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| EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITYNo. 2014/08 IN THE GAMBIA Period: July 11-20, 2014 |
|  Gambiaarms21 **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  | [Country flag of The Gambia] |

**1.0 METEOROLOGICAL SITUATION**

**1.1. SYNOPTIC SITUATION:**

The average surface position of the ITD oscillated over southern Mauritania, central Mali and southern Niger.

Dry and stable atmosphere prevailed to the north of the ITD with dust/haze patches observed mostly over Mauritania and northern Algeria. On the other hand, convective activities prevailed to the south of the ITD especially over southern Mali and the Gulf of Guinea States.

**1.2. WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE GAMBIA**

Variably cloudy, warm and humid atmosphere prevailed, with rain and thunderstorms across the country with highest decadal total recorded the eastern parts of the country during the dekad.

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

Variably cloudy, humid and warm atmosphere combined with rain and thunderstorms is expected to prevail particularly over the eastern sector during the period.

**2.0 AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION**

**2.1 RAINFALL SITUATION**

The rainfall situation in this dekad was favourable in most parts of the country compared to the previous dekads. Rainfall dekadal total of 111.4mm (highest in the dekad) was recorded in Basse in the Eastern Third of the country, in the Middle Third a total of 28.0mm (highest) was recorded in Jenoi, whilst in the Western Third Sibanor recorded 74.2mm highest for the region (figure 1a).

Seasonal total rainfall amounts increased significantly in the Eastern Third with Fatoto and Basse recording totals of 304.9mm and 313.9mm respectivey.In the Middle Third Sapu recorded the highest of 124.0mm, while in the Western Third Sibanor recorded a total of 153.3mm. However, the lowest seasonal rainfall total recorded so far is over Banjul (31.8mm) the capital city in the Western Third of the country. (Figure 1b).



 ***Figure 1a: Rainfall totals for 11th – 20thJuly 2014.***



 ***Figure 1b: Rainfall totals from May 1st 2014 – July 20th 2014.***

2.2. JULY 2ND DEKAD RAINFALL SEASONAL COMPARISON WITH THAT OF JULY 2ND DEKAD 2013 AND THE NORMAL 81\_2010.

The table below gives a detailed comparison between the seasonal rainfall totals for this dekad (July 2nd) and that of 2nd Dekad of July for 2013 and the dekadal normals for 1981\_2010. The table shows that with the exception of Basse and Fatoto, the entire country is in deficit when compared to both the normal and that of July last year (Table 1).

Table 1: 2014 Seasonal rainfall comparisons against last year and long term mean during the same period

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| Station Name | Seasonal total 2nd dekad July  | Seasonal total 2nd dekad July 2013 | Dekadal normal ( 81\_2010) | Difference ( 2014 – 2013)  | **Difference (2014 –Normal)**  |
| Deficit | Surplus | Deficit | Surplus |
| Yundum Airport | 64.8 | 297.7 | 171.3 | -232.9 |  | -106.9 |  |
| Sibanor | 153.3 | N/A | N/A\_ | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Jenoi | 80.2 | 273.3 | 290.5 | -193.1 |  | -210.3 |  |
| Banjul | 31.8 | 133.9 | 148.2 | -102.1 |  | -116.4 |  |
| Kerewan | 48.3 | 232.9 | 215.2 | -184.6 |  | -166.9 |  |
| Kaur | 53.5 | 255.5 | 176.9 | -202.0 |  | 123.4 |  |
| Janjanbureh | 49.1 | 203.4 | 213.7 | -154.3 |  | -164.6 |  |
| Sapu | 124.0 | 389.0 | 225.6 | -265.0 |  | -101.6 |  |
| Basse | 313.9 | 271.3 | 243.7 |  | +42.6 |  | +70.2 |
| Fatoto | 304.9 | 165.0 | 236.8 |  | +139.9 |  | +68.1 |

**2.2 Temperature**

Average temperatures across the country varied between 26oC and 30oC. Extreme minimum temperatures were 27°C maximum in Sapu and Basse, whilst extreme maximum temperature varied between 32.0oC to 40.0°C (highest in Kaur). Minimum temperatures were lowest (20.6°C) over Banjul along the coast and 27°C over Sapu in the Middle Third of the country..

2.3 Winds

Winds were generally light to moderate across the country during this dekad with the exception of Basse in the Eastern Third which experienced a maximum gust of 51Km/h.

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**2.4 Sunshine Duration**

Sunshine duration in this dekad varied between 4 hours of sunlight in Sibanor (lowest) to between 6 and 7 hours in other parts of the country.

**2.5 Relative Humidity**

Relative humidity during this dekad was 31% lowest in Janjanbureh to above 90% over the entire country.

**3.0 Hydrological Situation**

**N/A**

**4.0 AGRICULTURAL SITUATION**

Farmers in the eastern parts of the country (Fatoto and Basse areas), where rains started earlier are busy weeding, elsewhere sowing of cereals in progress. However, groundnuts cultivation is beginning to be dilemma for farmers particularly

**4.1 COMMODITY PRICES**

The table below show average commodity prices of different markets in the Greater Banjul Area and the North Bank Region.

**Table 2: Average comm0dity prices for the 2nd Week of July (per KG in Dalasis) of selected markets-**

*Source: DOP : (+220)4225210/4228751 Mob: 9811288/7618921 Email: planningservices@moa.gov.gm*

**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 July 223rd 2014

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 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  |