

LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES (LEKALA LA TSA BOLEPI)



Ten-Day Agrometeorological Bulletin

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

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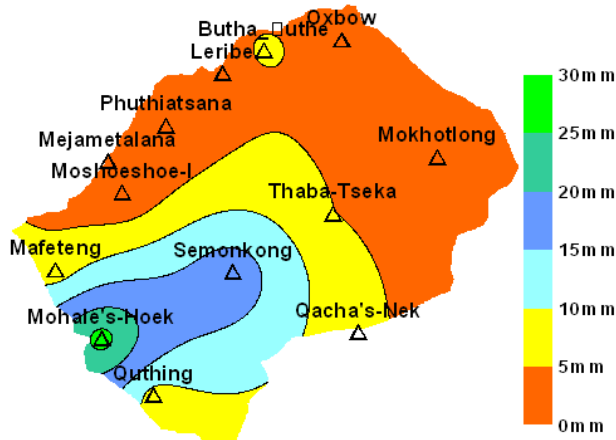
Highlights

- ❑ Dry weather conditions experienced.
- ❑ Normal mean temperatures recorded.
- ❑ Crops generally satisfactory.

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RAINFALL SITUATION



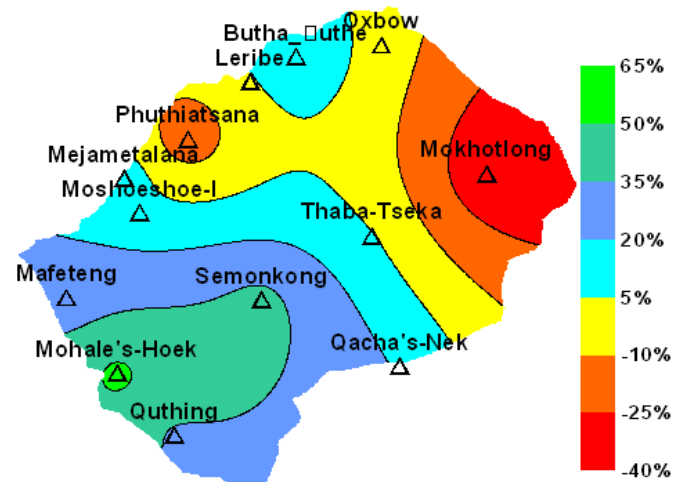
Map 1: Dekadal Rainfall for December 2nd Dekad 2009

The second dekad of December 2009 was very dry. Below normal rainfall countrywide was recorded with the exception of Mohale's Hoek where rainfall was normal. Highest dekadal rainfall of 27.9mm was recorded at Mohale's Hoek while there was no rainfall recorded at various places (see Map 1).

Cumulative Percentage Rainfall Departure from Normal

Cumulative rainfall since the first dekad of September remains above normal at most places, normal at few places and below normal at Mokhotlong (see map 2). Due to drier conditions at most places since November; percentage departure of cumulative rainfall from normal continues to decrease from high values obtained

during the beginning of the season.



Map 2: Cumulative Rainfall % Dep from Normal

TEMPERATURES

Mean temperatures were normal during the dekad under review. Mean temperature deviation ranged from 0.0°C at various places to 2.0°C at Mokhotlong during the dekad.

CROP STAGE AND CONDITIONS

Crops are at various stages ranging from early vegetative (including germination) to late vegetative stages countrywide. Weeding has started. Dry weather had a potential to impact some crops negatively. However, crop's conditions are generally satisfactory.

DEKADAL OUTLOOK

21 – 31 December 2009

Fig.1

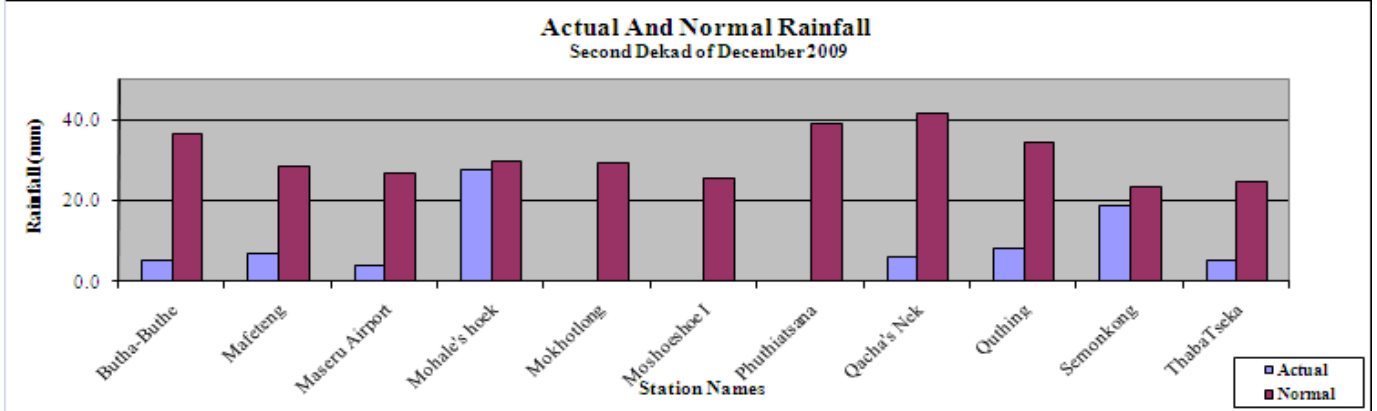


Fig.2

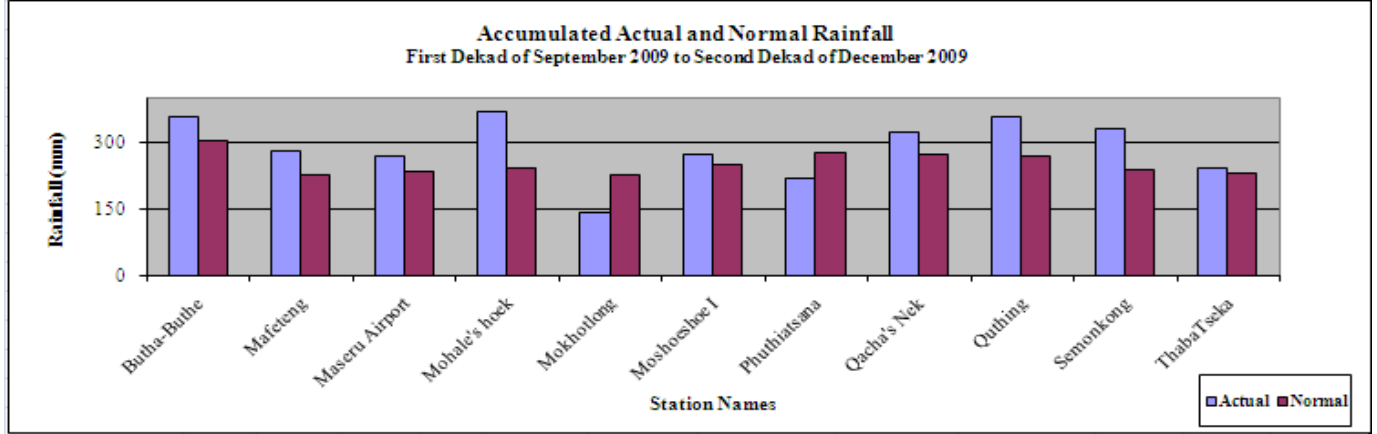


Fig. 3 Rainfall Anomaly (%) for the period Sept Dekad 1, 2009 - December Dekad 2, 2009

