterized by dry and stable atmosphere with occurrence of dust haze reported over central Algeria and some parts of Libya. Conversely, places to the south of the ITD were generally unstable, depicting scattered to widespread rain showers and thunderstorms, occasionally associated with strong winds.

1.2. WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE GAMBIA

Warm, humid and convective activities resulted to scattered and/or widespread rain showers and thunderstorms affected the country during the dekad.

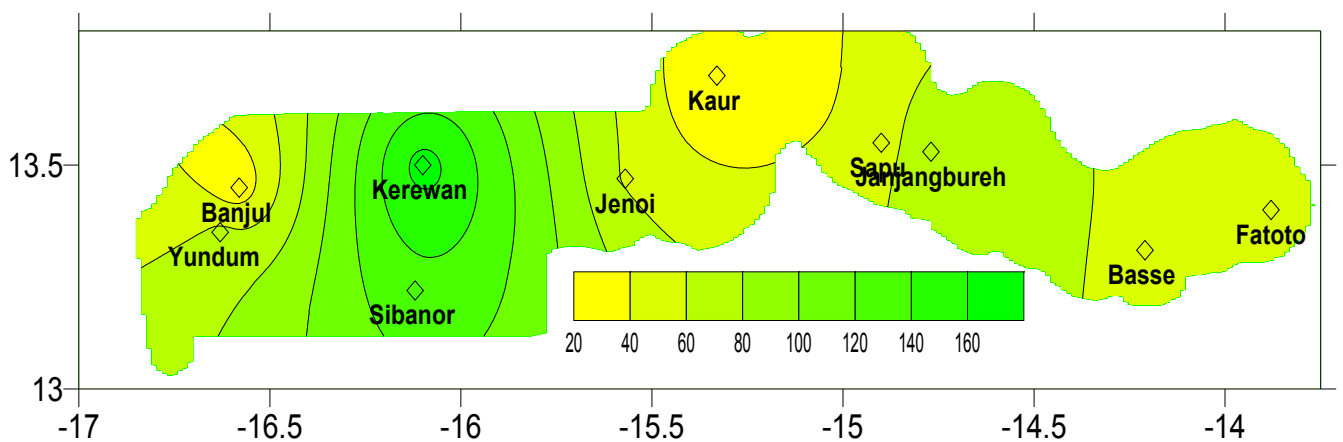
1.3. OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT DEKAD (21st to 31st July 2017)

Scattered to widespread rains and thunderstorms which will be occasionally associated with strong winds are expected to affect the country during the dekad, especially in the morning hours of 21st July 2017. More rains will resume from the early hours of 25th July 2017 as well as from 28th July towards the end of the dekad.

2.0 AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

2.1 RAINFALL SITUATION

The rainfall situation during this dekad varied considerably, even though significant rainfall amounts were registered in all stations. The lowest decadal rainfall amount of 22.9mmk was recorded over Kaur in the Middle Third, where as Kerewan and Sibanor both in the Western Third recorded over 100mm of rain during the dekad. In the Eastern Third Basse and Fatoto recorded decadal totals of 53.5mm and 45.9mm respectively, (**Figure 1a**).



Seasonal total rainfall amounts are increasing in all the stations but also vary. **Kerewan** in the Western Third and **Sapu** in the Middle Third both recorded seasonal totals of over **400mm**. In the Eastern Third, Basse and Fatoto recorded 213.4mm and 195.0mm respectively. The lowest seasonal total country wide is recorded over Kaur in the middle third (**81.9mm**), (**Figure 1b**).

Figure 1a: Rainfall totals for 11th – 20th July 2017.

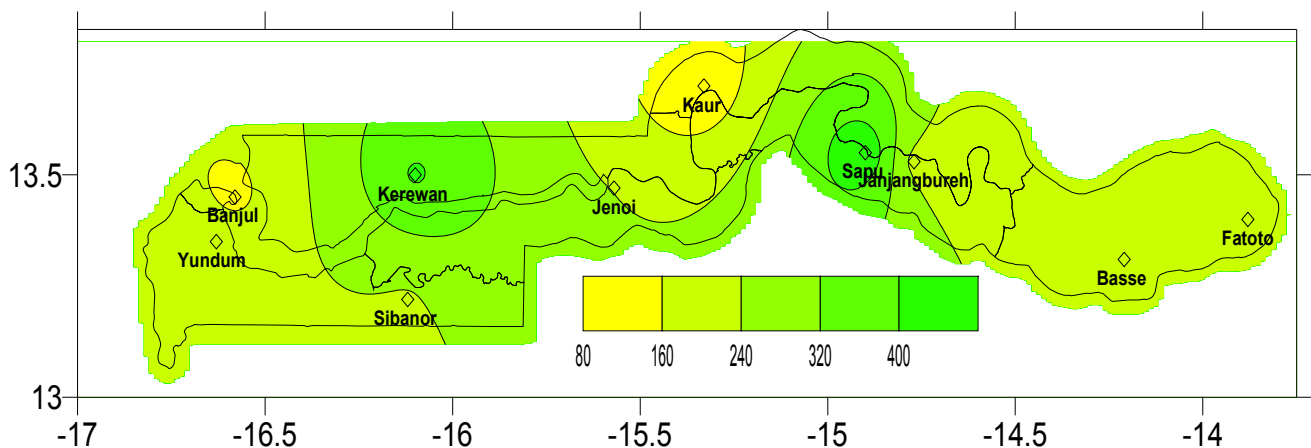


Figure 1b: Rainfall totals from May 1st 2017 – July 20th 2017.

In Comparisons the Country average as at **20th July 2017** stands at **241.6mm**, **449% above** that of last year this time (**44.0mm**), and **22% above the normal 1981- 2010, 30 years period (197.6mm)**.

However, due to uneven spatial distribution of these rainfall amounts and intensities, there were dry spells of between four (4) to thirteen (13) days especially over the Middle and Eastern Thirds, thus affecting some agricultural activities particularly planting/ sowing periods, Table 1 below.

Table 1: Number of rainy days per station during the dekad.

STATION	TOTAL NUMBER OF RAINY DAYS BETWEEN 1 ST TO 20 TH JULY 2017	HIGHEST RAINFALL AMOUNT IN MILLIMETRES	DATES RECORDED
YUNDUM	5	32.8	13 th
SINBANOR	6	41.3	13 th
JENOI	5	45.0	20 th
BANJUL	4	17.9	14 th
KEREWAN	4	54.5/ 65.0	13 th / 20 th
KAUR	1	22.9	20 th
JANJANBUREH	6	18.0	14 th
SAPU	4	18.1	14 th
BASSE	4	25.6	13 th
FATOTO	5	28.8	16 th

2.2 Temperature

Average temperatures recorded during the dekad across the country varied between 26°C over the Eastern Third and 28°C over the rest of the country, Maximum temperatures reached 43°C recorded over Sapu in the Middle Third, whilst minimum temperatures reached 23°C also recorded over Sapu in the Middle Third of the country.

2.3 Winds

Winds were mainly moderate and occasionally heavy countrywide with a maximum speed of 64km/h.

2.4 Sunshine

Sunshine duration in this dekad varied between 4 hours in the Eastern Third to 7 hours in the Western Third of the country.

2.5 Relative Humidity

Relative humidity recorded during this dekad was above 60% over the entire country indicating high moisture content in the atmosphere.

3.0 Hydrological Situation

Mean water levels: Except for Kaur and Kuntaur, all other stations monitored have recorded rising water levels in June as compared to the month of May. These levels are expected to rise even higher in the coming months. Below is a table of station water levels for the months of May and June.

Table 2: Mean water levels

Station	Mean water level (m)	
	May	June
Ballingho	0.82	0.95
Bansang	2.28	2.3
Kaur	2.07	1.97
Kuntaur	1.42	1.39
Tendaba	0.91	0.92

Electric Conductivity (EC) and Salinity: As compared to May, EC and Salinity values had risen in June. However, as rains have set in and a higher volume fresh water inflow from upstream is expected, these values are expected to drop in the next months.

Table 3: Electric Conductivity and Salinity

Station	Electric Conductivity (mS/cm)		Salinity (PSU)	
	May	June	May	June
Ballingho	16.72	17.25	9.04	9.68
Kaur	5.02	12.32	3.15	4.67
Kuntaur	0.30	0.56		
Pakaliba	19.27	28.96	10.49	16.19

Total Dissolved Solids: TDS is observed to be rising in the surface water. This is attributed to activities happening around and upstream of the river. With agricultural activities intensified during the rainy season, we expect more affluent to be washed into the river. For now, this has been the observed data on TDS since January.

Table 4: Total Dissolved Solids

Station	January	February	March	April	May	June
Ballingho	2.43	3.98	6.45	8.93	10.7	11.04
Kaur	0.08	0.15	1.02	3.06	3.72	6.62
Kuntaur	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.06	0.06	0.13
Pakaliba	0.98	1.16	2.73	6.58	12.33	18.53

There is great need to restrict agricultural activities to a particular distance off the banks of the river.

Water Temperatures: Surface water monthly mean temperatures range between 28°C and 31°C over May and June.

Table 5: Water Temperatures

Station	Monthly mean Temp. (°C)	
	May	June
Ballingho	29.17	29.26
Bansang	30.29	30.68
Kaur	29.31	29.39
Kuntaur	29.82	29.79
Pakaliba	29.47	29.9
Tendaba	28.25	28.63

4.0 AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

WEST COAST REGION

Farmers in this region are still busy on sowing of crops for some, others are weeding and very few are still harvesting vegetables. Crops are at seedling stages.

NORTH BANK REGION

Agricultural activities in this region are mainly land preparation (tilling), and nurseries in the lowlands, Upland Crops are at early vegetative stages and are doing well. With this promising start, there are expectations of a good season.

LOWER RIVER REGION

Like in other regions, farmers in the Lower River Region are busy on weeding (cowpea, maize and groundnut), others are on land preparation in the lowland fields, ploughing and nursery preparation. Crops are at early vegetative stages.

CENTRAL RIVER REGION NORTH

Agricultural activities in this region are mainly first weeding for most crops in the upland, whereas in the lowland most nurseries have already been transplanted. Crops are at early vegetative stages.

CENTRAL RIVER REGION SOUTH

In this region, harvesting and threshing of rice is ongoing in the Lowlands (Tidal areas and Pump perimeters) for dry season rice cultivation and ploughing and nursery preparation for wet season rice cultivation; whereas in the Upland fields, planting of groundnut and rice is still ongoing. Crops like

early millet, sorghum and maize have germinated and are at early vegetative stages, and fertilizer application is on going in these fields.

UPPER RIVER REGION

In this region, Weeding is the major activity undertaken, planting of groundnut , sorghum and maize is still ongoing. This delay is due to the unavailability of seeds at the onset of the rains. Replanting of the major cash crop Groundnut, as a result of the dry spell that was experience with the inadequate moisture before to break the dormancy for a successful germination to effect, was hampered leading to moulding and rotting. During the period pest incidence was noticed because of the limited grass available for insects to be feeding on. With the inadequate Gnut seed, farmers are resorting to peanut which is among the package by the EU through FAO.

4.1 COMMODITY PRICES

Table 6: Agricultural Commodity Average Prices per KG (in Dalasi) of selected markets - Date: 24/07/17

Comodities	Banjul	Bakau	Serekunda	Tipper Garage	Brikamaba	Wassu	Panchang	AVG
CEREALS								
Maize	25.18	26.07	21.94	22.95	15.00	14.00	14.00	19.88
Millet	25.19	24.54	22.41	22.37	15.00	14.00	14.00	19.64
Sorghum	24.87	23.41	22.02	22.07	15.00	14.00	N/A	20.23
Local Rice	30.00	30.00	32.00	32.00	25.00	25.00	N/A	29.00
Broken Rice	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	26.00	26.00	26.00	24.86
Long Grain Rice	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00
Findo	85.62	N/A	81.13	81.60	N/A	N/A	N/A	82.78
VEGETABLES								
Cabbage	53.00	50.00	58.64	52.77	58.82	50.00	50.00	53.32
Lettuce	33.11	32.29	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	32.70
Large pepper (Hot)	105.39	105.00	100.00	105.00	85.40	N/A	90.00	98.47
Okra	49.99	47.12	47.37	46.71	35.00	40.00	N/A	44.37
Egg plant	45.93	45.19	44.21	46.73	30.00	33.00	30.00	39.29
Wonjo	139.00	140.00	143.00	143.00	25.30	25.00	N/A	102.55
Bitter tomato	43.70	42.71	42.56	43.77	35.82	35.00	30.00	39.08
Tomato big size	47.14	46.00	43.79	N/A	64.51	N/A	N/A	50.36
Imported Onion	35.00	40.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	40.00	35.00	36.43
Local Onion	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	34.86	35.00	30.00	33.29
ROOTs & TUBERS								
Carrot	60.00	60.00	61.86	62.74	50.00	60.00	N/A	59.10
Cassava	N/A	29.41	27.14	26.58	38.46	35.00	N/A	31.32
Sweet Potato	41.30	42.22	42.27	40.83	25.00	25.00	N/A	36.10
Irish Potato	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	45.00	40.00	45.00	41.43
Fruits, Nuts and Legumes								

Lemon	N/A	50.00	47.72	52.77	45.45	N/A	N/A	48.99
Pumkin	40.00	40.00			40.00	50.00	N/A	42.50
Banana	50.00	50.00	40.00	40.00	50.00	N/A	N/A	46.00
Decorticated G/Nut	39.96	52.70	50.00	50.08	24.67	25.00	25.00	38.20
Beans	40.00	40.00	35.00	40.00	40.00	N/A	N/A	39.00
LIVESTOCK								
Beef Meat&Bone	175.00	190.00	200.00	200.00	150.00	160.00	150.00	175.00
Beef Steak	225.00	225.00	225.00	225.00	170.00	200.00	180.00	207.14
Mutton	225.00	N/A	250.00	250.00	170.00	200.00	190.00	214.17

Source: Planning services Unit (DOA)

4.2 LIVESTOCK

The Livestock situation in the Country is gradually improving as most of the grazing fields are now green with succulent grasses and shrubs. This will provide Livestock access to adequate feeds which is key for the enhancement of Livestock production and productivity. The current projections are that clinical cases are expected to decline and animal productivity increased due to the abundance of feed and drop in the infective capacity of disease vectors. In view of that, clinical figures as of July 20th, 2017 are as follows. CRRS 92 heads of cattle, 111 Sheep 123 goats, 26 donkeys and 53 horses. In CRRN 141 heads of cattle 113 sheep 113 goats, 31 donkeys and 15 horses. LRR 134 heads of cattle, 125 Sheep, 107 goats, 14 donkeys and 9 horses. NBR, 120 cattle, 104 Sheep, 78 goats, 10 donkeys and 13 horses. URR 124 heads of cattle, 97 Sheep, 119 goats 28 donkeys and 18 horses. WCR 221 heads of cattle 103 Sheep 105 goats 7 donkeys and 21 horses.

Banjul July 22nd, 2017

National MWG of The Gambia

Composition of MWG:

Department of Water Resources
Planning Services - Department of Agriculture
(DOA)
Communication, Extension & Education
Services - DOA
Department of Livestock Services
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: