

LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES (LEKALA LA TSA BOLEPI)



Ten-Day Agrometeorological Bulletin

1 - 10 February 2010



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

Contents

Rainfall Situation
Page 1

Temperature
Page 1

Crop Stage and Condition
Page 1

Dekadal Outlook
Page 1

Rainfall and Temperature
Summaries
Page 2

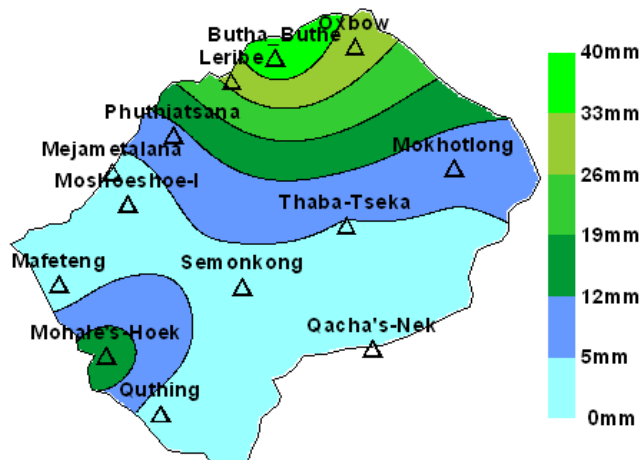
Highlights

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

The Director
Lesotho Meteorological Services
Agrometeorological Section
P.O. Box 14515
Maseru 100, Lesotho

TEL: (+266) 22324374
FAX: (+266) 22325057/22350325
E-mail: agrometeorology@lesmet.org.ls
<http://www.lesmet.org.ls>

RAINFALL SITUATION

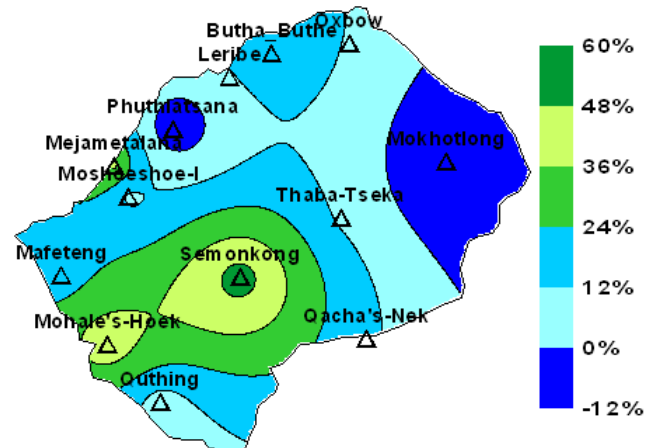


Map 1: February 1st Dekad 2010 Rainfall

The first dekad of February 2010 experienced reduced rainfall activities. The dekad rains were below normal everywhere except at Butha-Buthe. However, the cumulative normal rainfalls were normal in most parts of the country. Mafeteng recorded no rainfall amount while Butha-Buthe recorded the highest rainfall amount of 39.5mm for the dekad. The dekad rains were inclined towards the northern parts of the country (see Map 1).

Cumulative Percentage Rainfall Departure from Normal

Cumulative rainfall since the first dekad of September is largely becoming normal, with only a few places still having above normal cumulative rainfall. It has improved significantly at Mokhotlong where it has been below normal for large parts of the season. The lowest rainfall percentage departure from normal is still at Mokhotlong followed by Phuthiatsana, while the highest is still at Semonkong (see Map 2).



Map 2: Cumulative Rainfall % Dep. from Normal since Sept. 09

TEMPERATURES

Mean dekadal temperatures were above normal at Quthing, Qacha's Nek and Thaba-Tseka. All other places recorded normal dekadal mean temperatures.

CROP STAGE AND CONDITIONS

Crop stages range from vegetative to reproductive stages and their conditions are satisfactory. Crop water requirements are adequate in most parts of the country. Some field operations including weeding are continuing well for crops like maize, while harvesting has commenced for wheat in a few places.

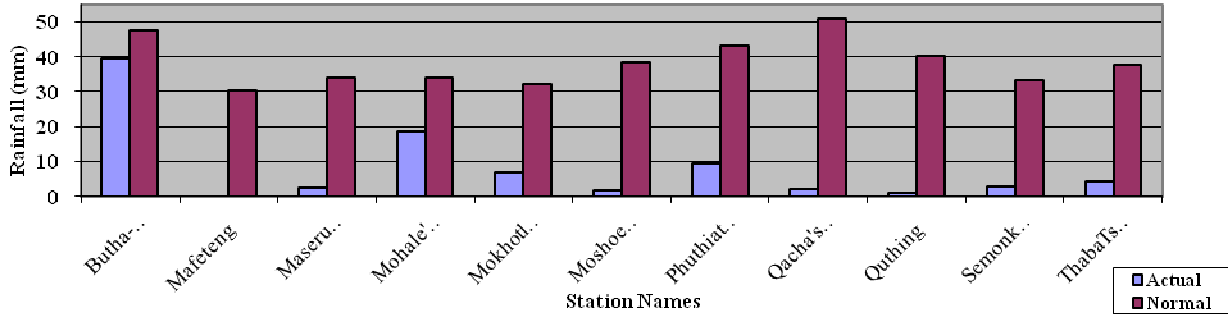
DEKADAL OUTLOOK

01 – 10 February 2010

The period is likely to continue experiencing reduced rainfall activities where mostly isolated thundershowers are expected. However scattered to widespread thundershowers are anticipated on Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th. Daytime temperatures are expected to remain hot, becoming warm to hot from Tuesday 16th.

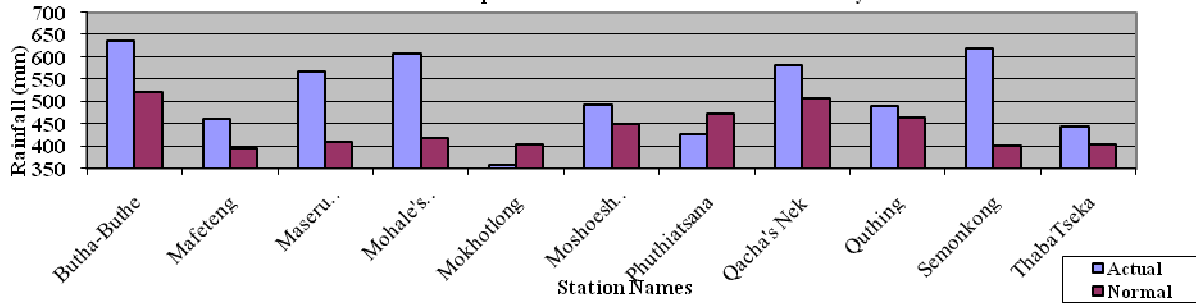
Actual And Normal Rainfall

First Dekad of February 2010



Accumulated Actual and Normal Rainfall

First Dekad of September 2009 to First Dekad of February 2010



Rainfall Anomaly (%) for the period since September Dekad 1, 2009 - February Dekad 1 2010

