

LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES (LEKALA LA TSA BOLEPI)



Ten-Day Agrometeorological Bulletin

21 – 31 March 2009



Issue No.18/2008-09

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

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Highlights

- ❑ Generally dry weather prevailed.
- ❑ Cumulative rainfall normal to above normal.
- ❑ Normal to above normal temperatures experienced at most parts.
- ❑ Frost at Semonkong

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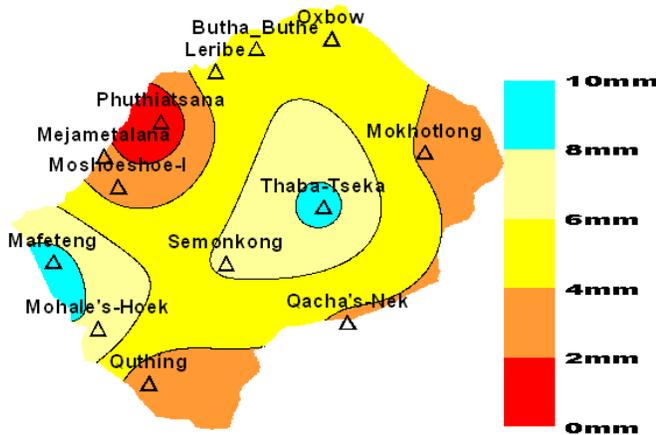
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DEKADAL WEATHER SUMMARY

The last ten days experienced dry conditions as moist tropical air was confined to the northern parts of the subcontinent. The presence of tropical depression Izilda resulted in moist tropical air migrating towards that deep low pressure system, thereby leaving the interior of the subcontinent dry.

RAINFALL SITUATION

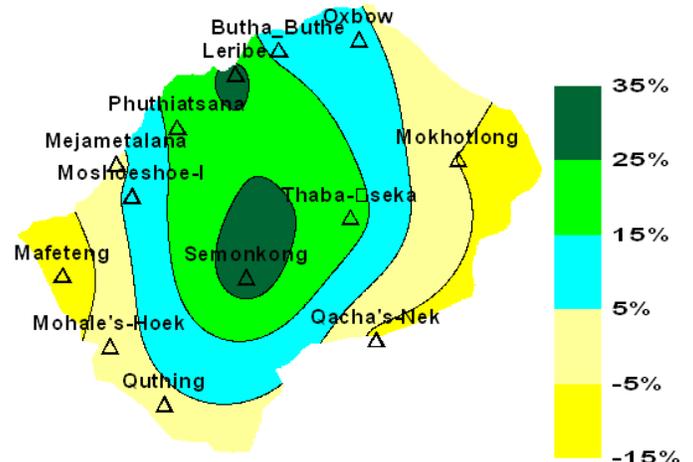
Below normal rainfall was recorded during the last dekad of March 2009. Dry weather persisted from the first dekad of March 2009 into the current review period. Less than 10mm of rainfall was recorded. There was no rainfall recorded at Phuthiatsana, and highest dekadal rainfall was 9mm at Thaba-Tseka.



Map 1: Actual Rainfall for MArch Third dekad 2009

Cumulative Percentage Rainfall Departure from Normal

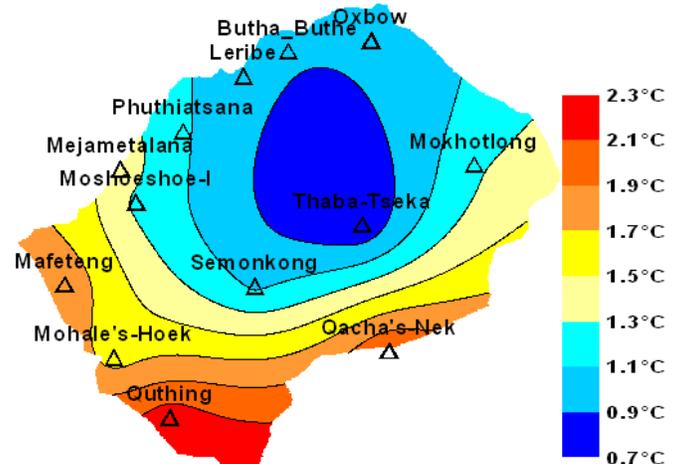
Cumulative rainfall since September 2008 is above normal in the region extending from the central parts of the country to the northern parts, and it is normal for the rest of the country. In the month of March 2009 cumulative rainfall percentage departure has declined as the country was characterized by dry weather conditions. The western, southern and the eastern parts of the country have consistently experienced lowest percentage departure from normal for the major part of the season.



Map 2: Cumulative Rainfall since September 2008

TEMPERATURE

Mean temperatures were normal in most parts of the country. And it was above normal at Mafeteng, Quthing and Qacha's Nek (see Map 3). Frost has been reported at Semonkong on the 21st March. Some crops had been destroyed, but some had matured.



Map 2: Dekadal Temperature Deviation from normal

RAINFALL ANOMALIES

It was quite dry in the period under review. Rainfall anomalies were below normal countrywide. Fig. 3 depicts that since the beginning of the month (March) it was dry.

CROP STAGE AND CONDITIONS

Frost was reported at Semonkong in the beginning of the dekad. However, it is reported that small cropping area was affected. Some crops which had not matured

were destroyed. Otherwise crops are maturing at most places and recent dry spells do not have a major negative impact, but they are of good help to crops. Crops conditions range from fair to good. Major frost can come any time from now especially in the mountains.

The next ten days will continue to experience dry conditions. However, isolated thundershowers and rain showers are anticipated towards the end of the dekad.

DEKADAL OUTLOOK

1 – 10 April 2009

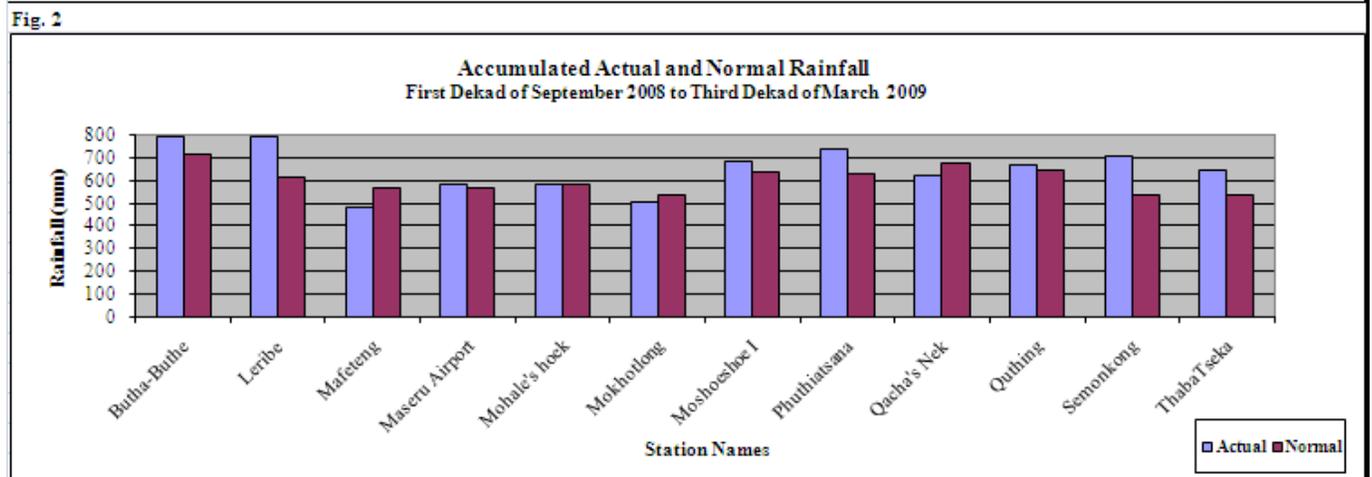
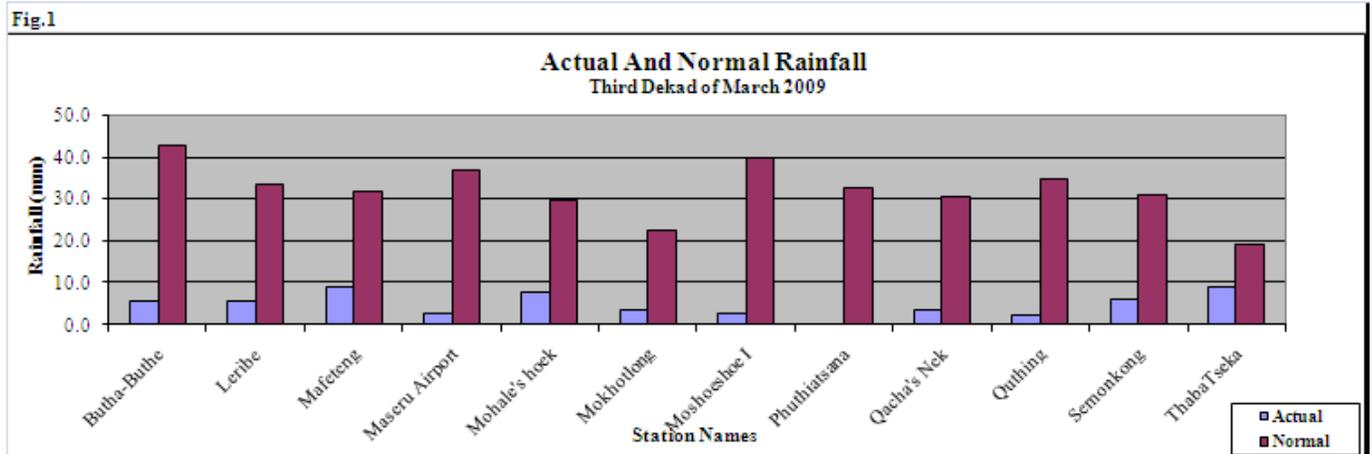


Fig. 3 Rainfall Anomaly (%) for the period September Dekad 1, 2008 to March Dekad 3, 2009

