

LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES (LEKALA LA TSA BOLEPI)



Ten-Day Agrometeorological Bulletin

11 – 20 December 2010



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

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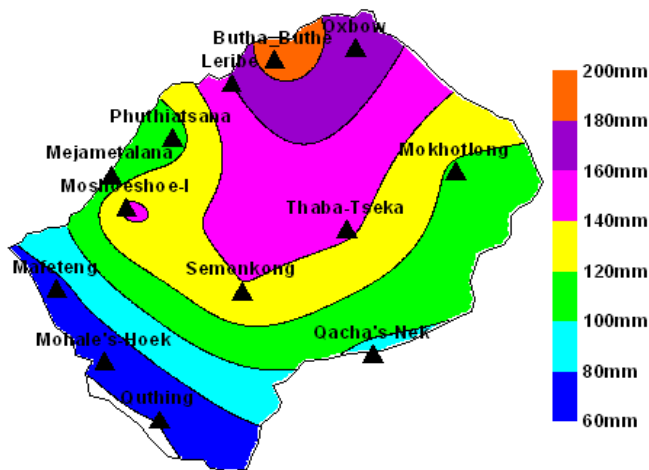
Highlights

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

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RAINFALL SITUATION

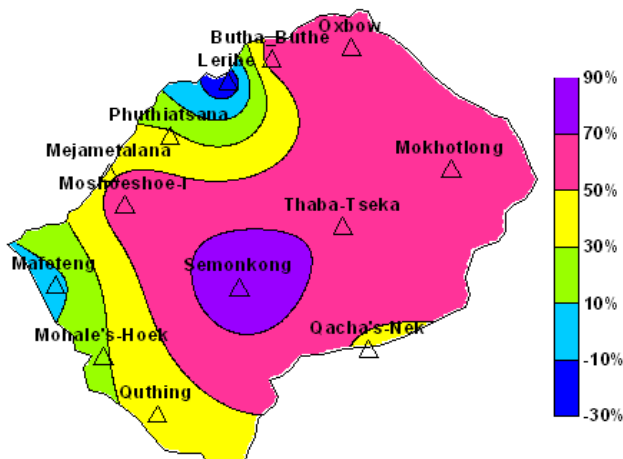


Map 1: Dekadal Rainfall for December 2nd Dekad 2010

The second dekad of December 2010 was very wet. Normal to above normal rainfall was recorded country wide. Highest dekad rainfall of 191.0mm was recorded at Butha-Buthe while the lowest rainfall of 60.7mm was recorded at Quthing. (See Map 1).

Cumulative Percentage Rainfall Departure from Normal

Cumulative rainfall since the first dekad of September remains normal at Leribe and above normal at most places. Percentage departure of cumulative rainfall from normal continues to increase from low values obtained during the beginning of the season.



Map2: Cumulative % Rainfall Dep from Normal

TEMPERATURES

The maximum temperature recorded was 29.5 °C at most places and the minimum temperature recorded was 4.6°C at Thaba-Tseka. Mean temperatures were normal during the dekad under review. Mean temperature deviation ranged from - 2.0°C at Thaba-Tseka to -0.2°C at Mohale’s Hoek during the dekad.

CROP STAGE AND CONDITIONS

Crops are at various stages ranging from early vegetative (including germination) to late vegetative stages countrywide, however, crop’s conditions are generally satisfactory due to normal rainfall being recorded at most places.

DEKADAL OUTLOOK

21 – 31 December 2010

The eastern half of the country has a chance (40%) of receiving rain showers and thundershowers. This region covers Oxbow, Mokhotlong and Thaba-Tseka including Qacha’s Nek. The rest of the country will otherwise remain partly cloudy and warm to hot. On boxing Day, 26th Dec, 2010 the same areas indicated above have a decreased chance (30%) of receiving isolated rain showers. It will however be slightly cool on the 26th. From 28th Dec up to 01st January, 2011 there are increased chances (40%) of rain showers and thundershowers over the entire country. Strong winds, hailstorms, intense lightening and thunder will at times be experienced.

Warning: The entire Nation is advised to remain vigilant and to take proper precautions against lightening strikes and flash river floods throughout the entire festive season.

