

LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES (LEKALA LA TSA BOLEPI)



Ten-Day Agrometeorological Bulletin

1 – 10 November 2007



Issue No.4/2007-08

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

Contents

Weather Summary
Page 1

Rainfall Situation
Page 1

Temperature
Page 1

Crop Stage and Condition
Page 1

Dekadal Outlook
Page 2

Rainfall and Temperature
Summaries
Page 3

Glossary
Page 4

Highlights

- ❑ Reduced rainfall received.
- ❑ Decrease in mean temperatures experienced in most places.
- ❑ Land cultivation still in progress.

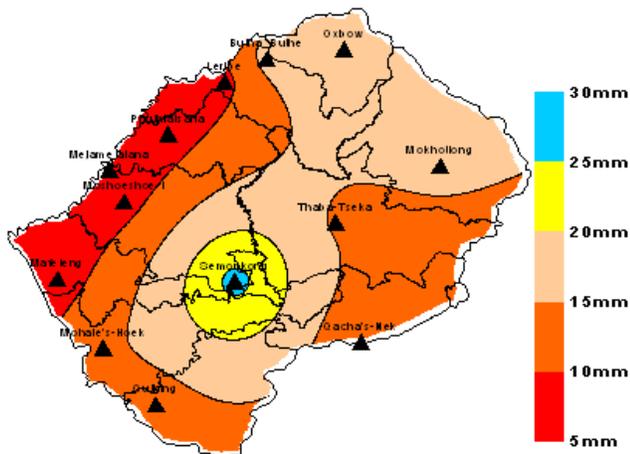
Lesotho Meteorological Services
Agrometeorological Section
P.O. Box 14515
Maseru 100, Lesotho

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

WEATHER SUMMARY

The last dekad was generally dry with isolated thundershowers. Dry air was in circulation over the interior of the subcontinent with the interior surface trough weak and confined to the north. Few weak cold fronts occasionally passed south of the country and brought cooler to cold conditions.

RAINFALL SITUATION



Map 1: November 2007, 1st Dekad Rainfall

There was a suppressed rainfall activity during the first dekad of November 2007. There was below normal rainfall countrywide during dekad under review. Semonkong is the only area that had normal dekad rainfall. This was the first dekad that the country as a whole has registered below normal dekad rainfall since the last dekad of September. Map 1, Table 1 and Fig. 1 shows dekad as well as normal amounts of rainfall and its temporal distribution.

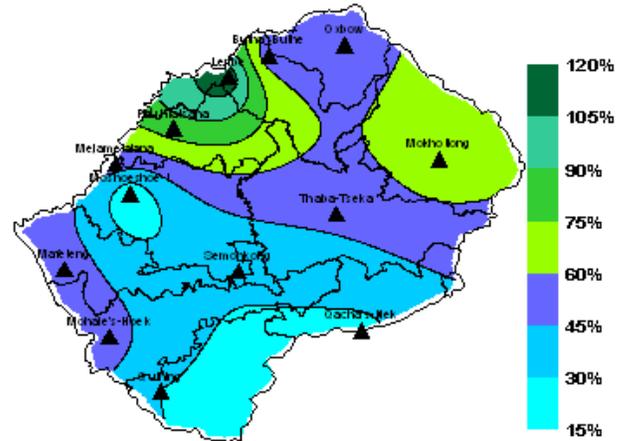
The highest dekad rainfall was 26.9mm (Semonkong) while the lowest dekad rainfall was 6.2mm (Maseru Airport). The temporal distribution of rainfall varied from one day to six days (see Table 1).

Cumulative Percentage Rainfall Departure From Normal

Although most parts of the country received below normal dekad rainfall during the dekad under review, cumulative rainfall since the first

dekad of September is still above normal in most parts of the country, and only normal at Moshoeshe 1.

Most of the regions in the southern part of the country except for Mafeteng and Moshoeshe 1 have 45% or less of a surplus in cumulative rainfall from September to the first dekad of November (Map 2 & Table 1).



Map 2: Rainfall % Dep. from Normal (Sept - Nov 1st Dek, 2007)

TEMPERATURE

Dekadal mean temperatures were below normal in most parts of the country during the dekad under review. However, Mokhotlong was the only exception with above normal dekad mean temperature.

The highest daily maximum temperature of the dekad was recorded at Mafeteng (28.0°C) on the 3rd while the lowest minimum daily temperature of the dekad was observed at Semonkong (2.2°C) on the 10th (see Table 1).

CROP STAGE AND CONDITIONS

The reduction in rainfall activities allowed farmers who had not cultivated to do so. Also because some fields were water logged because of heavy rains, the dry spell helped in recession in water. Even though some farmers had sowed in October, sowing is still active in most parts of the country. Very few summer crops are believed to be at germinating stage.

Most of the winter wheat is has recovered from earlier drought. It is generally at flowering to

early dough stage. Its conditions range from moderate to good.

DEKADAL OUTLOOK

11 – 20 November 2007

Below normal dekadal rainfall is expected in this coming ten days. However, few light

thundershowers can be anticipated during the last half of the dekad at some places. Strong winds are also anticipated.

Table 1

Rainfall and Temperature Summaries												
		Rainfall (mm)						Temperature (°C)				
		01 - 10 Nov 2007			Total From Sept 07 to 1st Dek Nov 07			01 - 10 Nov 2007				
STATION	ALT.	Actual	Normal	Rain	Cumulative		%Dept. from	Minimum	Maximum	Dekadal	Dekadal	
NAME	(M)	R/Fall	R/Fall	Days	Actual	Normal	Normal	Lowest(Day)	Highest (Day)	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Butha-Buthe	1770	16.6	38.5	5	217.6	148.3	47	5.5 (10)	26.5 (2)	16.7	17.5	-0.8
Leribe	1740	8.4	28.9	6	274.0	126.0	117	8.4 (8)	27.0 (4)	17.0	17.8	-0.8
Mafeteng	1610	7.5	23.2	1	171.3	110.6	55	6.0 (8, 9)	28.0 (3)	16.5	17.5	-1.0
Maseru Airport	1530	6.2	26.4	3	185.5	120.4	54	8.1 (8)	27.7 (3)	17.7	18.8	-1.1
Mohale's Hoek	1800	14.2	24.5	2	182.8	119.5	53	6.5 (10)	27.0 (3)	16.8	18.2	-1.4
Mokhotlong	2200	15.9	27.5	4	201.1	118.8	69	6.1 (2)	27.2 (5)	16.1	14.9	1.2
Moshoeshe I	1628	8.0	29.2	4	159.2	135.0	18	7.3 (8)	27.0 (4)	16.7	18.3	-1.6
Phuthiatsana	1750	7.6	33.4	1	258.1	141.8	82	8.9 (8)	26.3 (3)	17.2	18.5	-1.3
Qacha's Nek	1970	10.6	29.9	2	171.3	135.8	26	7.6 (6)	26.2 (4)	15.6	15.8	-0.2
Quthing	1740	12.3	32.6	3	186.0	143.4	30	8.4 (7)	27.4 (3)	16.9	17.8	-0.9
Semonkong	2458	26.9	24.6	4	176.0	132.5	33	2.2 (10)	22.2 (3)	11.7	13.0	-1.3
ThabaTseka	2160	14.4	21.5	5	181.9	121.8	49	6.6 (2)	24.3 (3)	14.1	14.5	-0.4

Fig.1

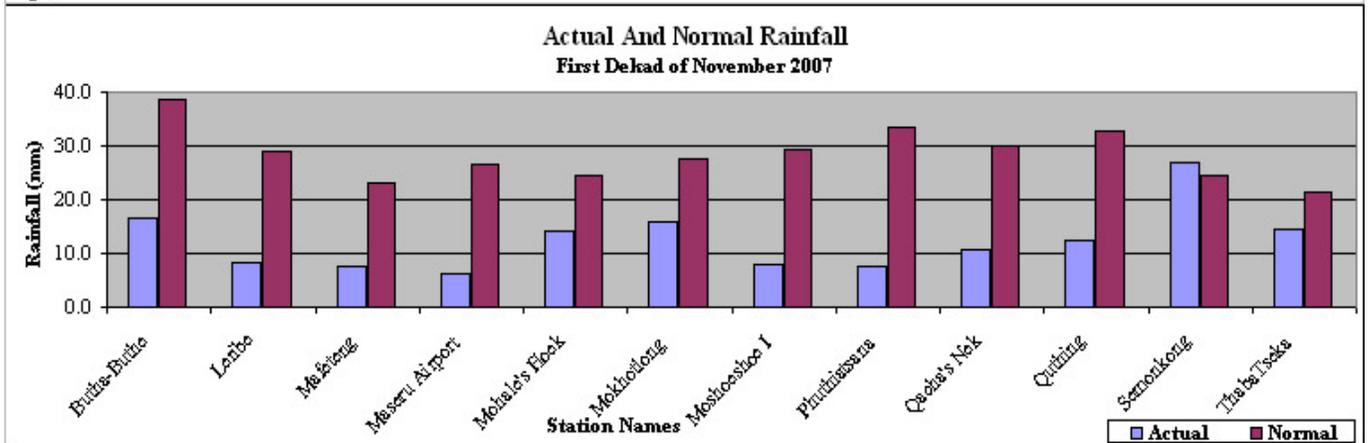
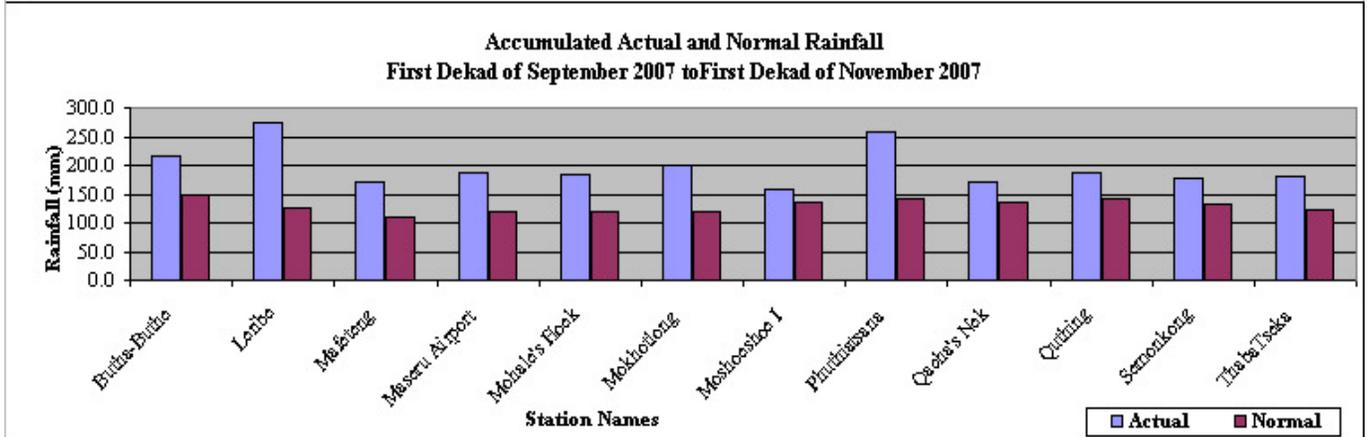


Fig.2



Glossary

Dekad : Ten day period

Normal: Average figure over a specific time period.

% Rainfall Departure from Normal: $(\text{Actual Rainfall} - \text{Normal Rainfall}) / \text{Normal Rainfall} \times 100$

NDVI: Normalized Difference Vegetation Index – simply implies how good or bad the vegetation is for the specific period.

This Bulletin is issued during the Summer Cropping Season (October – April).

And it is

Produced by the

Lesotho Meteorological Services as a contribution to the

National Early Warning Unit for Food Security.

The Unit is coordinated by the Disaster Management Authority in the

Prime Minister's Office.

Comments and Contributions would be highly appreciated.