

EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

No. 2008/09

IN THE GAMBIA

Period: July 21 - 31, 2008



Government of The Gambia

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Working Group of the AGRHYMET Regional
Programme

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AGRHYMET Regional Programme

1. PROGRESS OF RAINY SEASON

The average position of the ITD during this dekad was over southern Mauritania, central Mali, central Niger and central Chad.

Convective clouds, rain and thunderstorms characterized the weather over West Africa during most parts of the dekad. Occurrences were mainly during late afternoon, night and early hours of morning. Further north in North Africa, variably cloudy conditions were reported over Morocco and northern Algeria, but the rest remained dry and stable, few haze patches were sometimes reported over southern Sahara.

2. RAINFALL SITUATION

Rainfall intensity increased during this dekad compared to the previous dekad. The number of rainy days increased from 7 days in the previous dekad to 9 days in the present dekad. The daily values of this dekad ranged from 0.1mm to 79.7mm, and the dekadal totals ranged from 14.8mm at Kuntaur in the Middle Third to 247.8mm at Yundum in the Western Third, (Fig 1a).

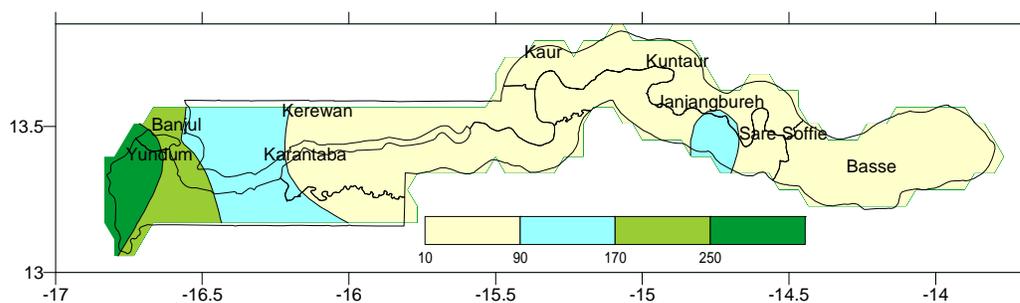


Figure 1a: Rainfall intensity during July 21-31, 2008

The seasonal amount of rainfall as at July 31st ranged from 294.0mm at Kerewan to 600.9mm at Yundum both of which are in the Western Third of the country, (Fig 1b).

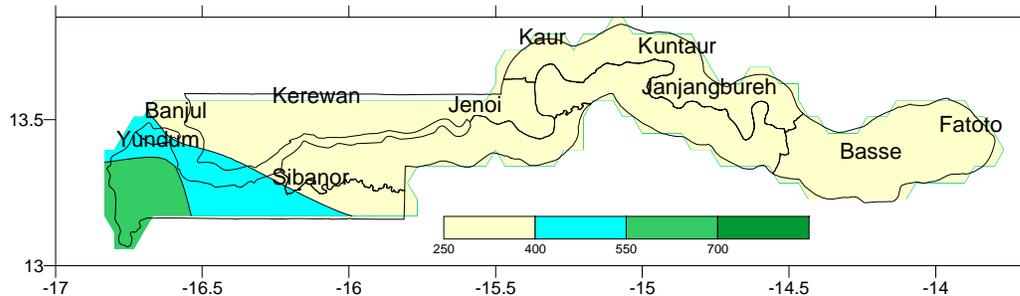


Figure 1b: Seasonal total from 1st May to 31st July, 2008

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

Since the last dekad up to this present dekad, the maximum temperatures continue to drop across the country, but the drop was more remarkable in the Western Third. Highest temperatures ranged from 32.6°C at Karantaba and Kuntaur to 30.4°C at Yundum. Minimum temperatures also dropped slightly across the country and ranged between 18.8 at Kerewan to 24.4°C at Kaur.

Maximum relative humidity generally increased slightly compared to the previous dekad, with all stations recording over 90%. The minimum relative humidity recorded was 58%.

The highest wind speed across the country was 15.4 m/s (43 km/hr) during the period.

4. AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

Groundnut is at flowering stage in parts of Central River Region south and north, while early millet is at heading stage, sorghum is at advance tillering in some parts of the North Bank Region. Planting is in progress in the rain-fed rice, sowing is completed and weeding is what farmers are engaged in most parts of the country.

5. PEST

There is a presence of veriated grasshoppers around the Western Region.