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# EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

## IN THE GAMBIA

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No. 2016/01

Period: May 1-10, 2016



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 average surface position of the ITD (*the imaginary boundary separating warm humid air from the south-west from cold dry air from the north-east*) for this dekad has been in its normal northward movement towards the Gambia but it is still below the Gambia oscillating over central Mali, southern Niger and onto Chad. Furthermore, the north ward movement of the ITD in space and time has a greater influence on the arrivals of rains in the Gambia, particularly those of agricultural importance.

Dry and stable atmosphere prevailed to the north of the ITD, where dust haze has been observed over Mauritania and Algeria. Conversely, convective activities leading to rainfall has prevailed in the south of the ITD particularly over the Gulf of Guinea States; Ivory Coast, Guinea, Liberia, Ghana, Togo and Nigeria as well as over Burkina Faso and southern Mali.

#### 1.2 WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE GAMBIA

During the period, partly cloudy and relatively cool atmosphere prevailed in the mornings, particularly in the West Coast Region due to the influence of the sea breeze and becoming warm and sunny in the afternoons.

#### 1.3 OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT DEKAD (11 – 20 May 2016)

The weather in this dekad will be pretty much the same as the previous dekad (i.e as in the summary above) except for a chance of development of convective clouds in the eastern sector of the country as the ITD approaches.

### 2.0 AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

As at May 10, the rainfall situation in the Country is nil. This means no rainfall was recorded throughout the country during this dekad.

#### 2.2 TEMPERATURE

Recorded temperatures for two major synoptic stations (Yundum in the West and Basse in the East) indicate mean temperatures of 26.1°C and 31.5°C respectively. However extreme temperatures recorded showed a maximum of 35.6°C over Yundum Airport and 44.6°C over Basse. The difference in the temperature gradient is due to the influence of the sea breezes from the coast.

### **2.3 WINDS**

Average wind speeds recorded were 13km/h over Basse and 23km/h over Yundum Airport, with maximum gust winds of about 23km/h over Basse and 27km/h over Yundum Airport.

### **2.4 SUNSHINE**

Average sunshine hours recorded across the country during this dekad was 10 hours.

### **2.5 RELATIVE HUMIDITY**

Relative Humidity on average was 45% over Basse and 60% over Yundum Airport.

## **3. AGRICULTURAL SITUATION**

The main on-field activities by farmers in most regions are clearing of farmlands, acquisition and preparation of seeds, maintenance of farming implements, application of farm yard manure and training of inexperienced animals for work. However, farmers involved in vegetable gardening have been harvesting matured vegetables. In some Regions like the Central River Region and Upper River Region, some farmers are on ploughing and transplanting on their rice fields, while some are on rice harvesting. Bird scaring is also ongoing especially in the CRRs.

## **4. Hydrological Situation**

N/A

## **5. COMMODITY PRICES**

N/A

## **6. CROP PROTECTION**

N/A

## **7. LIVESTOCK**

The Livestock situation in the Country has now began to dwindle due to the indiscriminate burning of the bushes in preparation for the rainy season. As a result of the above mentioned factors, Clinical treatment figures have scaled up and animals health status and productivity declined owing to the acute shortage of succulent palatable shrubs and grasses in pastures fields.

In CRR-N, 109 heads of cattle, 87 goats, 153 Sheep, 149 horses and 61 Donkeys were treated for suspected cases of multiple diseases.

LRR reported that 295 heads of cattle, 282 Sheep, 313 goats, 156 horses, 102 donkeys and 14 dogs were treated.

Clinical treatment for CRR-S: 46 heads of cattle, 44 Sheep, 25 horses, 24 goats and 17 donkeys were treated.

URR clinical treatment figures: cattle 217, Sheep 120 goats 54, horses 39 were treated during April, 2016.

Clinical treatment figures for NBR and WCR were not available for the first dekad of May, 2016.

It is pertinent to note that the clinical cases received in the first dekad of May, were suspected cases of various diseases. The Department of Livestock Services will not relent in its drive to curb the menace of animal diseases in the Country

## **8. FISHERIES**

N/A

## **9. ENVIRONMENT**

N/A

Banjul May 11 2016

National MWG of The Gambia

### **Composition of MWG:**

Department of Water Resources  
Planning Services - Department of  
Agriculture (DOA)  
Communication, Extension & Education  
Services - DOA  
Department of Livestock Services  
Plant Protection Services - DOA  
National Environment Agency

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