
EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

No. 2014/17

IN THE GAMBIA

Period: October 11-20, 2014



Government of The Gambia

Produced and Published by The Gambia National
Multidisciplinary Working Group

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1.0 METEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

1.1. SYNOPTIC SITUATION

The surface position of the ITD continues its southward retrogression to over central Senegal, central Mali, southern Niger, northern Nigeria and onto Chad.

Convective activities affected The Gambia, Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone, Benin and Nigeria resulting to certain amount of rainfall recorded in the sub-region.

1.2 WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE GAMBIA

During this dekad the country experienced partly cloudy, warm and humid with isolated thundery activities/occasionally outbreaks of thunderstorms.

1.3 WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT DEKAD (11th – 20th October 2014)

Warm, humid and partly to variable cloudiness with chances of thundery activities/occasionally outbreaks of thunderstorms are expected over the country during the period with very limited chances of rains.

2.0 AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

2.1 RAINFALL SITUATION

Recorded rainfall figures in this dekad showed high variations across the country. In the Western Third, dekadal totals were highest over Sibanor (19.7mm) to 4.9mm over Yundum Airport; Banjul recorded no rainfall in this dekad. In the Middle Third dekadal totals varied between 47.5mm and 43.6mm (highest) over Sapu and Janjanbureh respectively to 10.2mm over Krerewan. In the Eastern Third Basse recorded a dekadal total of 8.6mm (highest in the dekad), while Fatoto recorded no rainfall during the dekad. (Figure 1a). This is a manifestation of progressive end of the season.

Seasonal rainfall amounts recorded as of 20th October still indicate variations in recorded rainfall amounts over the country. In the Eastern Third seasonal totals were **892.0mm** (highest countrywide) over Basse and 746.8mm over Fatoto. In the Middle Third, Sapu recorded the highest of 690.1mm; Kaur and Janjanbureh recorded the lowest seasonal totals (457.1mm, and 498.1mm respectively). In

the Western Third, Sibanon recorded 819.2mm highest in the region, Banjul recorded the lowest 445.2mm. (Figure1b).

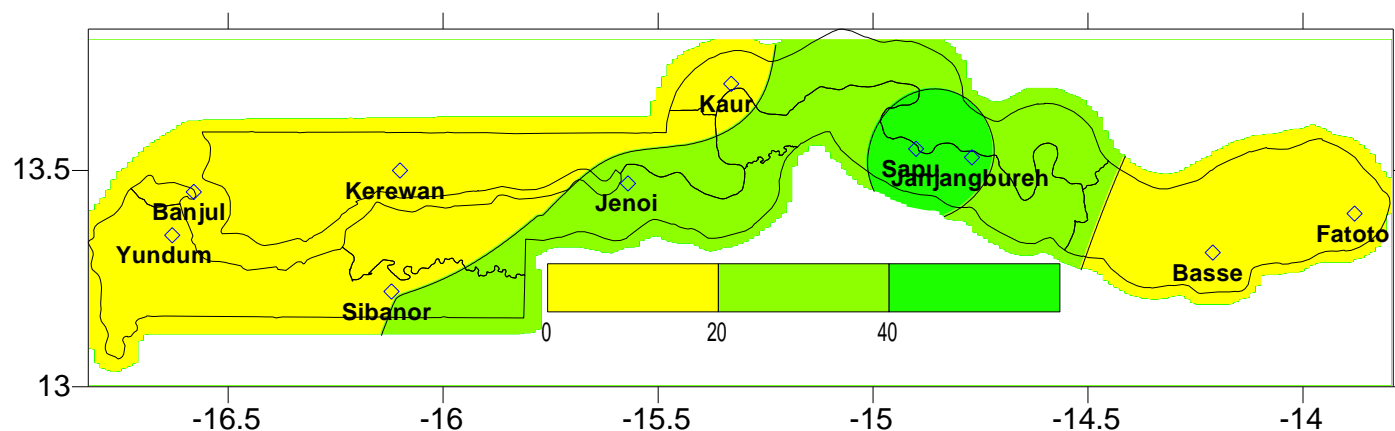


Figure 1a: Rainfall dekadal totals 11–20th October 2014.

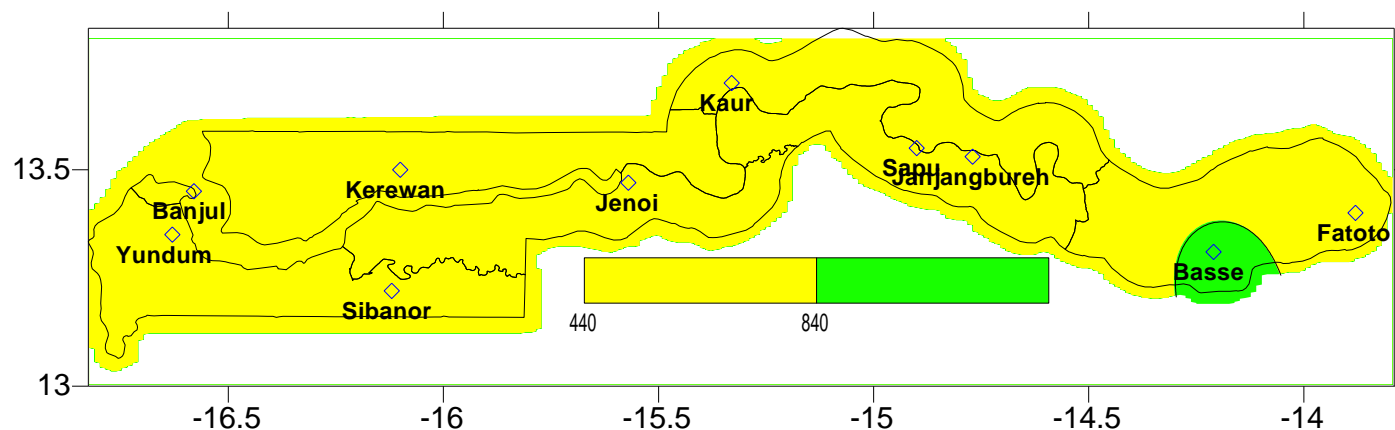


Figure 1b: Rainfall Seasonal totals from May 1st 2014 – October 20th 2014.

2.2 RAINFALL COMPARISMS

The Country average as of 20th Octoberber 2014, stood at **638.9mm**, **33%** below the country average of last year (20th October 2013,**958.3mm**), and **22%** below the long term mean (1981-2010; 30 year period: **828.5mm**). Seasonal rainfall totals for individual regions like in the previous dekads showed that only Basse (Upper River Region) has recorded a surplus of 35.1mm against the long term mean 1981_2010 depicting a continued an abnormality in the rainfall trend in this year’s rainy season (table 1).

Table 1: 2014 seasonal rainfalls as of October 20th 2014, compared to that of last year and the long term mean (1981_2010).

Station Name	Seasonal total for 2 nd dekad October 2014	Seasonal total for 2 nd dekad October 2013	Dekadal normal for 2 nd October in 30 years period 1981_2010	Deficit or surplus for 2014 and 2013 2 nd dekad of October comparisons		Deficit or surplus for 2014 compared to the Normal 1981_2010	
				Deficit	Surplus	Deficit	Surplus
Yundum Airport	640.6	1202.0	887.4	-561.4		-246.8	
Sibanor	819.2		-	-	-		-
Jenoi	606	1041.4	1006.4	-435.4		-400.4	
Banjul	445.2	1192.8	816.6	-747.6		-371.4	
Kerewan	594.5	928.8	807.0	-334.3		-212.5	
Kaur	457.1	681.6	752.7	-224.5		-295.6	
Janjanbureh	498.1	1066.5	794.8	-568.4		-296.7	
Sapu	690.1	1517.1	854.8	-827.0		-164.7	
Basse	892.0	973.7	856.9	-81.7			+35.1
Fatoto	746.8	980.0	844.8	-233.2		-98.0	

2.3 Temperature

Average temperatures across the country vary between 26°C over Banjul to 30°C highest country wide over Fatoto.

2.4 Winds

Winds were light to moderate with speed of 28Km/h maximum across the country.

2.5 Sunshine Duration

Sunshine duration on average in this dekad was between 5hours lowest over the Middle Third to 10 hours highest over the Western Third. These long hours of sunshine at this time would be favourable to most farmers in drying harvested nuts and grains.

2.6 Relative Humidity

Average relative humidity across the country is at 70%. This shows that moisture content in the atmosphere is beginning to decline, hence the chances of rainfall greatly limited.

3.0 Hydrological Situation

N/A

4.0 AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

WEST COAST REGION

Major activities for farmers in this region are bird scaring and harvesting of crops like groundnut (philipino pink variety). For other groundnut varieties, the early sown ones are at maturity stage while late sown ones are at maturing stage. Harvesting of early millet completed in places like Fogni Bondali and Jarrol, maize is being harvested, late millet is at panicle initiation. Most upland rice have reached maturity stage, while swamp rice (inland valleys) is at advanced tillering. Generally the crop situation is promising in this region.

NORTH BANK REGION

Agricultural activity in this region for this dekad is dominated by harvesting of early millet, rice, maize, cowpea and sorghum. Groundnut is at maturity stage and farmers would soon start harvesting it. However the crop situation in this region varies. There is hope for early planted crops, but for late planted crops especially groundnut and upland rice, it is very unlikely that they will reach full maturity. Vegetatively these crops look good but due to lack of enough moisture content in the soil they could be affected.

LOWER RIVER REGION

N/A

CENTRAL RIVER REGION NORTH

N/A

CENTRAL RIVER REGION SOUTH

Farmers in this region are engaged in transplanting of rice especially irrigated rice, harvesting of maize, water melon, upland rice (NERICA) and early millet. Most crops are at maturity stages (groundnut, sorghum, sesame, rice and some water melon).

UPPER RIVER REGION

Major agricultural activity in this region for this dekad is harvesting of crops like groundnut, late millet, findo and maize. The general crop situation in this region showed that late millet, sorghum and maize are extremely good, unfortunately due to dry spells and early cessation of the rains, crops like rice both upland and lowland are very likely to be affected.

N/A

4.1 COMMODITY PRICES

Table 2: Agricultural Commodity Average Prices per KG (in Dalasis) 3rd Week of October of selected markets

Comodities	Banjul	Bakau	Serekunda	LatriKunda	Brikama	Sukuta	KerrPatef	Farafenni	Brikamaba	Sami	Basse	Average
CEREALS												
Maize	28.75	28.01	26.91	26.60	25.87	27.00	23.13	23.92	25.34	25.79	20.63	25.63
Millet	24.34	23.38	22.74	23.44	22.00	24.52	20.18	20.23	N/A	N/A	20.82	22.41
Sorghum	22.59	22.64	21.57	20.82	20.60	20.20	19.00	N/A	19.56	19.21	17.24	20.34
Local Rice	30.30	30.00	29.30	30.63	30.00	28.00	N/A	N/A	22.00	24.00	24.32	27.62
Broken Rice	24.00	24.00	24.19	24.00	24.00	24.00	23.00	24.00	24.00	24.50	25.50	24.11
Long Grain Rice	24.00	N/A	28.00	28.00	26.00	26.00	23.00	N/A	24.00	24.00	28.00	25.67
Findo	84.90	N/A	83.25	83.50	82.65	86.45	N/A	85.67	N/A	N/A	84.35	84.40
VEGETABLES												
Cabbage	51.94	50.00	49.75	47.98	47.20	48.92	50.00	45.00	50.00	N/A	N/A	48.98
Hot pepper	166.67	172.13	N/A	166.67	N/A	N/A	160.00	134.76	175.00	165.00	N/A	162.89
Large pepper (Hot)	126.67	125.83	125.03	124.17	119.56	120.21	98.23	112.34	118.45	110.00	N/A	118.05
Okra	53.33	48.20	47.22	46.67	39.43	45.00	40.00	45.65	42.50	N/A	N/A	45.33
Egg plant	35.00	34.43	31.79	35.72	23.97	30.00	35.00	34.23	37.53	20.00	N/A	31.77
Ammaranthus	43.27	43.73	N/A	44.28	42.61	42.50	39.50	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	42.65
Kerenkereng	22.29	23.87	N/A	24.45	24.26	25.34	20.00	N/A	62.50	N/A	N/A	28.96
Wonjo	167.58	153.66	N/A	151.79	147.57	135.00	145.00	130.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	147.23
Bitter tomato	33.34	32.15	N/A	31.00	22.82	26.90	42.68	46.76	39.92	N/A	N/A	34.45
Tomato big size	41.25	40.00	42.00	43.44	41.67	40.00	50.00	50.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	43.55
Imported Onion	30.00	40.00	30.00	30.00	40.00	40.00	35.00	N/A	N/A	30.00	N/A	34.38
ROOTS & TUBERS												
Carrot	61.67	65.00	65.00	55.36	N/A	65.00	N/A	53.45	46.72	N/A	N/A	58.89
Cassava	31.07	27.61	N/A	25.83	27.77	29.41	N/A	24.03	21.00	N/A	N/A	26.67
Sweet Potato	23.24	N/A	20.05	22.17	23.04	20.78	20.00	20.30	18.43	25.00	N/A	21.45
Irish Potato	35.00	40.00	35.00	35.00	40.00	40.00	N/A	38.55	45.25	47.05	N/A	39.54
Mangoes	N/A	25.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15.00	20.00	18.89	N/A	19.72
Lemon	30.91	25.00	N/A	27.68	N/A	24.29	25.00	30.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	27.15
Pumkin	41.32	43.00	45.41	43.09	N/A	N/A	40.00	34.73	38.56	N/A	N/A	40.87
Banana	N/A	50.00	40.00	N/A	35.00	N/A	40.00	35.00	30.00	32.00	N/A	37.43
Pawpaw	N/A	35.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	35.00
Decorticated G/Nut	44.06	38.28	N/A	42.53	N/A	38.97	N/A	26.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	36.86
Undecorticated G/nut	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	26.88	25.76	N/A	20.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	24.21
Beans	45.35	40.00	40.00	42.50	35.00	43.00	40.00	35.00	35.89	30.29	N/A	38.70
LIVESTOCK												
Beef Meat & Bone	150.00	180.00	187.50	177.50	175.00	185.00	150.00	120.00	130.00	130.00	125.00	155.45
Beef Steak	180.00	200.00	200.00	225.00	225.00	200.00	180.00	160.00	125.00	130.00	130.00	177.73
Mutton	200.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	200.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	160.00	N/A	186.67

Source: Planning Services Unit, Department of Agriculture

Table 2 shows the average commodity prices across the country for certain markets. It shows that prices trend increase west toward east.

4.2 CROP PROTECTION

N/A

4.3 LIVESTOCK

N/A

4.4 FISHERIES

N/A

5.0 NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AGENCY (NDMA)

N/A

6.0 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (NEA)

N/A

Banjul October 25th 2014

National MWG of The Gambia

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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