
EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

No. 2019/04

IN THE GAMBIA

Period: June 1 - 10, 2019



Government of The Gambia

Produced and Published by The Gambia National
Multidisciplinary Working Group

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1. SYNOPTIC SITUATION

The mean surface position of the Inter Tropical Discontinuity (ITD), a boundary layer that separates the dry hot northeasterly winds from the moist warm southwesterly winds continue on its northward motion, with its western axis fluctuating over northern Gambia, central Senegal, stretching across central Mali and then slanting onto southern Niger/Chad.

The places to the north of the ITD were characterized by dry and stable atmosphere, with invading dust haze reported over northern Mali, north-east Chad, eastern Algeria and northern Mauritania. Places to the south of the ITD were characterized by heavy rains and thunderstorms reported over Guinea Conakry, Liberia, Sierra Leone, south western Mali, Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria.

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT DEKAD (11TH - 20TH JUNE 2019)

The atmospheric humidity is expected to gradually increase as we progress into the dekad with occurrence of warm afternoons and development of convective clouds. There is not much expected in terms of precipitation through next dekad.

3. RAINFALL SITUATION

The rainfall situation in this dekad is similar to the previous dekads; no significant amount of rainfall was recorded. However some stations recorded traces of rain whilst Basse and Fatoto in the Eastern Third recorded 0.3mm and 0.7mm respectively towards the end of the dekad.

4. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

Mean temperatures recorded during the dekad varied from 27°C in the Western Third increasing to 33°C in the Eastern Third of the country. Minimum temperature ranged between 20°C over the Western Third to 24°C over the Eastern Third, whereas maximum temperature varied between 33°C in the Western Third increasing to 41°C towards the Eastern Third. Extreme temperatures reached a minimum of 19°C in the Middle Thirds to 43°C over the Eastern Third of the country.

Winds were light to moderate in speed throughout the country with a maximum speed of 34km/h recorded over the Eastern Third of the country. Average sunshine duration varied slightly from 8hours to 10 hours across the country.

Minimum Relative Humidity (RH%) recorded across the country were 11% in the Middle Third to 43% in the Western Third; whereas Maximum RH recorded were 80% in the Western Third to over 90% in the rest of the country, this increased in RH indicates a gradual influx of moisture into the country.

5. AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

Farmers across the country are engaged in activities like land preparation, seed acquisition, acquisition and maintenance of farming implements, scouting for draft animals and other pre-season activities.

In the tidal fields in CRR-north, transplanting of rice is completed and weeding is in progress. Early planted rice fields are at booting stages. Areas cultivated include 173 hectares in Fula Kunda, 36 hectares in Wassu and 57 hectares in Kayaye. Similar activities are also in progress in Barajallysuba, Tubakoto, Tubakuta and Sukuta. Some horticultural activities are also on going for farmers living in Nyangen in this region.

6. LIVESTOCK

The livestock situation in the country is still not impressive, this could be attributed to lack of enough pasture as farmlands are being cleared and the rainy season has not yet established; this situation is worsened by pockets of bush fires and drying of available water points. The consequences of all these includes diseases of animals etc. This may lead to reduced supply of meat, milk and related products and may also affect prices for such products.

Banjul June 12, 2019.

National MWG of The Gambia

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