

LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES (LEKALA LA TSA BOLEPI)



Ten-Day Agrometeorological Bulletin

11 – 20 April 2019



Issue No.20/2018-19

Release Date: 24/4/2019

*...dedicated to the agricultural community
... aimed at harmonising agricultural activities with weather and climate*

Contents

Rainfall Situation
Page 1

Temperature Conditions
Page 1

Crop Stage and Condition
Page 1

Seasonal Forecast
Page 1

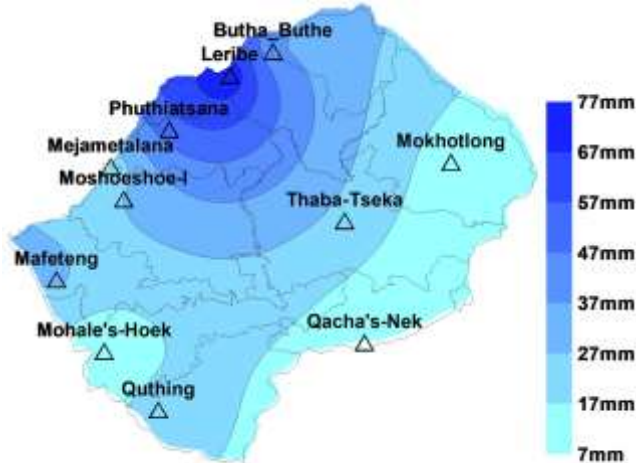
Highlights

- ❑ Lots of rain experienced during the dekad
- ❑ Cumulative rainfall remains mostly normal
- ❑ Mostly normal mean temperatures experienced
- ❑ Mixed crop conditions

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Easter holidays saw most parts of the country receiving plenty of rains. The rains were mostly received towards the end of the second dekad of April 2019, extending into the 3rd dekad. Many places recorded above normal dekad rainfall, while only a few recorded normal and below normal dekad rainfall. Leribe recorded normal dekad rainfall amount of 75.7mm, followed by Phuthiatsana with 52.9mm, while the lowest recorded rainfall occurred at Mohale’s Hoek with an amount of 7.1mm (See Map 1).



Map 1: Rainfall for April 2nd Dekad 2019

Cumulative Percentage Rainfall Departure from Normal

The dry spells experienced during the beginning of the cropping season have left the cumulative rainfall departure from normal for the season mostly normal. This is despite the recent excessive rains received in the current and previous dekads. Mafeteng has the highest departure of 17%, which is in the normal range, while Mokhotlong has the lowest departure of -35%, which is the only place with a below normal record as shown in Map 2.

Heavy rains are expected to continue in the 3rd dekad.



Map 2: Cumulative Rainfall % Departure from Normal

TEMPERATURE CONDITIONS

Many places remain with a normal record throughout the country. The highest mean temperature deviation from normal for the dekad was recorded at Mokhotlong, at 0.7°C, while the lowest was recorded at Mafeteng, at -1.0°C as shown in Map 3.



Map 3: Dekadal Mean Temperature Deviation from Normal

CROP STAGE AND CONDITIONS

Crops are generally at vegetative and maturity stages. Some places are not expecting a good harvest due to the dry spells experienced earlier in the season.

SEASONAL OUTLOOK (May-Jun-Jul 2019)

Rains are expected to be normal. Normal to above normal temperatures are anticipated.