
EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

No. 2017/16

IN THE GAMBIA

Period: October 1 - 10, 2017



Government of The Gambia

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Multidisciplinary Working Group (MWG)

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1 SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During this dekad the noon surface position of the ITD fluctuate over slightly over to central Senegal stretching towards southern Mali, Burkina Faso, Niamey and onto Chad.

Thunderstorms with rain affected Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Ghana and Nigeria.

Place to the North of the ITD were dry and stable with dust haze reported over Mauritania and Mali.

1.1 WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE GAMBIA

Thunderstorms with rain accompanied with strong wind swept across the country during the early part of the dekad.

1.2 OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT DEKAD (11th - 20th October 2017)

Thunderstorms with or without rain showers expected over the country during the period.

1.3 RAINFALL SITUATION

Rainfall situation during this dekad has improved significantly in most stations, but with significant variations in dekadal amounts. Jenoi, in the Middle Third recorded the highest dekadal total of over 90mm. With the exception of Kaur, all other stations in the Middle Third recorded dekadal amounts above 40mm. In the Western Third, the highest dekadal totals (25.0mm and 10.5mm) were recorded over Banjul and Kerrewan, whereas the rest of the stations in Western Third, Yundum and Sibanor experienced dry dekads, 8.6mm and 0.0mm respectively. In the Eastern Third, both Basse and Fatoto experienced dry dekads, figure 1a.

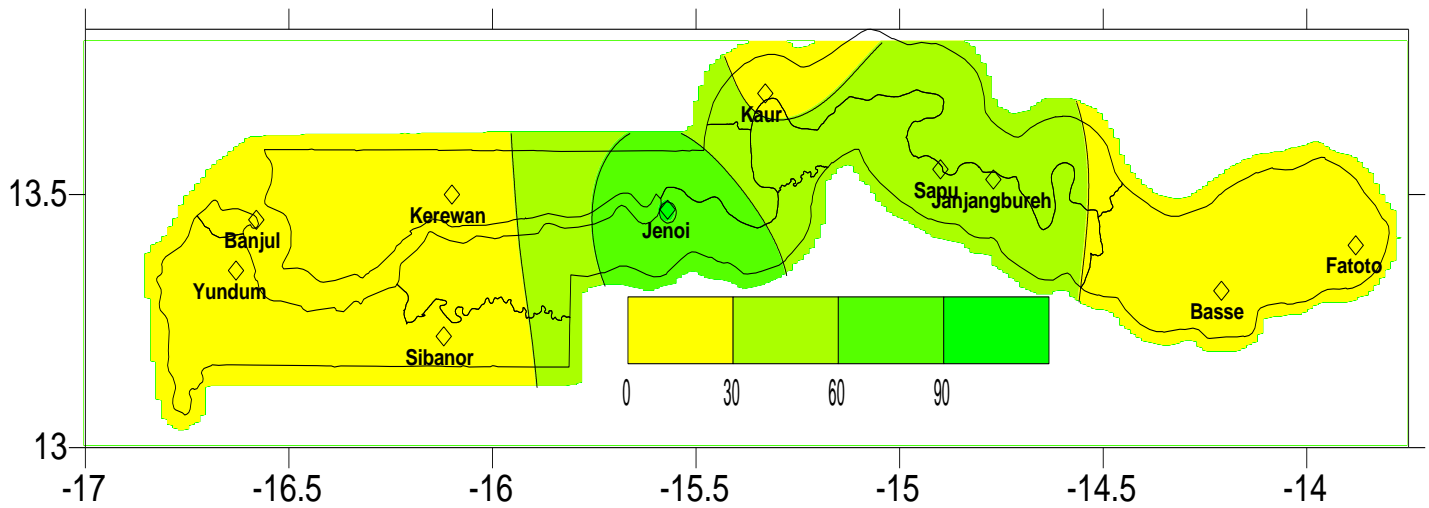


Figure 1a: Dekadal rainfall totals from October 1st – October 10th 2017.

Seasonal totals recorded as at this dekad (May 1st to October 10th) shows continued variations in seasonal cumulative rainfall amounts as a result of the erratic and uneven distribution of rainfall events since the onset of the rainy season. Jenoi and Sapu both in the Middle Third still has the highest seasonal amounts (over 1400mm and 900mm), whereas in the Western Third Yundum and Kerewan each recorded above 800mm. In the Eastern Third, Basse recorded the highest of about 830mm. However, the lowest seasonal total recorded as at this dekad is over Banjul, (less than 500mm).Figure 1b.

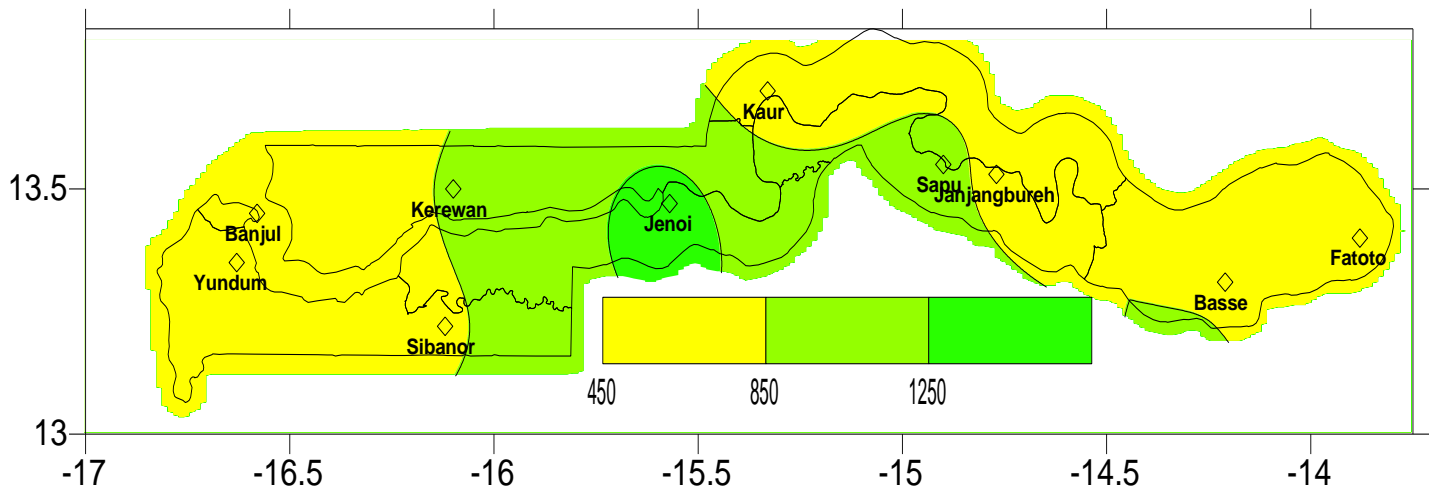


Figure 1b: Rainfall Seasonal totals from May 1st 2017– October 10th 2017.

In comparisons, the country average as at 10th October 2017 stood at **825.4mm**, which is **4%** below last year’s amount (**860.6mm**) and **2%** above the long term mean (30 year period) of **808.3mm**

2 AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATIONS

Average temperatures recorded in this dekad varied from 27°C in the Western Third to 29°C over the rest of the country. Recorded minimum temperature during the dekad reached 22°C over most parts of the country, whereas maximum temperature was at 38°C recorded over the Eastern Part of the country.

Average relative humidity (RH) is still at (65% – 70%) almost the same when compared with the last dekad. However maximum RH was high above 90% over most parts of the country, while the minimum RH dropped significantly (36%) recorded over the Middle Third of the country.

Winds were generally light to moderate in speed, with maximum wind gusts of over 55km/h recorded in the Middle Third of the country.

Average sunshine duration recorded during the dekad was between 6 hours to 7 hours.

3. AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

3.1 CROP

Crop situation is improving but still at varying stages. Due to prolonged dry spells coupled with uneven rains, some crops especially late planted ones experienced water stress at some point. Maize and early millet are already been harvested in some regions especially Central River Region North whereas they are at final stage of harvesting in other places. Harvesting of cowpea, watermelon and the phillipinepink groundnut variety are in progress in most regions and could be found displayed for sale all over the country, other groundnut varieties are at maturity stages.

Most upland rice fields are at maturity stages, whereas transplanting of lowland rice is still in progress particularly in the Lower River Region, except for Kuntaur in which lowland rice fields were overcome by the flooding that took place in this locality.

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

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