

LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES (LEKALA LA TSA BOLEPI)



Ten-Day Agrometeorological Bulletin

1 – 10 November 2009



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

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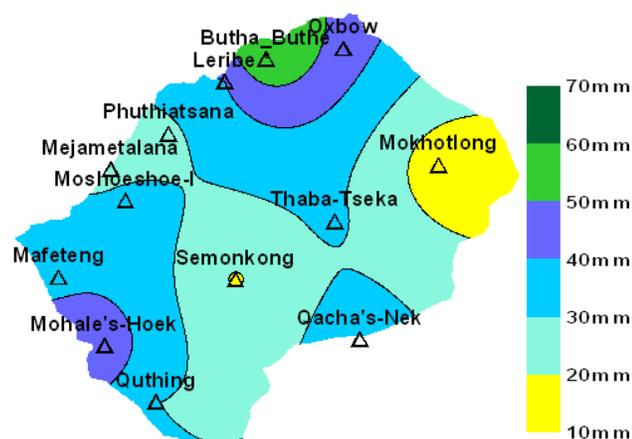
Highlights

- ❑ Good rains received in most parts of the country.
- ❑ Cool to warm temperatures experienced.
- ❑ Land cultivation in progress.

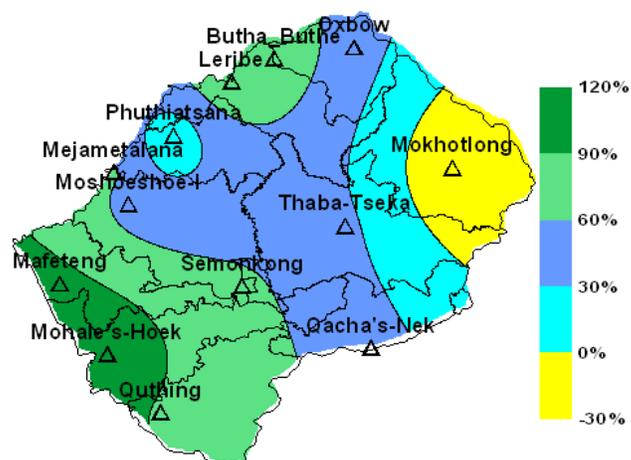
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RAINFALL SITUATION



Map 1: November 2009 First Dekad Rainfall



Map 2: Cumulative Rainfall % Dep from Normal (Sept 1 - Nov 1, 2009)

The first dekad of November 2009 recorded below normal rainfall at Mokhotlong and Semonkong, normal rainfall at Quthing, Qacha's Nek and Maseru; and dekadal rainfall was above normal at remaining areas. Lowest dekadal rainfall was 12.9mm at Mokhotlong while highest dekadal rainfall was 60.5mm at Butha-Buthe (see Map 1).

Cumulative Percentage Rainfall Departure From Normal

Cumulative rainfall since the first dekad of September is above normal at most places. It is normal at Phuthiatsana and below at Mokhotlong (see Map 2). It is worth noting that cumulative rainfall sharply increased in October due to high rainfall incidences, while it was very dry in September.

TEMPERATURES

Due to cloudiness and moist surfaces, dekadal mean temperatures were largely below normal. Cool to warm temperatures with sometimes large daily diurnal variations prevailed during the period under discussion.

CROP STAGE AND CONDITIONS

Moisture content of the soil has increased because of the recent rain that the country has experienced. Farmers are using the accumulated moisture to cultivate land for summer cropping. Some lands were waterlogged by high rainfall incidences during this dekad and October. Land preparation and sowing are always done simultaneously.

DEKADAL OUTLOOK

11 – 20 November 2009

The next dekad is expected to be generally dry. However, rain and thundershowers can be expected at most places towards the end of the forecasted period. Temperatures will remain generally warm to hot.

Fig. 1

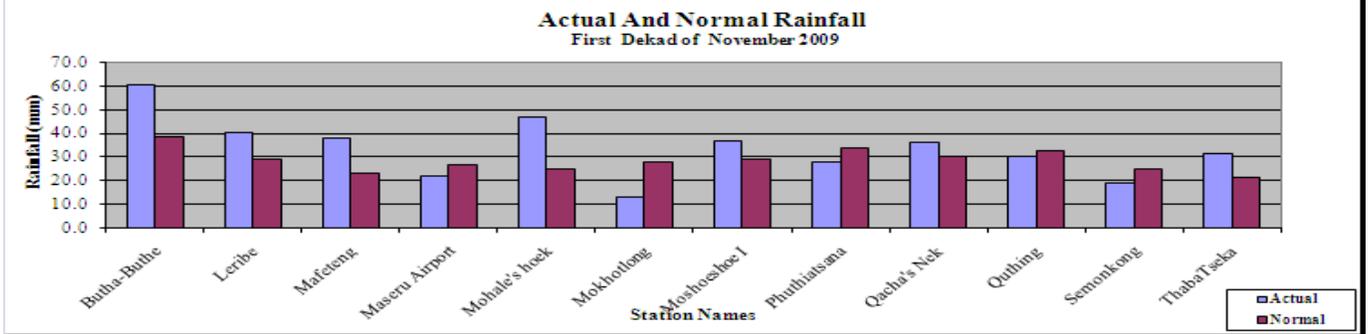


Fig. 2

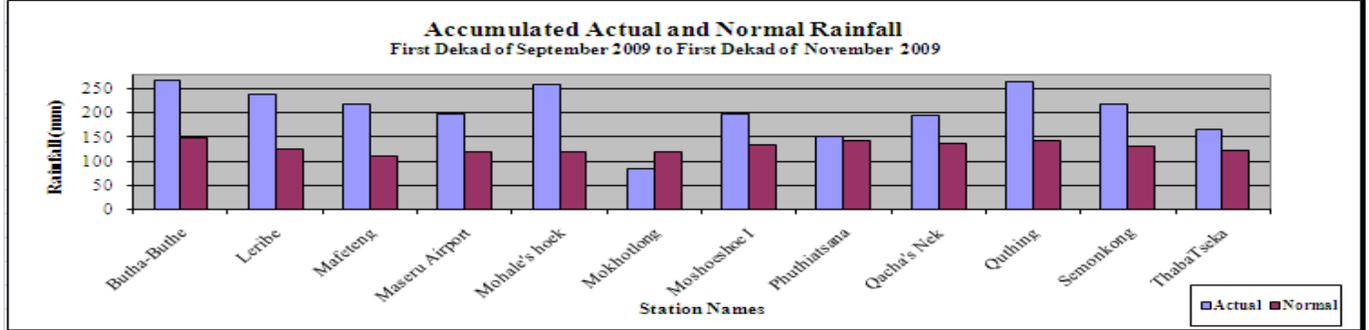
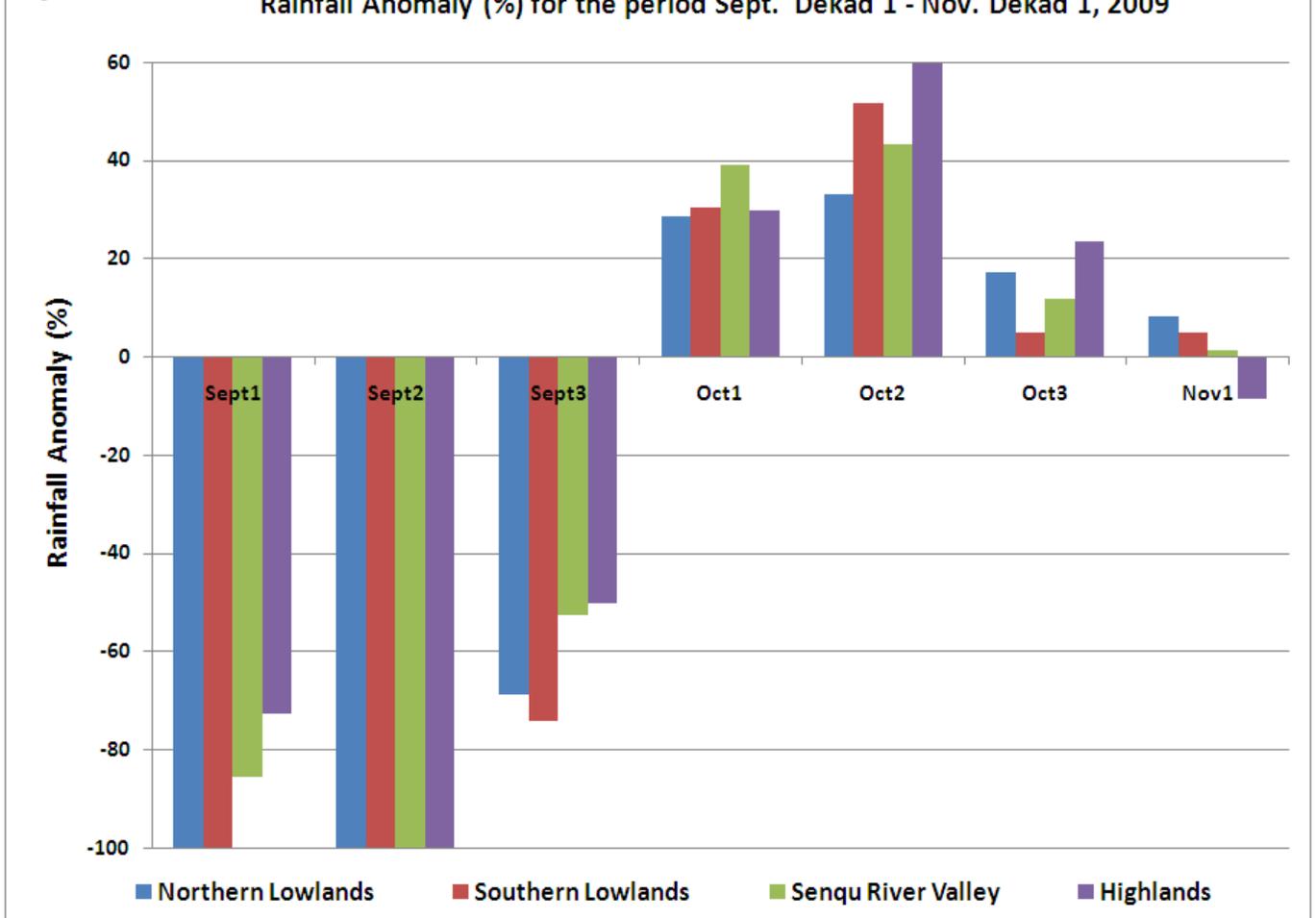


Fig. 3



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

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Comments and Contributions would be highly appreciated.