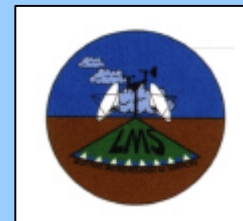


LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES (LEKALA LA TSA BOLEPI)



Ten-Day Agrometeorological Bulletin

20th – 31st December 2005



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

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Highlights

- ❑ **Below normal rains throughout the country.**
- ❑ **Dry weather conditions observed.**
- ❑ **Insufficient cumulative rains received.**
- ❑ **Vegetation cover very low over the southern Lowlands.**
- ❑ **The next ten days expected to be warm and wet.**

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The vegetation index (NOAA NDVI satellite image) for the 3rd dekad of December 2005 depicts that the degree of greenness of the vegetation is low over the lowlands and some parts of the Senqu river valley. It is very low in Mafeteng district. This very low and low greenness may indicate that the land is bare or the crops are very young. The eastern parts of the highlands show high degree of greenness.

CROP STAGE AND CONDITION

Crops (maize and sorghum) in the southern, western and northern lowlands are at vegetative stage. At some places in the low-lying areas weeding is in progress. Due to the high

temperatures and the low rainfall crops are at risk of rapid moisture loss due to evapotranspiration.

DEKADAL OUTLOOK

1st – 10th January 2005

Generally warm and wet weather conditions are expected to continue almost throughout this period with scattered to isolated rain and thundershowers; during which drop in temperatures is expected.

Table 1

Rainfall and Temperature Summaries												
		Rainfall (mm)					Temperature (°C)					
		21 - 31 Dec 2005			Total From Sept 05 to 3rd Dek Dec 05		21 - 31 Dec 2005					
STATION	ALT.	Actual	Normal	Rain			%Dept. from	Minimum	Maximum	Dekadal	Dekadal	
NAME	(M)	R/Fall	R/Fall	Days	Actual	Normal	Normal	Lowest(Day)	Highest (Day)	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Butha-Buthe	1770	9.0	36.3	2	258.7	340.7	-24	9.5 (26)	31.2 (24)	19.8	19.7	0.1
Leribe	1740	18.3	33.1	2	297.4	290.3	2				20.2	N/A
Mafeteng	1610	18.8	28.3	3	155.1	253.4	-39	8.2 (26)	31.3 (24)	19.7	20.3	-0.6
Maseru Airport	1530	31.5	29.5	2	182.8	263.2	-31	12.4 (26)	32.7 (24)	21.8	21.2	0.6
Mohale's hoek	1600	11.0	30.5	1	174.3	271.1	-36	10.0 (26)	31.0 (23, 24)	20.3	20.8	-0.5
Mokhotlong	2200	10.9	31.9	4	300.6	259.7	16	7.6 (23)	28.8 (24)	18.2	17.1	1.1
Moshoeshoe I	1628	18.1	41.6	2	269.5	289.7	-7	10.7 (23)	32.8 (24)	21.1	20.7	0.4
Ox-Bow	2600	5.2	56.4	4	369.2	514.9	-28		23.0 (22)	9.6	11.9	-2.3
Phuthiatsana	1750	12.6	23.5	2	212.4	301.6	-30	10.8 (26)	32.5 (24)	21.2	21	0.1
Qacha's Nek	1970	22.5	40.3	3	239.2	312.1	-23	7.4 (26)	28.7 (24)	17.8	18	-0.2
Quthing	1740	8.4	38.9	2	257.9	309.2	-17	11.0 (26)	30.5 (24)	20.7	20.4	0.3
Semonkong	2458	16.5	30.4	4	242.8	267.4	-9	3.0 (28)	26.0 (24)	15.2	15.6	-0.4
ThabaTseka	2160		34.2			263.1					16.7	N/A

Fig.1

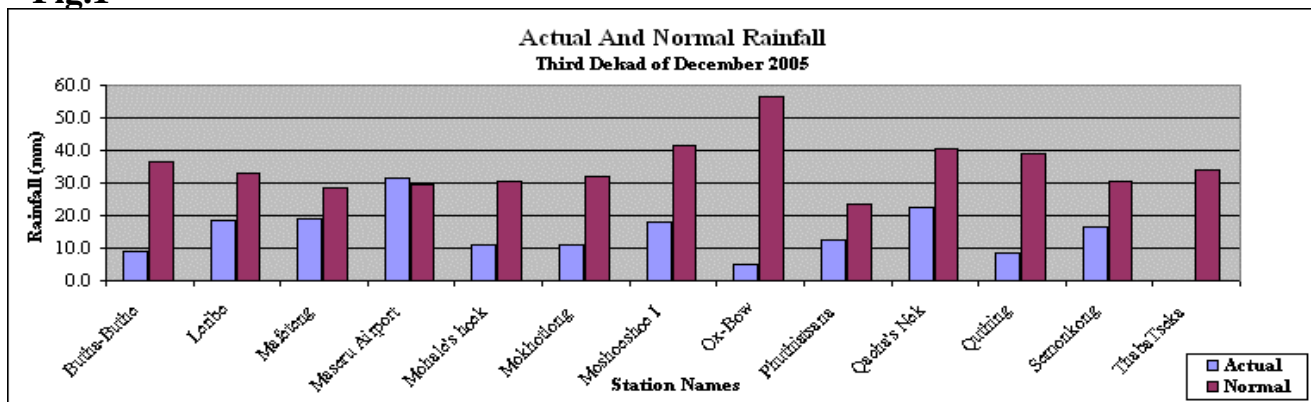
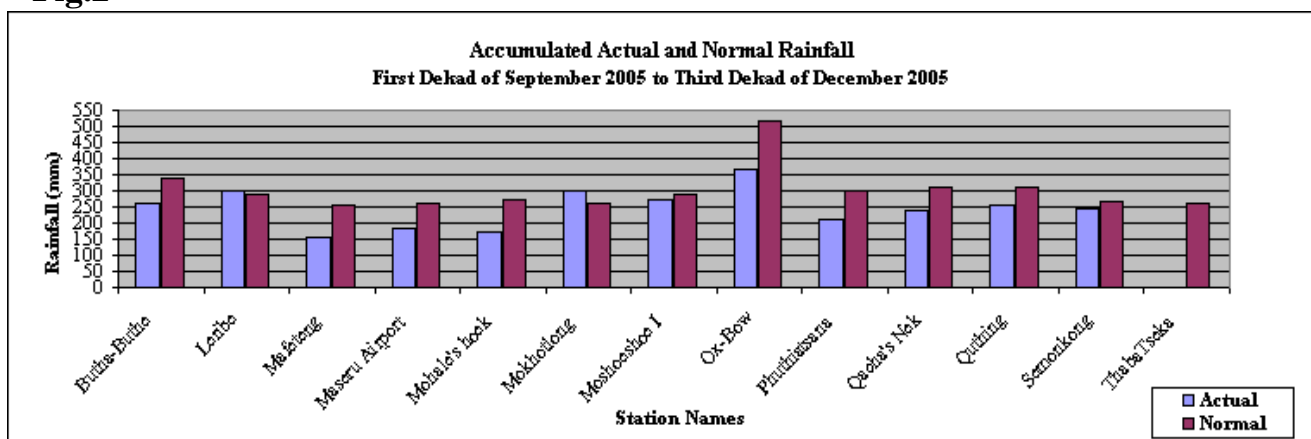


Fig.2



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.