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| EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY No. 2015/08 IN THE GAMBIA Period: July 11-20, 2015 | | |
| **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 average surface position of the ITD oscillates over southern Mauritania, central Mali and then slanting onto central Niger during the period.

Dry and stable atmosphere prevailed to the north of the ITD with dust haze patches observed mainly over Algeria and southern Mauritania during last half of the dekad whilst~~,~~ convective activities prevailed to the southern position during the dekad.

**1.2. WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE GAMBIA**

Variably cloudy atmosphere prevailed with scattered thunderstorms and rains during the dekad.

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

Mainly variably cloudy atmosphere is expected to prevail with isolated to scattered rains and thunderstorms during the next dekad.

**2.0 AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION**

**2.1 RAINFALL SITUATION**

The rainfall situation in this dekad was favorable with all stations registering significant rainfall amount~~s~~ compared to the previous dekads. Basse recorded the highest dekadal total of 103.2mm in the Eastern Third of the country; Sapu recorded 71.8mm in the Middle Third whilst Kerewan recorded 87.0mm (figure 1a) in the Western.

Seasonal total rainfall amount~~s~~ increased significantly over most stations. In the Eastern Third, Fatoto and Basse recorded 265.3mm and 249.3mm respectively. In the Middle Third, Sapu recorded the highest of 335.1mm, while in the Western Third, Sibanor recorded a total of 132.3mm. However, the lowest seasonal rainfall total recorded so far is over the capital city, Banjul (61.6mm) in the Western Third of the country (Figure1b).



***Figure 1a: Rainfall totals for 11th – 20thJuly 2015.***



***Figure 1b: Rainfall totals from May 1st 2015 – July 20th 2015.***

In comparism, the country average as at 20th July 2015 stand at 151.4mm, 34% above that of last year the same time (112.8mm), but 70% below the normal of 30 years mean period from 1981­- 2010 (518.1mm),

**2.2 Temperature**

Average temperatures across the country varied between 26oC and 39oC. Extreme minimum temperatures varied between 22°C over the Western Third and 24 oC to 26 oC over the rest of the country.

2.3 Winds

Winds were generally moderate across the country during this dekad. However; Sibanor in the Western Third recorded a strong gale of 55km/h during the dekad.

**2.4 Sunshine**

Sunshine duration in this dekad varied between 5 to 8 hours countrywide.

**2.5 Relative Humidity**

Relative humidity during this dekad was above 60% over the entire country. This mean~~s~~ there is high moisture content in the atmosphere which could disturb Asthmatic patients.

**3.0 Hydrological Situation**

**N/A**

**4.0 AGRICULTURAL SITUATION**

**WEST COAST REGION**

The major Agricultural activity in this region is sowing of some major crops like millet and harvesting of Findi, Maize and few Groundnut. Agricultural officers are also involved in input collection and distribution. (Seeds and fertilizers) for farmers in this region during the dekad.

**NORTH BANK REGION**

Planting of cereals and legumes is still in progress**.** Some crops have started germinating while some farmers are busy on sine weeding and land preparation for rice fields .

**LOWER RIVER REGION**

N/A

**CENTRAL RIVER REGION NORTH**

In this region, there is still sowing activities, alongside with harvesting of some rice cultivated during the dry season. There is also ploughing and broadcasting in natural tidal regions. However**,** some upland cops have started germinating.

**CENTRAL RIVER REGION SOUTH**

In this region, sowing of upland cereals and legumes, harvesting and bird scaring on dry seasonal rice fields, ploughing and nursery preparation are going concurrently. However, there is input distribution for Maize, Rice and Bean**~~s~~** seeds provided by the FAO and WAPP Project.

N/A

**UPPER RIVER REGION**

**4.1 COMMODITY PRICES**

N/A

**4.2 CROP PROTECTION**

N/A

**4.3 LIVESTOCK**

Observation of the Livestock situation in the month of July revealed that it has improved on a regional dimension as a result of the rains. Field situation in LRR and NBR were reportedvery bad prior to the beginning of rainy season**.** However, those vast areas of bare land or fields have now been fully turned green and readily available for Livestock grazing

Feed scarcity often impact negatively on Livestock production and productivity as it increases their vulnerability to disease infections. However, URR and some parts of CRR South received the first rains and the field conditions are therefore, better due to the rapid sprouting of succulent grasses and re-growth of shrubs in the bushes.

Regional differences regarding feed availability is narrowing down as the three most hard hit regions example, NBR, LRR, and CRR North are all green with palatable and succulent grasses and shrubs. Clinical treatment figures were not available for this dekad due to technical constrains. There is currently a nationwide vaccination campaign against PPR which is a deadly disease of small ruminants and preparations have been made at administrative and regional levels to counter effectively any outbreak of Black quarter and Haemorrhagic Septicaemia both of which mostly affect cattle.

Monitoring is key in the activities of the Department of Livestock Services and it will not relent in its drive to prevention and control animal diseases in the Country.

**4.4 FISHERIES**

N/A

**5.0 NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AGENCY (NDMA)**

N/A

**6.0 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (NEA)**

N/A

Banjul July 22nd, 2015

National MWG of The Gambia

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| **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 DirectorDepartment of Water Resources7 Marina Parade, BanjulThe Gambia Tel: **(+ 220) 422 76 31 / 422 41 22 / 890 52 29**  Email: |