

LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES (LEKALA LA TSA BOLEPI)



Ten-Day Agrometeorological Bulletin

21 – 30 April 2010



Issue No.21/2009-10

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

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Highlights

- ❑ Dry conditions persisted during the dekad.
- ❑ Cumulative rainfall remains largely normal.
- ❑ Below normal temperatures recorded
- ❑ Frost occurrences reported countrywide

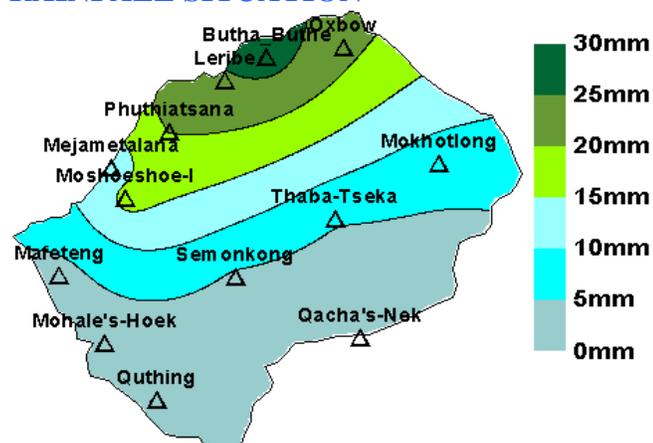
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WEATHER SUMMARY

Most stations reported below normal rainfall as dry air circulating dominated over our area, except Moshoeshoe I and Berea in the west including the northern lowlands of Butha-Buthe and Leribe, where above normal to normal rainfall was observed.

RAINFALL SITUATION



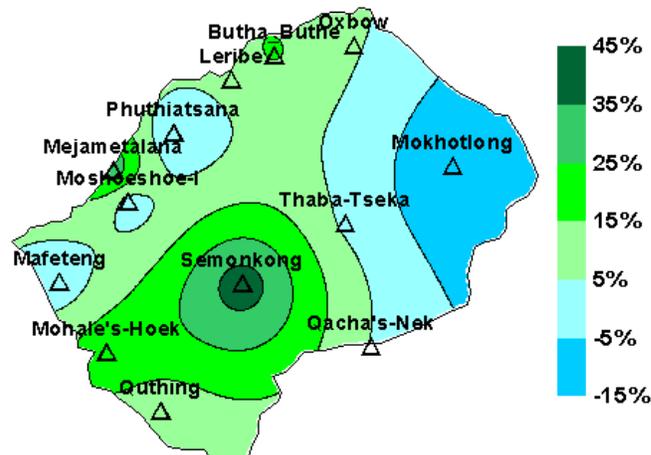
Map 1: Rainfall for April 3rd Dekad 2010

The rainfall for April third dekad was below normal in most places of the country. Very few places recorded above normal rainfall. The highest dekad rainfall amount was 27.4mm at Butha-Buthe while some places recorded no rainfall. Raindays ranged from zero (0) at Qacha's Nek and Quthing to four (4) at Butha-Buthe and Moshoeshoe I. (see Map 1 and graphs on Page 2).

Cumulative Rainfall Percentage Departure from Normal

The third dekad of April 2010 concludes the 2009/10 summer cropping season with cumulative rainfall normal in many places around the country. However, Mohale's Hoek, Maseru and

Semonkong cumulative rainfalls are above normal. The highest percentage departure from normal is Semonkong at 43% and the lowest cumulative percentage departure is -14% at Mokhotlong (see Map 2).



Map 2: Cumulative Rainfall % Dep from Normal since Sep 09

TEMPERATURE

Mean temperatures during the dekad under review were below normal countrywide. The lowest dekad mean temperature deviations was -4.7°C at Qacha's Nek and the highest was -1.0°C in several places. The lowest temperature recorded was -5.0°C at Semonkong on the 23rd. frost has occurred in many places countrywide.

CROP STAGE AND CONDITIONS

Crops have reached maturity. Most crops conditions are satisfactory. The low rainfall recorded in some places is expected to be beneficial to cereal crops since they need no water at this stage. Some cereals (like maize) have not completed maturity due to frost occurrences, but this is at a very low scale.

