



LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES

We are at your service. Re sebelise



Agro-Met Monthly Update:

July 2009

Date of issue: August 2009

Highlights

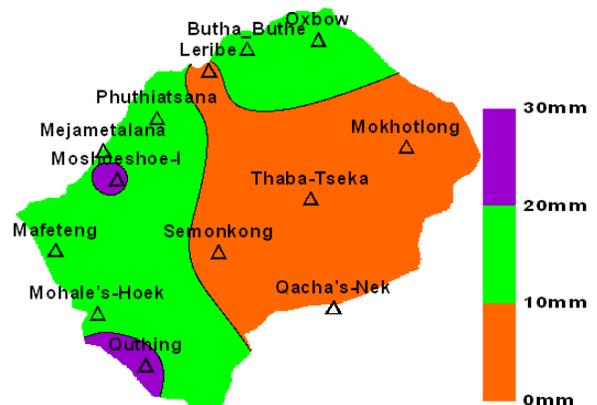
- | |
|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Above normal rainfall in the western parts of the country recorded 2. Below normal mean temperatures experienced during the month |
|---|

Rainfall

Monthly Actual Rainfall

The month of July 2009 was wet in the western parts of the country, and dry in the eastern parts. Above normal rainfall was recorded in the entire lowlands except Leribe. The highlands experienced a relatively lower amount of rainfall compared to the lowlands. Moshoeshoe I and Quthing recorded the highest amount of rainfall while Mokhotlong recorded the least (see Map 1).

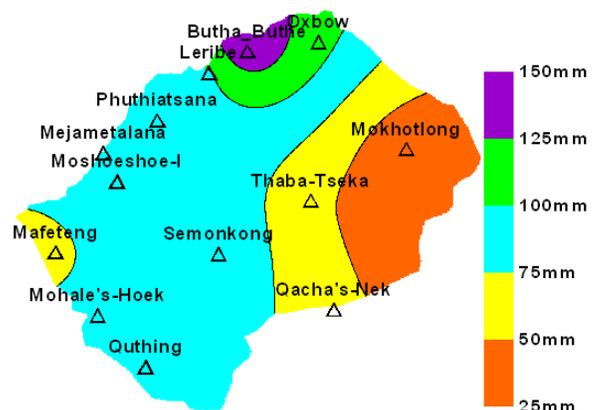
Rain days ranged from one to four throughout the country



Map 1: July 2009 Monthly Rainfall

Cumulative Rainfall since May 2009

Cumulative rainfall for the period May – July 2009 is above normal in all parts of the country with the only exception of Mokhotlong where it remains normal. Highest amounts of cumulative rainfall are recorded in the northern parts of the country, while the lowest amounts of cumulative rainfall are in the eastern parts of the country (see Map 2). Highest and lowest cumulative percentage departures from normal are 214% at Butha-Buthe in the north and 10% at Mokhotlong in the west.



Map 2: May - July 2009 Cumulative Rainfall

Temperatures

During the month of July, mean temperatures were predominantly below normal countrywide,

except at Quthing in the south which recorded normal mean temperatures.

Crop Stage and Conditions

Harvesting of cereals came to completion. Recent wet spells in most parts of the country may have prompted some farmers to engage in winter cropping. The extent of this cropping can not be determined at this stage.

Seasonal Forecast (July – September)

Rainfall is forecasted to be normal to above normal during the combined period of the next three months.
