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Agro-Met Monthly Update:

March 2010

Date of issue: April 2010

Highlights

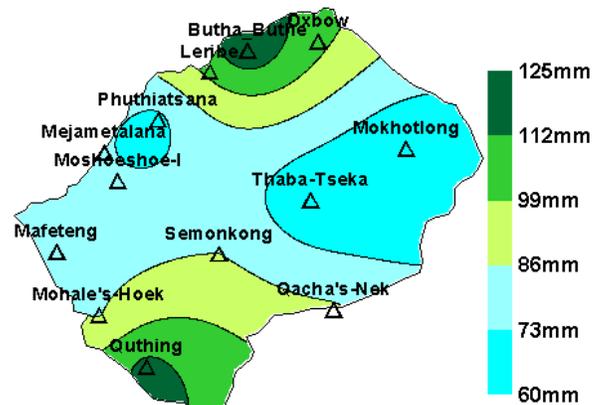
1. Normal to above normal rainfall in the northern and southern parts of the country recorded
2. Normal to above normal mean temperatures experienced during the month

Rainfall

Monthly Actual Rainfall

March 2010 experienced most of its rainfall on its last dekad. Monthly rainfall was above normal in most places, especially the northern and southern parts of the country. Only a few places recorded normal monthly rainfall (see Map 1).

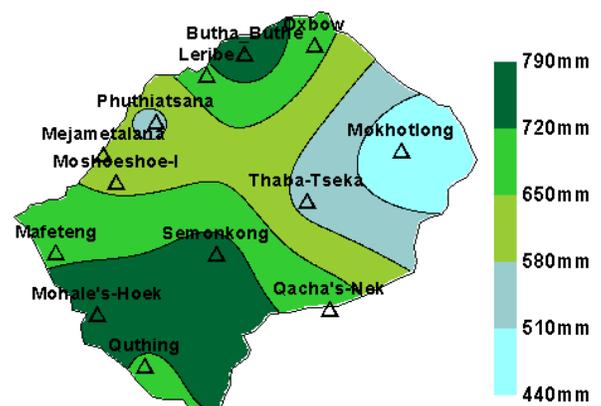
Rain days ranged from six in Phuthiatsana to twelve in Mokhotlong.



Map 1: March 2010 Actual Rainfall

Cumulative Rainfall since May 2009

Cumulative rainfall for the period September 2009 – March 2010 was normal in most places and above normal in very few places like Maseru, Mohale's Hoek and Semonkong. Highest amounts of cumulative rainfall were recorded in the northern and southern parts of the country, while the lowest amounts of rainfall are in the eastern parts of the country (see Map 2).



Map 2: September '09 - March '10 Cumulative Rainfall

Temperatures

Monthly mean temperatures ranged from through normal to above normal over the country. The highest daily maximum temperature of the month was 31.6°C that was recorded on the 1st at

Maseru and the lowest recorded on the 28th was -0.8°C at Semonkong.

Crop Stage and Conditions

Crops have reached maturity at many places, only a few places have crops that might be set back by winter frost. Where wheat has been harvested, winter tilling was activated by relatively good soil moisture accumulated from the rainfall. Some

farmers have taken the advantage of this condition.
