

LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES (LEKALA LA TSA BOLEPI)



Ten-Day Agrometeorological Bulletin

1 - 10 January 2010



Issue No.10/2009-10

*...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

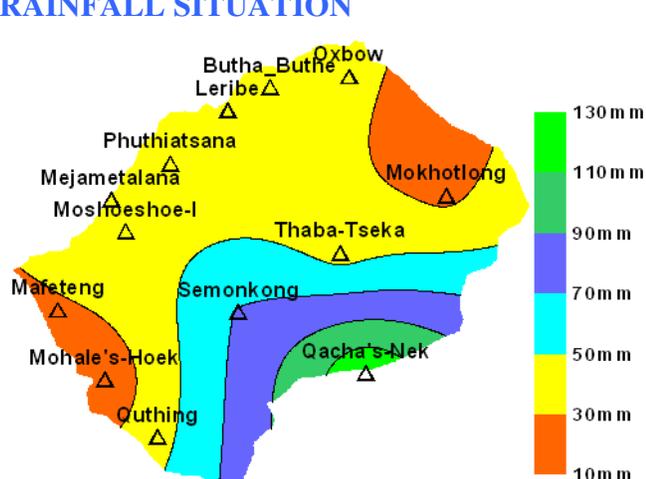
Highlights

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

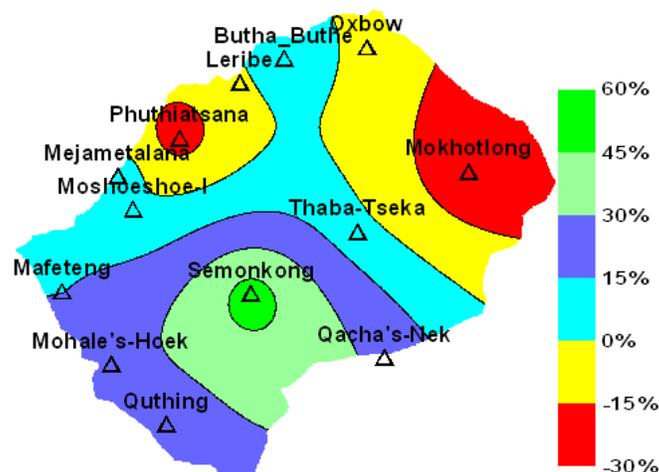
The Director
Lesotho Meteorological Services
Agrometeorological Section
P.O. Box 14515
Maseru 100, Lesotho

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

RAINFALL SITUATION



Map 1: January 1st Dekad 2010 Rainfall



Map 2: Rainfall Cum. % Dep from Normal (Sept - Jan 1st Dek 10)

Rainfall during the period under review was largely satisfactory. The first dekad of January 2010 recorded normal to above normal rainfall countrywide except at Mohale’s Hoek and Mokhotlong. Mokhotlong has consistently experienced below normal rainfall since the beginning of the season. The lowest and highest dekad rainfall was 15.5mm (Mohale’s Hoek) and 129mm (Qacha’s Nek). Qacha’s Nek recorded highest daily rainfall of 55.1mm on the 8th, and that rainfall was conclusive for localized and downstream river flooding and property destruction. The rainfall Map 1 depicts the spatial distribution of the rainfall.

Cumulative Percentage Rainfall Departure from Normal

Cumulative rainfall since the first dekad of September ranges from normal to above normal at most places. It is below normal at Phuthiatsana and Mokhotlong. Map 2 reflects that the eastern parts and few western areas have largest cumulative rainfall deficits. For Mokhotlong, rainfall percentage departure from normal has been below normal while at Phuthiatsana the large deficit was as a result of poor rainfall during the last two dekads of December.

TEMPERATURES

Temperatures were cooler than normal during the period under review. Mean temperature deviations reflected cooler temperatures all over the country except at Mohale’s Hoek where mean temperatures were above normal. Cool temperatures were as a result of cloudiness, precipitation and wet surfaces.

CROP STAGE AND CONDITIONS

Crops are at various stages and range from early vegetative to late vegetative stages countrywide. Some crops have started tasseling at most places. Plants at Mokhotlong are at a very great risk of water deficits as rainfall performances have been very erratic in that part of the country. Weeding and other field operations are in progress.

DEKADAL OUTLOOK

11 – 20 January 2010

The forecasted period is anticipated to be generally wet. Temperatures are expected to be generally warm but high at times.

Fig.1

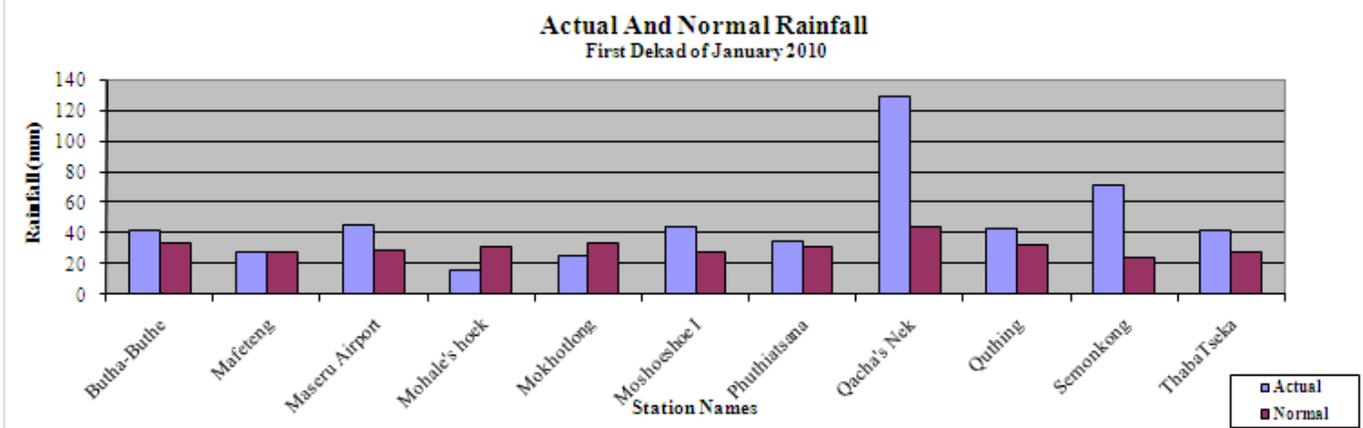


Fig.2

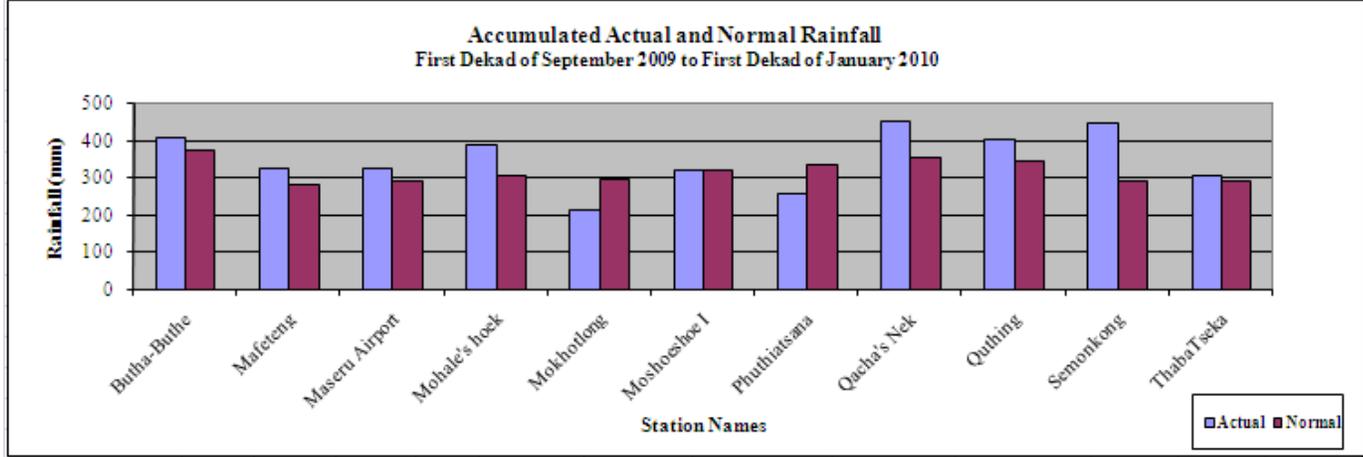


Fig. 3 Rainfall Anomaly (%) since September Deakd 1, 2009 - January Dekad 1, 2010

