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Agro-Met Monthly Update:

February 2010

Date of issue: March 2010

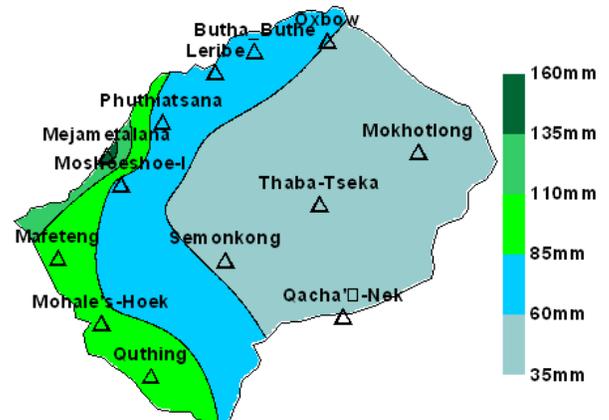
Highlights

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wet weather prevailed during the month February 2010 2. Below normal to above normal mean temperatures experienced during the month |
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Rainfall

Monthly Actual Rainfall

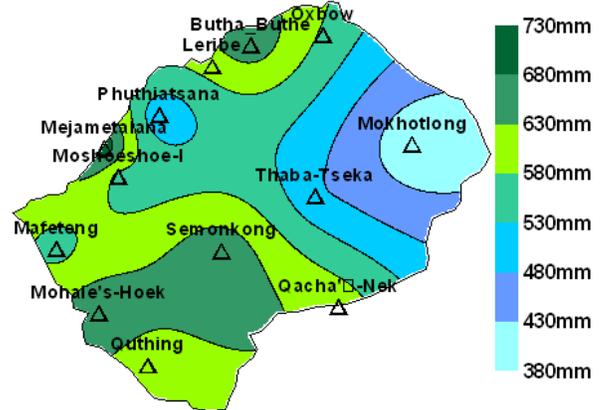
February 2010 experienced a lot of rain. Monthly rainfall is still below normal for Mofale's Hoek, Quthing and Mafeteng. Monthly rainfall was normal only in Quthing and above normal everywhere in the country. The highest recorded rainfall was 156.7mm at Mejametalana and the lowest recorded rainfall amount was 37.9mm at Qacha's Nek (see Map 1). Widespread and sometimes heavy falls were experienced during the second dekad of February.



Map 1: February 2010 Rainfall

Cumulative Rainfall since September 2009

Cumulative rainfall for the period September to January 2010 is normal at Mokhotlong and Phuthiatsana and above normal in all other places. Map 2 shows how cumulative rains are spread over the country. Semonkong had the highest cumulative rainfall recorded amount of 616.5mm, followed by Butha-Buthe with 596.9mm whereas Mokhotlong recorded the lowest cumulative rainfall of 352mm.



Map 2: Sept 2009 - Feb 2010 Cumulative Rainfall

Temperatures

Monthly mean temperatures ranged from below through normal to above normal over the country. The highest daily maximum temperature of the

month was 32.6°C that was recorded on the 9th at Quthing and the lowest recorded on the 19th was 6.0°C at Semonkong.

Crop Stage and Conditions

Crops stages are ranging from late vegetative to early reproductive stages countrywide. Wet weather that prevailed during the month provided crops with enough water requirements in most places. Generally crop conditions are satisfactory.

Seasonal Forecast (October 09 – March 10)

There is a high likelihood of the country to receive below normal rainfall especially in the west and southern parts of the country. The areas in the south west and in the south are expected to receive below normal rainfall for entire rainfall season (October 2009, up to March 2010). Nevertheless, the north and

eastern parts are highly likely to receive above normal to normal rainfall in October to December 2009. It is expected that there will be significant reduction of rainfall in these areas during the period of January to March 2010; where below normal rainfall will be experienced.

Compared to the year 2008/09 rainfall season, the year 2009/10 rainfall season is highly likely to experience less rainfall occurrences and lengthy dry spells which are likely to have negative impacts in agriculture, water and other weather sensitive sectors.