
EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

No. 2020/04

IN THE GAMBIA

Period: June 1 -10, 2020



Government of The Gambia

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AGRHYMET Regional Programme

1. PROGRESS OF RAINY SEASON

The mean surface position of the ITD (limit of rain bearing winds) continues on its northward movement, with its western axis lying above 1°N over the Gambia, stretching across southwest Mali and then slanting onto south-western Niger and Chad.

The places to the north (Northern Senegal, Mauritania, Northern Mali, Niger and Chad) of the ITD were characterised by dry and stable atmosphere, with invading dust haze reported over northeast Mali, central Chad, Southeast Algeria and northern Mauritania.

Places to the south of the ITD that includes the Gambia were characterised by heavy rains and thunderstorms reported over some parts of southern Senegal, Guinea Conakry, Liberia, Sierra Leone, southwest Mali, Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria, while the Gambia also received rains across the country.

1.2 WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE GAMBIA

During the past Dekad, the atmosphere was generally humid and mostly cloudy during the period. Moreover, the afternoons were relatively warm; especially over the inland areas. And, during this past dekad, precipitation was reported on the 8th, 9th and 10th of June 2020 across the country, but mostly significant in the inland places and the eastern sector of the country.

1.3 WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT DEKAD FROM 11TH – 20TH JUNE 2020

The atmospheric humidity during this period will gradually increase as we progress into the rainy season, with occurrence of warm afternoons and development of convective clouds (rain bearing clouds). Hence therefore, there is high probability of rain and thunderstorms associated with strong winds, especially over eastern parts or whole of the country on the 12th, 15th, 16th and 20th June 2020.

2. RAINFALL SITUATION

Rainfall of varying amounts was recorded across the country towards the end of this dekad, however, some significant amounts were recorded across the country, particularly in Mankamang areas in the URR and Kerewan in the Western part of the country. Elsewhere, amounts varied between trances to 8.2mm of rain (See table 1 below)

Compared to the last two years, this year's rains came pretty earlier by at least a week or more across the country as predicted in this year's rainfall forecast which predicted actual (*start date of the season which will not be followed by a dry spell of more than ten days*) start of the rainy season will be from 12th to 16th June in the Eastern part, 16th to 20th June in the Middle part and 20th to 24th June in the western part of the country.

Table 1 Rainfall recorded by individual stations during this dekad (1st – 10th June 2020)

station	rainfall recorded (mm)	Dates recorded	Total
WESTERN THIRD			
Yundum Airport	0.2		0.2
Banjul	0.0	9 th June	0.0
Sibanor	4.7/2.5	9 th /10 th June	7.2
Kerewan	18.9	10 th June	18.9
MIDDLE THIRD			
Jenoi			0.0
Kaur			0.0
Sapu	TR	7 th /10 th June	0.0
Janjanbureh			0.0
EASTYERN THIRD			
Basse			3.9
Fatoto	3.5/4.3	2 nd /9 th June	7.8
Mankamang kunda	8.2/ 10.0	8 th /9 th June	18.2
Saresofie	3.5/10.5	8 th /9 th June	14.

As of 10th June 2020, this year's country average stood at 3.8mm whereas last year, during the same period no significant rain was recorded countrywide. However it is still by far 81.3% below the country average (1981_2010 of 20.4mm,).

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

Average temperature across the country varied from 29°C in the Eastern Third to o 34°C in Western Third Highest temperatures recorded varied from 37°C in the Western Third, to 41°C and 42°C in the Eastern and Middle Thirds respectively. As the atmosphere becomes more humid and warm, whilst the minimum temperatures reached 22°C in the Western Third.

Average maximum relative humidity (RH) reached above 90% in most parts of the country indicating increased inflow of moisture into atmosphere over the country. And Sunshine duration was 8 hours on average countrywide.

Winds during the dekad were moderate to strong in speed, reaching 64km/hr in the Middle Third in the latter parts of the dekad.

4. AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

The major on-field activities across the country from May to this dekad of June are farm clearing, preparation of seeds and farm implements. Meanwhile, some dry sowing of early millet was observed in the Lower Niumi and Jokadu areas. Some wet planting of early millet was also observed in the Mankamang area in the URR after the rains of 9th June. However, according to most extension staff, adequate seeds will be a huge challenge for farmers due to the nature of last year rains, which resulted to farmers not having enough quality seeds. This situation is further compounded with the no adequate functioning of the weekly markets (Lumo) where farmers with funds can access seeds.

Composition of MWG:

Department of Water Resources
Planning Services - Department of Agriculture (DOA)
Communication, Extension & Education Services - DOA
Animal Health & Production Services - DOA
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