
EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

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IN THE GAMBIA

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Government of The Gambia

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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



AGRHYMET Regional Programme

1. PROGRESS OF RAINY SEASON

During this dekad, although the St. Helena High Pressure Cell centered over the South Atlantic Ocean was active but its influences were limited to the countries south of the Gambia and the Gulf of Guinea, whilst the Azores High Pressure Cell, centered over the north-west Atlantic Ocean continued to influence the weather over the Sahel, including The Gambia, causing the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), boundary separating the moist and dry regions over northern Africa to be positioned few degrees below The Gambia.

2. RAINFALL SITUATION

No rainfall was recorded throughout the country during this dekad, depicting the same situation as in last year (2010).

However, compared to the long-term mean (1981 - 2010) cumulative rainfall during the same period, deficits ranging from 0.1mm to 2.6mm were recorded.

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

Temperatures during this dekad were high, particularly in the Middle and Eastern Thirds of the country, varying between 43.8°C at Basse to 44.0 °C at Jenoi in the Middle Third. Meanwhile stations near the coast (Yundum and Banjul), recorded a maximum of 36.6 °C.

Minimum temperatures followed more or less the same trend as the maximum temperatures. The lowest minimum of 18.7°C was recorded at Yundum in the Western Third, whilst the highest minimum of 25.2 °C was recorded at Basse in the Eastern Third of the country.

Maximum relative humidity (RH) were highest around the coastal areas with Yundum recording the highest of 85% and Basse recording the lowest of 61%. Meanwhile, across the country minimum RH varied between 21% inland and 43% around the coast.

Average daily sunshine duration varied between 8.8 to 10.8 hours, whilst average daily evaporation of water bodies ranged between 6.7 to 10.8mm. Winds during the dekad were generally moderate to light in speed (7.6 to 22km/hr).

4. AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

The major farmer on-field activities are field clearing, acquisition and preparation of seeds and the repair of farming implements.

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	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: dwr@mofwrnam.gov.gm
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