

LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES (LEKALA LA TSA BOLEPI)



Ten-Day Agrometeorological Bulletin

11 – 21 April 2009



Issue No.20/2008-09

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

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Highlights

- ❑ Dry weather prevailed.
- ❑ Cumulative rainfall is normal.
- ❑ Cool temperatures recorded.
- ❑ Crops at maturing stage.

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DEKADAL WEATHER SUMMARY

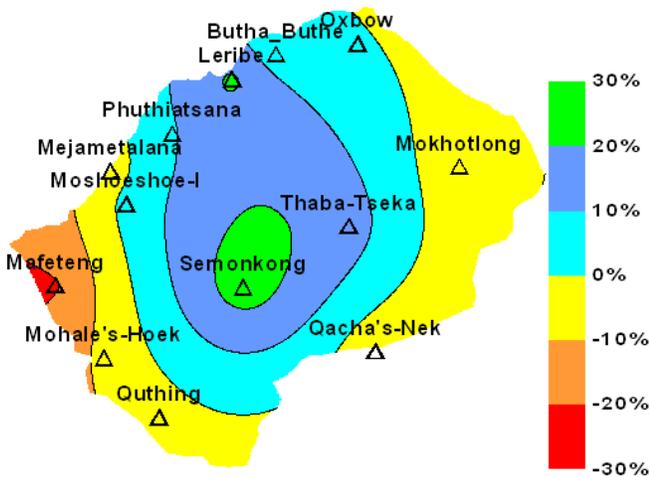
Similar conditions to those of first dekad of April prevailed during the second dekad of April. An advancing high pressure system in the Indian Ocean resulted in isolated rainfall in the eastern parts of the country.

RAINFALL SITUATION

The second dekad of April 2009 was dry. Recorded rainfall was below normal rainfall at all parts of the country. Qacha’s Nek in the east recorded 6mm of rainfall during the dekad while the rest of the country did not have any rainfall.

Cumulative Percentage Rainfall Departure from Normal

Cumulative rainfall since September 2008 is normal countrywide. There has been a decline in cumulative rainfall percentage departure from normal since the month of March due to very dry weather since then. Lowest percentage departure is observed in the western parts of the country around Mafeteng.

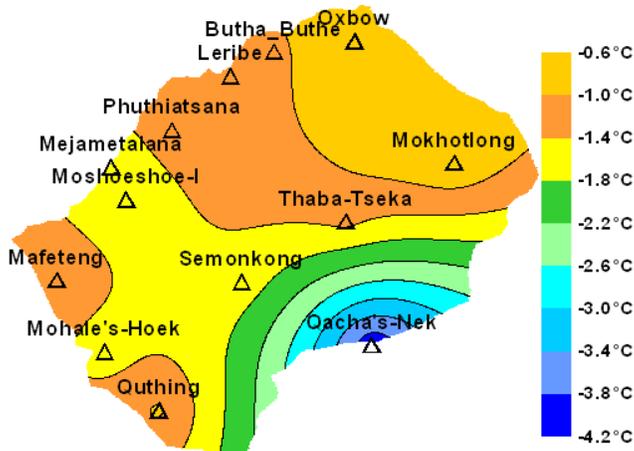


Map 2: Cumulative % Rainfall Departure from Normal Sept 08-April 2nd Dek 09

TEMPERATURE

Temperatures were generally cool during the period in discussion. Below normal mean temperatures were recorded at Qacha’s Nek and surrounding places. Map 3 below shows spatial distribution of dekadal

temperature mean deviation. Frost occurred at Semonkong in the central parts of the country during the first half of the dekad.



Map 3: Dekadal Mean Temperature Deviation from Normal for April 2nd Dek 09

RAINFALL ANOMALIES

Very dry conditions persisted into the second dekad of April 2009. Fig 3 below shows that dry weather prevailed from March and that made it a fifth consecutive dekad of little or no rainfall in most parts of the country.

CROP STAGE AND CONDITIONS

Frost at Semonkong was reported again during the first half of the dekad. It was more destructive than the earlier frost to crops that had not matured. Cereal crops have matured at most parts of the country and they are now drying. Their conditions range from fair to good.

DEKADAL OUTLOOK

21 – 30 April 2009

The coming ten days are expected to be generally dry and cool. Cold conditions and some scattered precipitation can be expected towards middle of the forecast period.

Fig.1

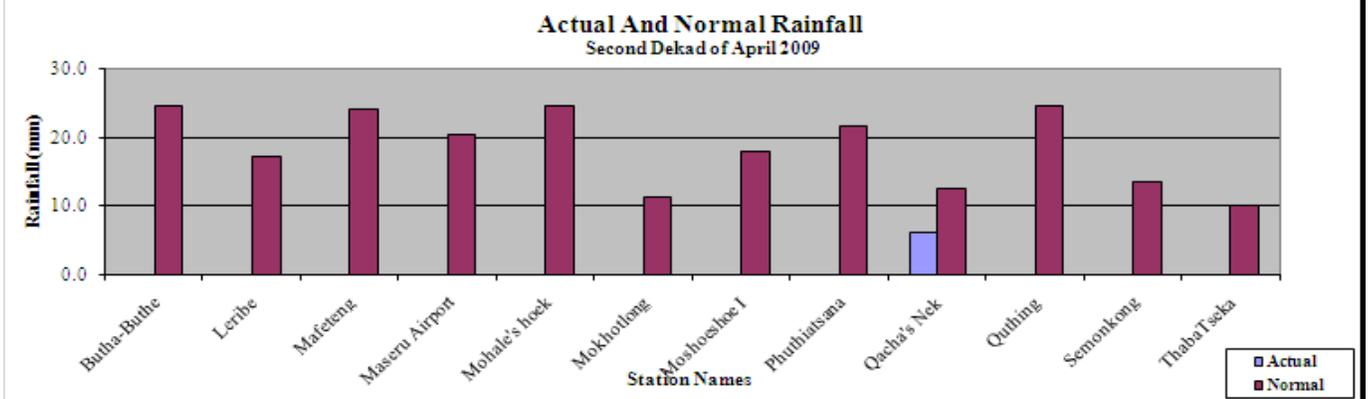


Fig.2

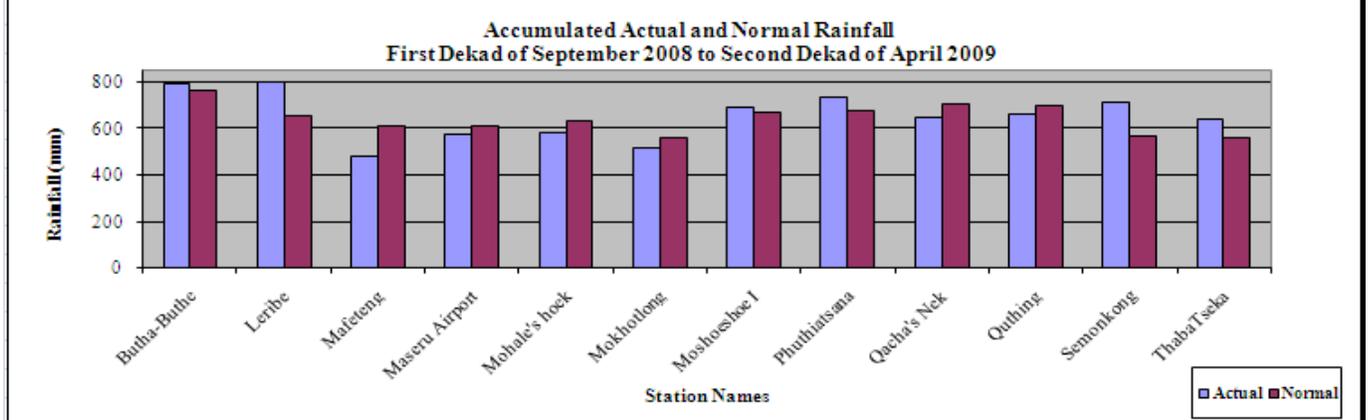


Fig. 3 Rainfall Anomaly (%) for the period September Dekad 1, 2008 to April Dekad 2, 2009

