

LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES (LEKALA LA TSA BOLEPI)



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

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Highlights

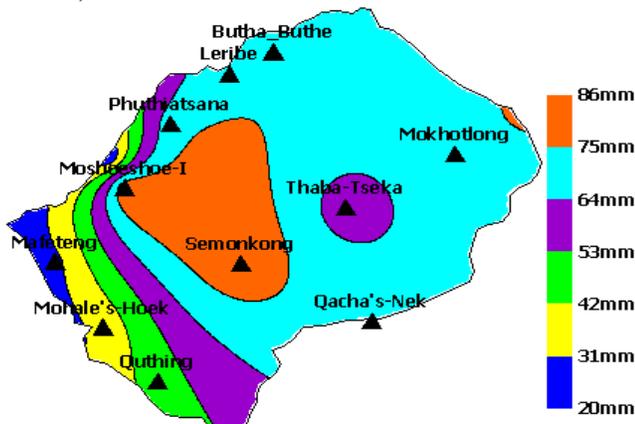
- ❑ Wet conditions prevailed at most places.
- ❑ Cumulative rainfall normal to above normal.
- ❑ Normal temperatures experienced at most parts.
- ❑ Weeding hampered by rains

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RAINFALL SITUATION

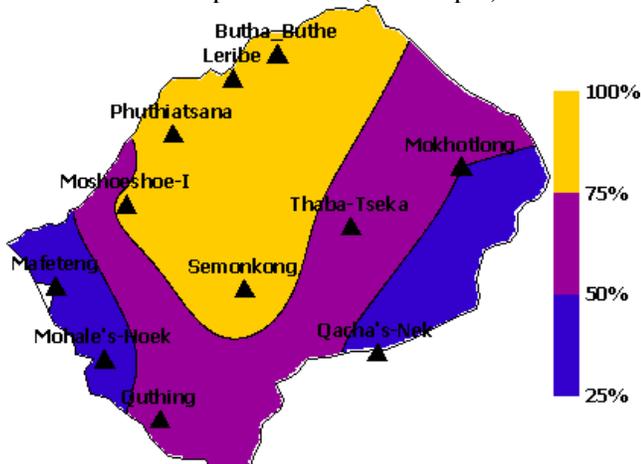
The second dekad of January 2011 received largely above normal dekadal rainfall except Maseru and Mafeteng receiving below normal. Moshales Hoek in the south recorded near normal dekadal rainfall. The dekad in review became the second consecutive dekad with good dekadal rainfall. Highest dekadal rainfall was 85.1mm recorded at Moshoeshoe I. Majametalana with 20.8mm had lowest dekadal rainfall (see map 1). Butha-Buthe, Moshoeshoe I, Mokhotlong, Semonkong, and Thaba-Tseka recorded almost twice dekadal normal rainfall (see figure 1 below).



Map1: January 2nd Dekad 2011 Rainfall

Cumulative Percentage Rainfall Departure from Normal

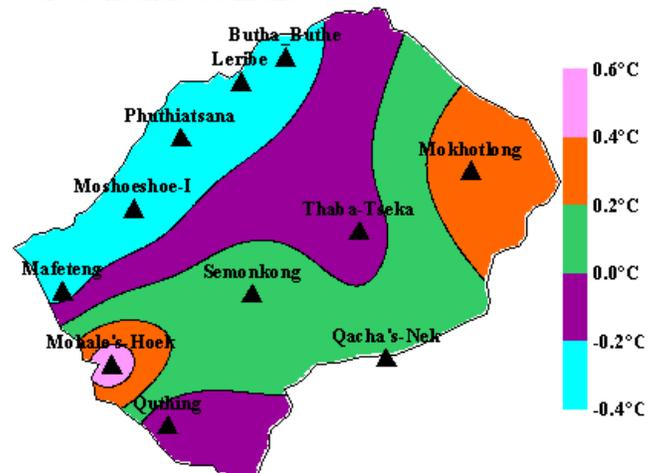
Cumulative rainfall remains normal to above normal in the country. Too much rain that the country has received in the last dekad has improved accumulated rainfall especially in the northern lowlands. The northern lowlands including Semonkong maintain highest cumulative rainfall percentage departure from normal with a surplus of 52% (see Map 2).



Map2: Cumulative Rainfall % Dep from Normal since Sept 2010

TEMPERATURE

Temperatures were cool but normal during the second dekad. The northern western parts of the country were generally cooler than eastern parts (see Map 3). That may be due to precipitation and clouding which were concentrated in the west.



Map3: Dekadal Mean Temperature Deviation from Normal

CROP STAGE AND CONDITIONS

Crops in the western lowlands continued to experience water-logging at some parts of the country. Crop stages range from vegetative to early flowering stages. Crops are generally in fair to bad conditions at most places. That may be due to a waterlogging and some other reasons.

SEASONAL RAINFALL OUTLOOK FOR FEBRUARY APRIL 2011

21 – 28 February 2009

February to April 2011 projections are still in favor for good rains to continue as the rain bearing systems project increased chances of rainfall over this period. Normal to above normal rainfall is still anticipated countrywide. Daytime as well as night time temperatures are expected to be above normal for the period. Occasionally, strong winds, thunderstorms, tornadoes and hailstorms are expected to be experienced frequently and thus people are advised to take precautions for such weather conditions.

