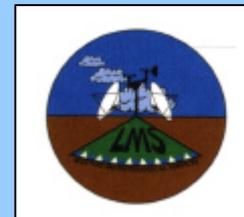


LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES (LEKALA LA TSA BOLEPI)



Ten-Day Agrometeorological Bulletin

11th – 20th December 2005



Issue No.8/2005-06

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

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Highlights

- ❑ **Low rainfall was registered throughout the entire country.**
- ❑ **Hot to mild weather conditions prevailed during the dekad.**
- ❑ **Vegetation cover medium over the northern Highlands.**
- ❑ **The temperatures are expected to be warm with a few mild days.**

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crops are at risk of rapid moisture loss due to evapotranspiration.

DEKADAL OUTLOOK

21st – 31st December 2005

Partly cloudy conditions with mainly isolated thundershowers are expected over the coming dekad. Otherwise it will generally be warm with a few mild days. Maximum temperatures are

expected to vary between 22⁰C and 30⁰C in the lowlands and between 15⁰C and 24⁰C in the highlands. The minimum temperatures are expected to vary between 10⁰C and 16⁰C in the lowlands and between 4⁰C and 12⁰C in the highlands.

Table 1

| | | Rainfall and Temperature Summaries | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|------|------------------------------------|------|--------|--------------------------------------|--------|-------------|------------------|---------------|---------|---------|-----------|
| | | Rainfall (mm) | | | | | | Temperature (°C) | | | | |
| | | 11 - 20 Dec 2005 | | | Total From Sept 05 to 2nd Dec Dec 05 | | | 11 - 20 Dec 2005 | | | | |
| STATION | ALT. | Actual | Rain | Normal | | | %Dept. from | Minimum | Maximum | Dekadal | Dekadal | |
| NAME | (M) | R/Fall | Days | R/Fall | Actual | Normal | Normal | Lowest(Day) | Highest (Day) | Mean | Normal | Deviation |
| Butha-Buthe | 1770 | 9.1 | 3 | 36.6 | 249.7 | 304.4 | -18 | 7.5 (11) | 29.0 (16) | 18.9 | 19.3 | -0.4 |
| Leribe | 1740 | | | 31.6 | | 257.2 | | | | | 19.8 | |
| Mafeteng | 1610 | 0.0 | 0 | 28.4 | 136.3 | 225.1 | -39 | 5.1 (12) | 29.6 (16) | 18.8 | 19.9 | -1.1 |
| Maseru Airport | 1530 | 3.7 | 1 | 26.6 | 151.3 | 233.7 | -35 | 3.7 (17) | 30.7 (16) | 19.4 | 20.8 | -1.4 |
| Mohale's hoek | 1600 | 24.5 | 2 | 29.6 | 163.3 | 240.6 | -32 | 7.5 (13) | 31.5 (16) | 20.4 | 20.5 | -0.1 |
| Mokhotlong | 2200 | 5.4 | 4 | 29.4 | 289.7 | 227.8 | 27 | 4.9 (13) | 26.6 (17) | 16.8 | 16.7 | 0.1 |
| Moshoeshoe I | 1628 | 13.7 | 2 | 25.3 | 251.4 | 248.1 | 1 | 7.4 (13) | 30.4 (19) | 19.7 | 20.3 | -0.6 |
| Ox-Bow | 2600 | 19.7 | 5 | 55.2 | 364.0 | 458.5 | -21 | 1.2 (14) | 20.0 (17) | 11.8 | 11.7 | 0.1 |
| Phuthiatsana | 1750 | 7.9 | 3 | 38.9 | 199.8 | 278.1 | -28 | 9.1 (13) | 31.3 (16) | 20.3 | 20.4 | -0.1 |
| Qacha's Nek | 1970 | 15.8 | 2 | 41.6 | 216.7 | 271.8 | -20 | 5.1 (13) | 28.4 (17) | 17.5 | 17.7 | -0.2 |
| Quthing | 1740 | 4.9 | 2 | 34.2 | 249.5 | 270.3 | -8 | 9.5 (13) | 30.4 (14) | 20.2 | 20.2 | 0.0 |
| Semonkong | 2458 | | | 23.4 | | 237 | | 0.6 (13) | 24.4 (17) | 14.2 | 15.2 | -1.0 |
| ThabaTseka | 2160 | 3.0 | 2 | 24.6 | 220.6 | 228.9 | -4 | 6.0 (13) | 25.1 (14) | 16.4 | 16.4 | 0.0 |

Fig.3

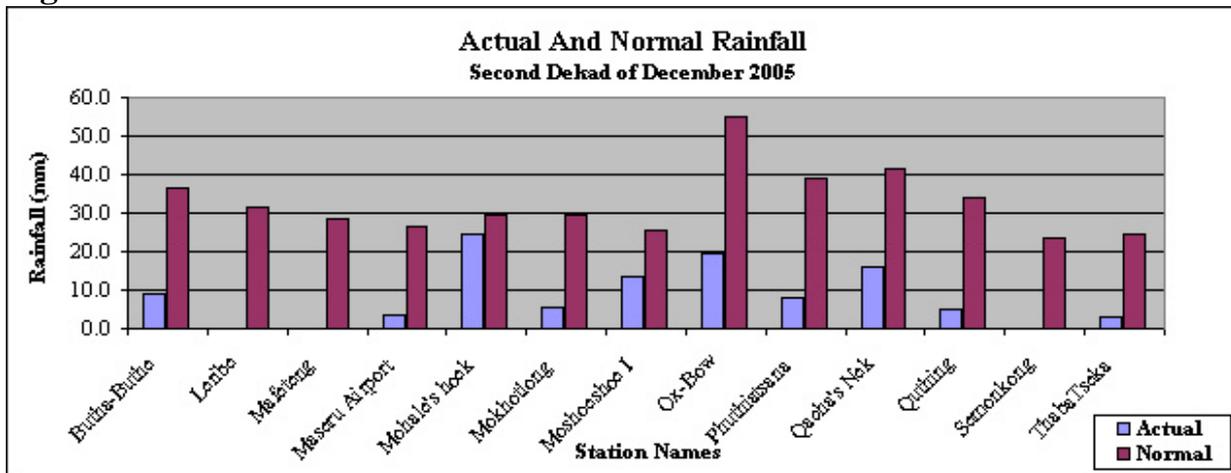
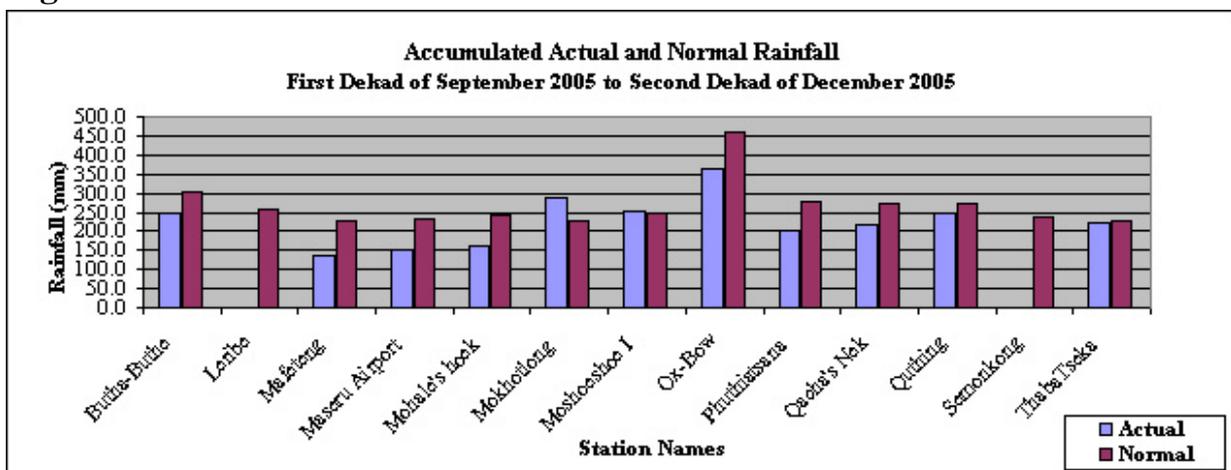


Fig.4



Glossary

Dekad : Ten day period

Normal: Average figure over a specific time period.

% Rainfall Departure from Normal: $(\text{Actual Rainfall} - \text{Normal Rainfall}) / \text{Normal Rainfall} \times 100$

This Bulletin is issued during the Summer Cropping Season (October – April).

And it is

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Comments and Contributions would be highly appreciated.