



LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES
(LEKALA LA TSA BOLEPI)



Agrometeorological Update

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Highlights

- Significant rainfall over most parts of the country
- Normal average temperatures experienced
- Improved pasturelands
- Ploughing and planting has begun across the country
- Maize at third leaf in the mountains

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MOISTURE AND HEAT STATUS

RAINFALL SITUATION

Good rains from the last dekad continued into the current dekad country wide where most stations recorded above normal rainfall. The received rainfall was also higher than the previous dekad (Figure 1)

National Rainfall Analysis

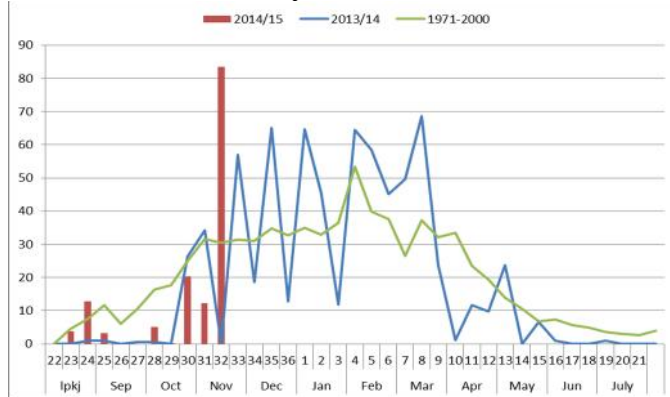
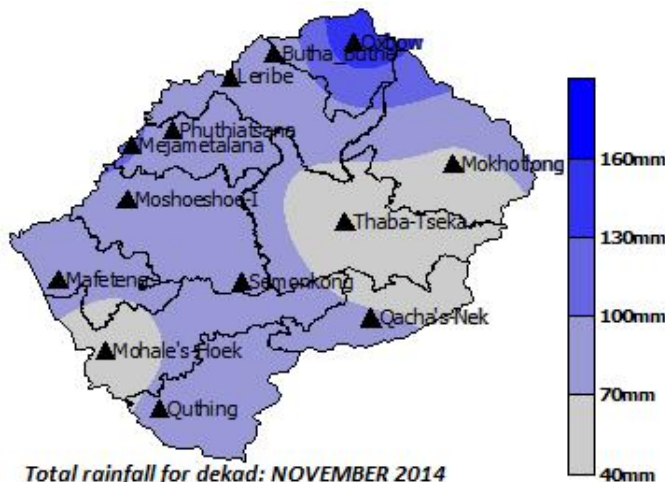


Figure 1: Seasonal rainfall distribution as of 1st dekad November 2014

Oxbow recorded the highest 10-day rainfall of 155mm. Other areas in the mountains (Thab-Tseka, Mokhotlong, Semonkong and Qacha's Nek) including M.hoek received lowest rainfall amounts ranging from 40mm-70mm. The remaining parts of the country recorded 70mm-100mm. (see Map 1. Below)



Map 1: Rainfall distribution for 01 - 10 November 2014

On average there were 6 days with rain except for Mohale's Hoek with only 3 days. However Thaba-Tseka had most rainy days with 9. (Figure 2).

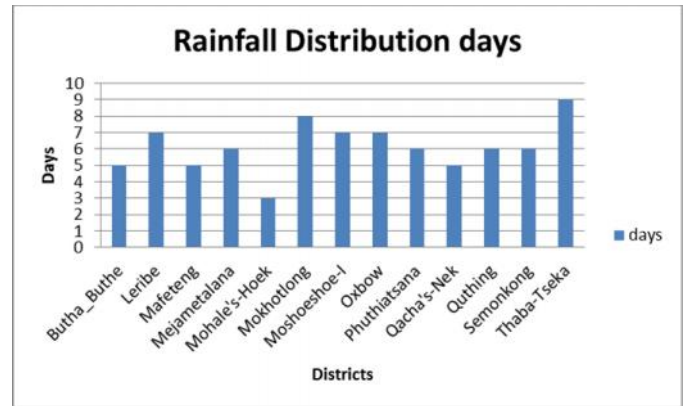


Figure 2: Rainy days during the 01 - 10 November 2014

TEMPERATURES

Temperatures remained normal over the country except for a slight decrease at Leribe. (See Table 1)

Table 1: Temperatures (°C) for Dekad November 2014

| STATION | 1st Dekad November | Average | Departure |
|---------------|--------------------|---------|-----------|
| Buthe_Buthe | 17.0 | 17.5 | 0.5 |
| Leribe | 17.3 | 17.8 | -1 |
| Mafeteng | 17.6 | 17.5 | 0.6 |
| Mejametalana | 18.2 | 18.8 | 0.5 |
| Mohale's-Hoek | 18.5 | 18.2 | 0.6 |
| Mokhotlong | 14.6 | 14.9 | 0.6 |
| Moshoeshoe-I | 17.7 | 18.3 | 0.5 |
| Oxbow | 10.1 | 10 | 0.9 |
| Qacha's-Nek | 17.1 | 15.8 | 0.8 |
| Quthing | 17.7 | 17.8 | 0.6 |
| Semonkong | 13.1 | 13 | 0.7 |
| Thaba-Tseka | 14.6 | 14.5 | 0.7 |

CROP STATUS

CROP STAGE AND CONDITIONS

Mountains

Maize Crop Stage and Condition

Planting in the mountains begun once the first rains occurred. Most farmers planted maize which is at third leaf stage.

Current Farming Activity

Mountains

There is a continuation of ploughing and planting on the remaining fields.

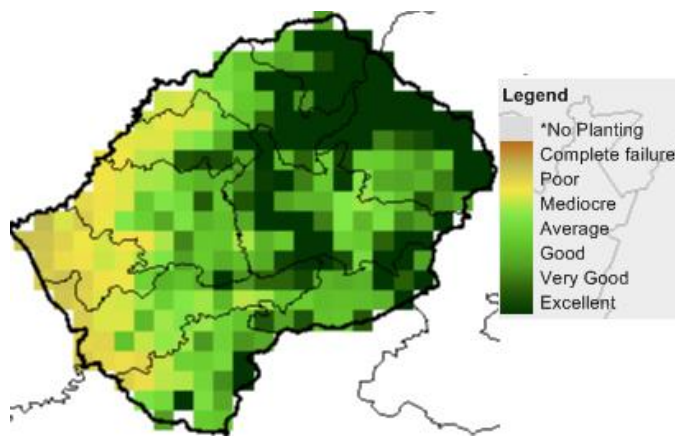
Lowlands, Foothills and Sengu River Valley

Ploughing and planting activities have commenced at most areas.

RANGELANDS AND LIVESTOCK

RANGELAND CONDITIONS

Fields report indicate that there is a slight improvement of the rangelands across the country. (See Map. 2)



Map.2

LIVESTOCK CONDITION

No report.



Maize at third leaf stages in Quthing, Thaba-Tseka and Mokhotlong Districts. Planting began in August.



Maize planting has started at other areas



Fields Ploughing in most parts of the country

OUTLOOK FOR 18 - 28 NOVEMBER 2014

Rainfall

Good rains are anticipated with normal to above normal rain expected.

Temperature

Normal to below normal temperatures expected

Soil Moisture

Increased soil moisture anticipated

CONTRIBUTORS, PARTNERS AND SOURCES OF INFORMATION

This bulletin is issued in support of the efforts by the Integrated National Early Warning System (INEWS)'s Agriculture and Food Security Sector Early Warning System who role is to provide Lesotho's current agronomic and meteorological developments to users, stakeholders, government authorities and international organizations during the farming season.

The Agriculture and Food Security Early Warning System is currently made-up of Prime Minister's Office (DMA and FNCO), Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (Crop and Livestock Services), Ministry of Energy, Meteorology and Water Affairs (LMS), Ministry of Trade, Industry, Cooperative and Marketing, Ministry of Planning (BoS), FAO, WFP and some NGOs.