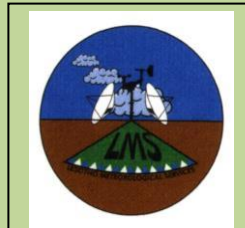




LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES
(LEKALA LA TSA BOLEPI)



Agrometeorological Update

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Highlights

- **Below normal rainfall across the country**
- **Above average maximum temperatures and below average minimum temperatures in the**
- **Rangelands dilapidation**
- **Maize at tasseling stage**

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MOISTURE AND HEAT STATUS

RAINFALL SITUATION

The was a dry spell for the whole first dekad of February across the country (Figure 1).

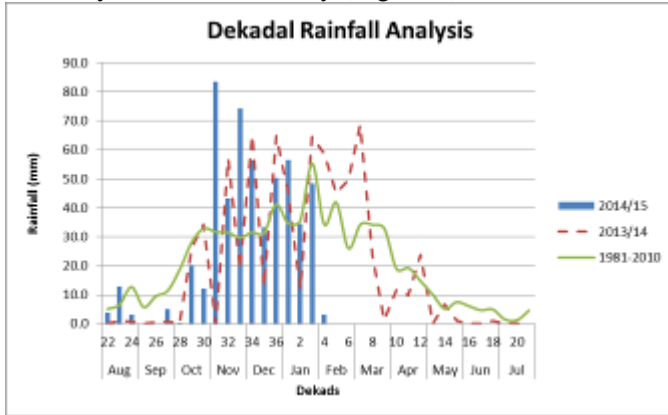
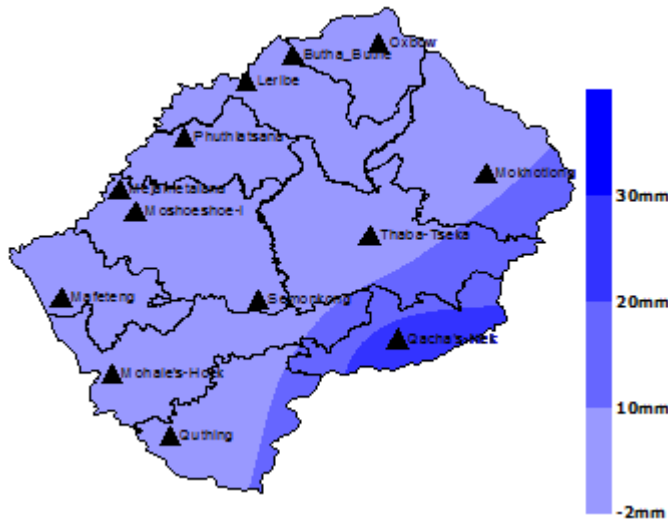


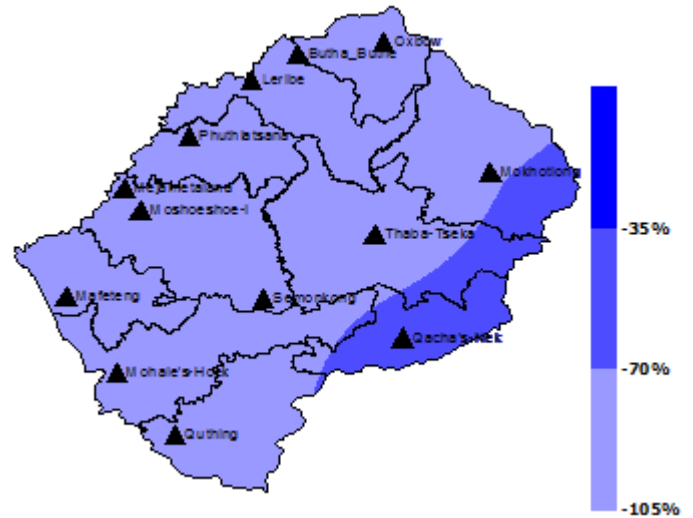
Figure 1: Seasonal rainfall distribution as of 1st dekad February 2015

Qacha's Nek recorded 30mm and Mokhotlong had 7.7mm of rainfall with all other districts observing no rainfall (*see Map 1. Below*).



Map 1: Rainfall distribution for 01 - 10 February 2015

Rainfall for the first dekad was much below normal with the departure of -100% except for Qacha'sNek which had a percentage departure of -40% (*See Map2 below*).



Map 2: percentage departure from normal as of 1st dekad February 2015

TEMPERATURES

Maximum Temperature

The Lowlands (represented by Mejametalana) recorded above average temperatures for most of the dekad and also the Mountains (represented by Mokhotlong) recorded above average temperatures for the entire dekad (*See Figure 3 below*).

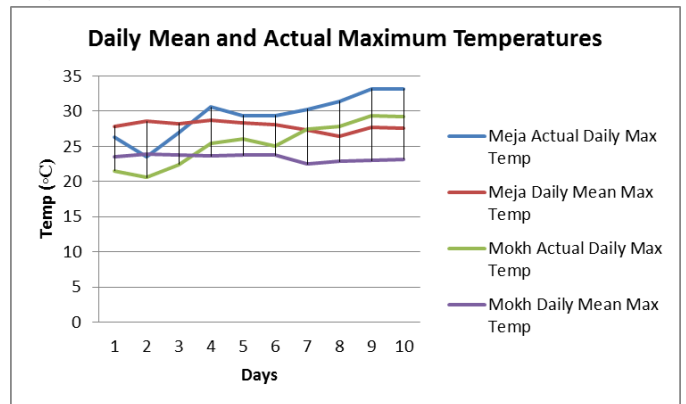


Figure 3: Maximum Temperature during 01 - 10 February 2015

Minimum Temperature

Minimum temperatures were below normal throughout the dekad in both the Lowlands and Mountains. (*See Figure 4 below*).

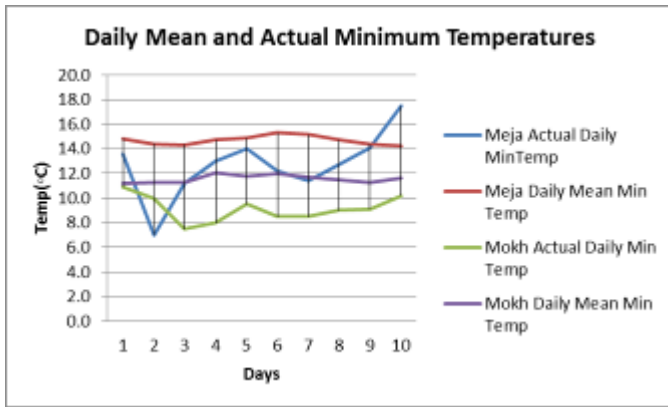
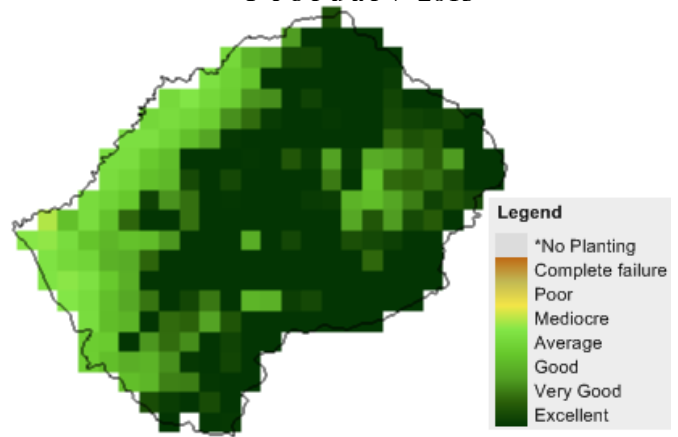


Figure 4: Minimum Temperature during 01 - 10 February 2015



Map.3

CROP STAGE AND CONDITIONS

Mountains

Maize Crop Stage and Condition

Maize is at tasseling stage but stressed due to the prevailing dry spell (See Figure 5).



Figure 5: Maize at tasseling stage in Thaba-Tseka

Lowlands

Maize at tasseling stage in most of the fields.

RANGELAND CONDITIONS

Rangelands are dilapidating due to water stress (Map. 2)

Outlook for 13th – 20th Feb 2015

The greater part of the forecast period is expected to be dry as there are only two to three days where rainfall is likely. Temperatures are expected to be warm becoming hot towards the middle of the period up to the end. However, maximum temperatures are expected to vary between 24°C and 32°C in the lowlands while minimum temperatures are expected to range between 11°C and 17°C. For the highlands, maximum temperatures are expected to range between 17°C and 28°C and minimum temperatures to range between 06°C and 15°C.

Soil Moisture

Decline soil moisture anticipated

