

LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES (LEKALA LA TSA BOLEPI)



Ten-Day Agrometeorological Bulletin

21 – 28 February 2009



Issue No.15/2008-09

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

Contents

Weather Summary
Page 1

Rainfall Situation
Page 1

Temperature
Page 1

Crop Stage and Condition
Page 1

Dekadal Outlook
Page 2

Rainfall and Temperature
Summaries
Page 3

Glossary
Page 4

Highlights

- ❑ Generally normal rainfall prevailed.
- ❑ Cumulative rainfall normal to above normal.
- ❑ Normal temperatures experienced at most parts.
- ❑ Crops in good conditions.

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

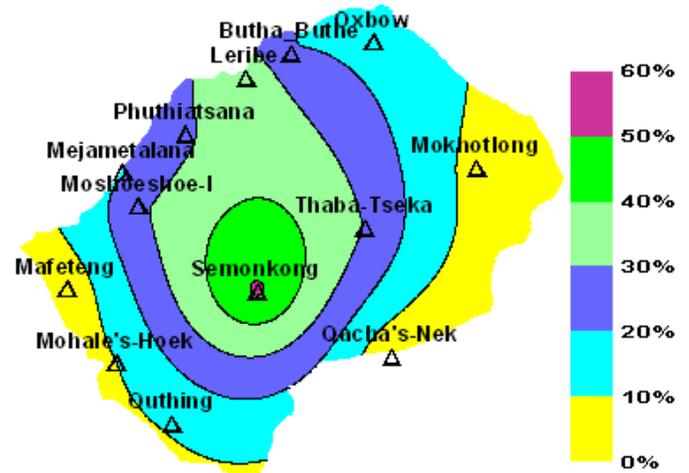
TEL: (+266) 22324374
FAX: (+266) 22325057/22350325
E-mail: agrometeorology@lesmet.org.ls
<http://www.lesmet.org.ls>

DEKADAL WEATHER SUMMARY

Normal amounts of rainfall were generally experienced country wide in the past ten days as moist tropical air mass from the Congo Air basin was poured into the interior of the subcontinent resulting in widespread rain and thundershowers.

RAINFALL SITUATION

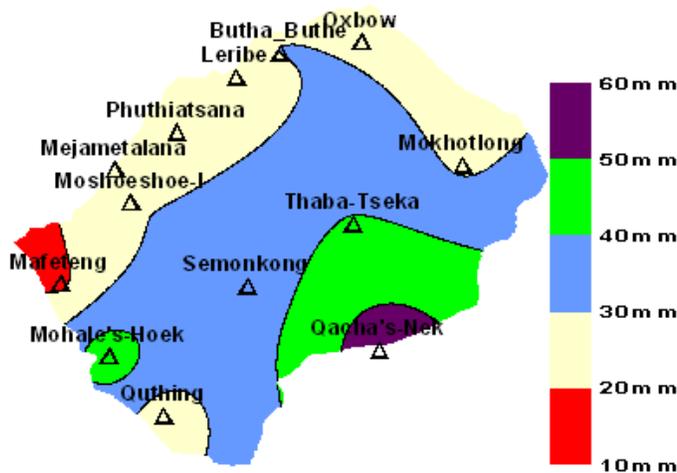
Normal rainfall was recorded during the last dekad of February 2009. However, Mafeteng became the exception with below normal rainfall. Unlike the previous three dekads when rainfall was concentrated more in the western parts of the country, it was more in the east and lowlands practically had less rainfall. When compared with the previous three dekads, the period in discussion experienced reduced rainfall activities. Highest and lowest dekadal rainfall was 56.5mm (Qacha’s Nek) and 17.8mm (Mafeteng) respectively (see Map 1 & Fig 1).



Map 2: Cumulative Rainfall Percentage Departure from Normal

TEMPERATURE

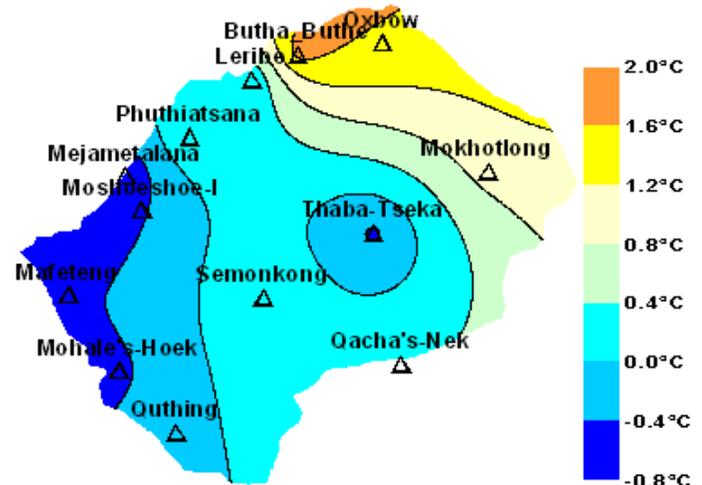
Temperatures were normal during the period under review. Low mean temperature deviations from normal were observed in the western parts of the country and high deviations in the north (see Map 3).



Map 1: Dekadal Rainfall for Third Dekad of February 2009

Cumulative Percentage Rainfall Departure from Normal

Cumulative rainfall since September 2008 is normal in most parts of the country, and above normal in the central parts of the country, and Leribe (sees Map 2). Cumulative rainfall especially in the western parts of the country was highly inflated by very wet weather since last dekad of January. Good cumulative rainfall boosted mostly hydrological services.



Map 3: Dekadal Mean Temperature Deviation from Normal

RAINFALL ANOMALIES

Fig 3 below shows that rainfall activities during the period in discussion were mainly concentrated in the highlands and the Senqu valley. Very reduced rainfall was experienced in the entire lowlands.

CROP STAGE AND CONDITIONS

Soil moisture conditions were adequate for crops during the last dekad of February 2009. Few farmers did some weeding as the surface water receded. It is reported that some crops have been eroded by water

at some parts of the country. Crop stages range from vegetative to flowering stages. Crops are generally in fair to good conditions at most places.

DEKADAL OUTLOOK

1 – 10 March 2009

Unlike in the last ten days of February, the beginning ten days of March are expected to experience a significant decrease in rainfall

activities. Only isolated rain showers and thundershowers are anticipated especially in north and in the eastern parts of the country.

Fig.1

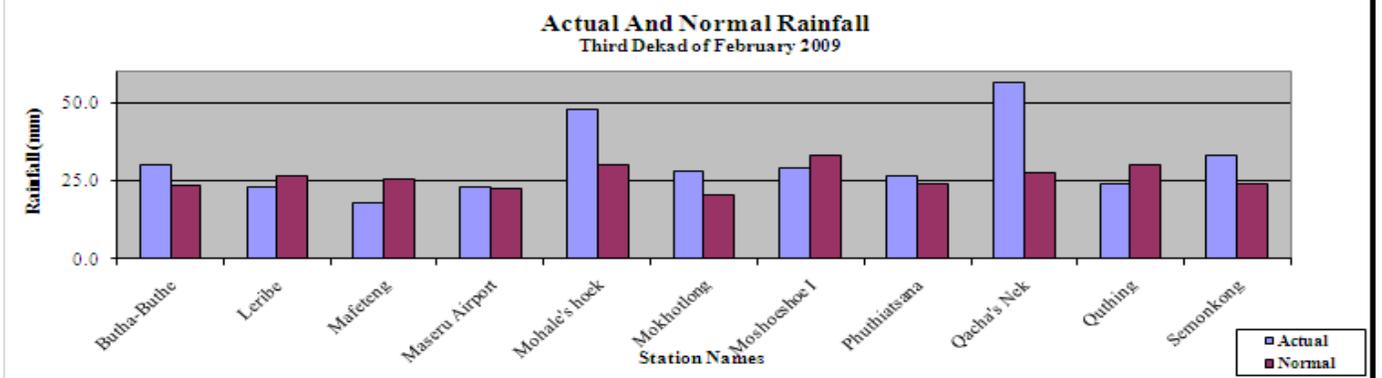


Fig.2

