

LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES (LEKALA LA TSA BOLEPI)



Ten-Day Agrometeorological Bulletin

11 – 20 November 2007



Issue No.5/2007-08

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

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Highlights

- ❑ Low rainfall received.
- ❑ Increase in mean temperatures experienced in most places.
- ❑ Land cultivation still in progress.
- ❑ Adequate rains forecasted.

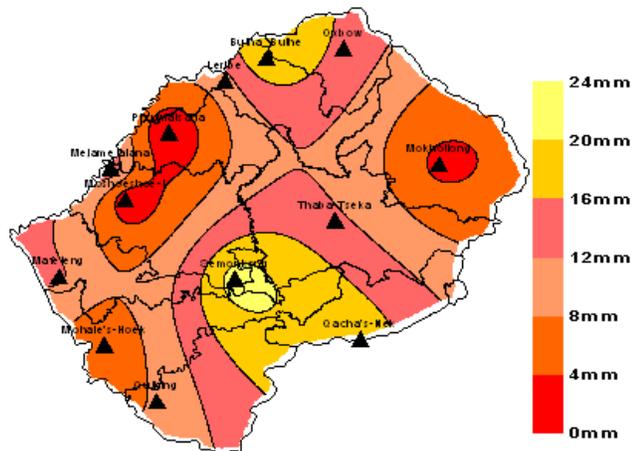
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WEATHER SUMMARY

The surface interior trough remained relatively shallow resulting in little moisture influx from the tropics into the subcontinent with dry air circulating most of the period. As a result, light isolated rain and thundershowers were observed at most places.

RAINFALL SITUATION



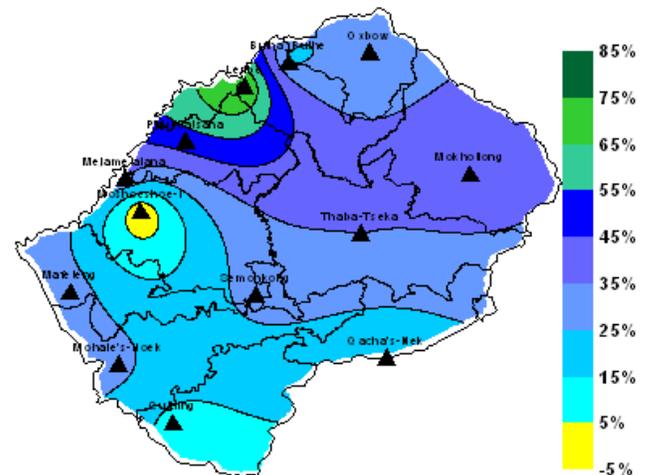
Map 1: November 2007, 2nd Dekad Rainfall

Dry weather conditions that prevailed in the first dekad of November 2007 continued unabated into the second dekad. Dekadal rainfall was poor and below normal countrywide except for Semonkong, which successively recorded normal dekad rainfall during the last two dekads. The highest dekad rainfall was 22.3mm (Semonkong) while the lowest dekad rainfall was nil at Phuthiatsana (see Map 1, Table 1 & Fig 1). Most number of rain days was four days at Leribe and Butha-Buthe (see Table 1).

Cumulative Rainfall Percentage Departure From Normal Since September 2007.

The two previous successive dekads were dry and thus the rainfall percentage departure from normal since September 2007 is gradually decreasing. Rainfall percentage departures from normal at Moshoeshoe 1 remains at normal but at Quthing and Qacha's Nek the departures have reduced from above normal, to the normal category. These two

The highest rainfall percentage departure from normal is at Leribe (77%). Most of the areas from the west to the south of the country have the lowest rainfall percentage departure from normal (see Map 1, Table 1 & Fig 2).



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

TEMPERATURE

The second dekad of November was relatively warmer than normal. Dekadal mean temperatures were above normal countrywide during the dekad under review. The highest dekadal mean temperature deviation from normal was at Mokhotlong (2.2°C) while the lowest deviation was at Semonkong (0.5°C).

The highest daily maximum temperature of the dekad was recorded at Maseru Airport (31.2°C) on the 14th while the lowest minimum daily temperature of the dekad was observed at Qacha's Nek (0.1°C) on the 11th (see Table 1).

CROP STAGE AND CONDITIONS

Land preparation and sowing continued during the dekad under review. And still these activities are expected to continue for the next few weeks especially in the lowlands.

Most summer crops are at germinating stage. Most of the winter wheat has recovered from earlier drought and its conditions are fare to good. Wheat stages vary from one field to another, but generally stages range from watery ripe kernels to a mealy ripe stage.

DEKADAL OUTLOOK

21 – 30 November 2007

Unlike the previous dekad, the last coming ten days are expected to experience mostly scattered to widespread rain showers and thundershowers. Intense thunderstorms associated with hailstorms

and strong winds are anticipated at times. Temperatures are expected to be generally cooler than in the last dekad.

Table 1

Rainfall and Temperature Summaries												
		Rainfall (mm)						Temperature (°C)				
		11 - 20 NOV 2007			Total From Sept07 to 2nd Dek Nov 07			11 - 20 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	20.3	45.1	4	237.9	193.4	23	5.5 (11)	28.8 (14)	18.3	17.6	0.7
Leribe	1740	10.6	34.5	4	284.6	160.5	77	5.7 (11)	29.8 (14)	18.9	17.9	1.0
Mafeteng	1610	12.7	30.8	1	184.0	141.4	30	5.5 (11)	30.5 (14)	19.5	18.1	1.4
Maseru Airport	1530	15.5	28.0	3	201.0	148.4	35	6.7 (11)	31.2 (14)	19.9	18.8	1.1
Mohale's hoek	1600	4.5	26.3	2	187.3	145.8	28	6.0 (11)	31.0 (14)	19.9	18.8	1.1
Mokhotlong	2200	2.7	25.7	1	203.8	144.5	41	4.2 (11)	27.7(15)	16.9	14.7	2.2
Moshoeshoe I	1628	0.8	31.7	2	160.0	166.7	-4	6.5 (11)	30.8 (14)	19.9	18.9	1.0
Phuthiatsana	1750	0.0	30.3	0	258.1	172.1	50	6.9 (12)	30.3 (14)	19.5	18.4	1.1
Qacha's Nek	1970	18.4	26.1	3	189.7	161.9	17	0.1 (11)	29.0 (14)	17.8	15.9	1.9
Quthing	1740	8.5	30.1	2	194.5	173.5	12	8.0 (11)	30.3 (14)	20.1	18.1	2.0
Semonkong	2458	22.3	20.8	2	198.3	153.3	29	0.5 (11)	24.7 (14)	13.9	13.4	0.5
ThabaTseka	2160	12.7	22.2	3	194.6	144	35	4.4 (11)	26.1 (14)	16.3	14.9	1.4

Fig. 1

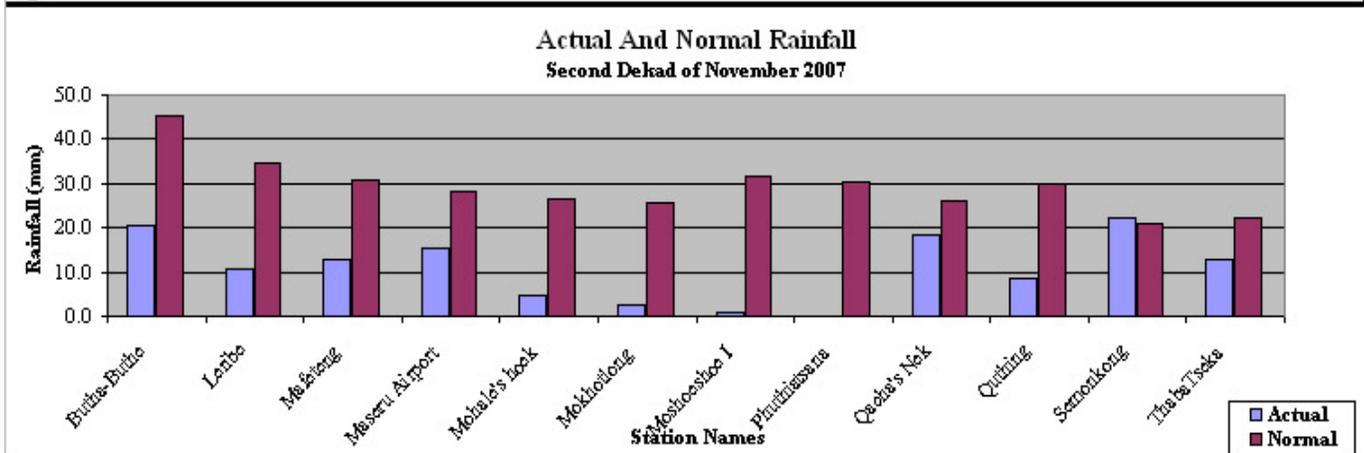
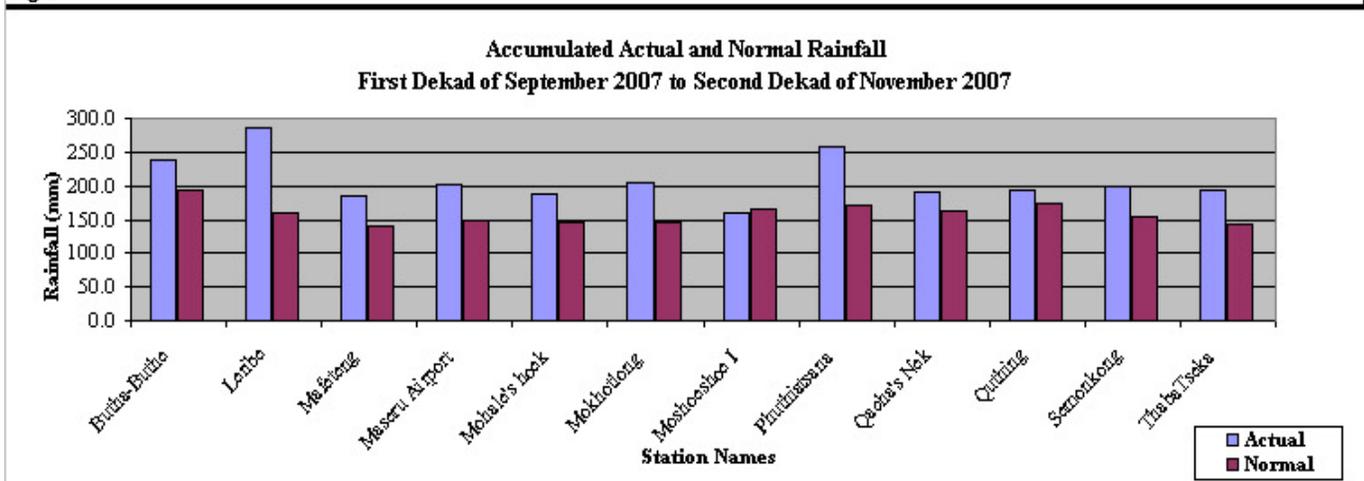


Fig. 2



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

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Comments and Contributions would be highly appreciated.