

LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES (LEKALA LA TSA BOLEPI)



Ten-Day Agrometeorological Bulletin

21 – 30 November 2008



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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 experienced during the dekad at most places.
- ❑ Cumulative rainfall improving.
- ❑ Cool temperatures experienced during the dekad.
- ❑ Planting in progress.

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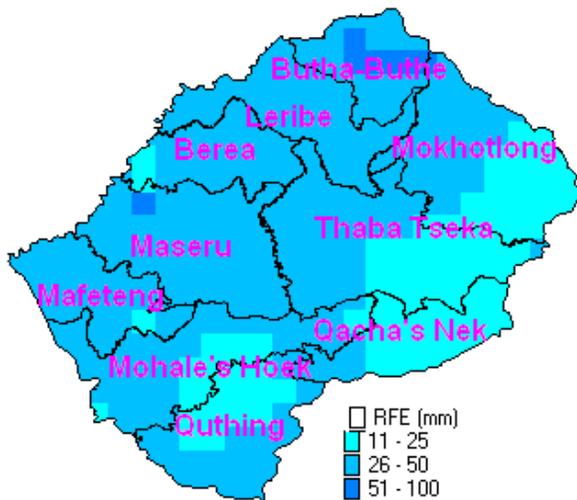
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DEKADAL WEATHER SUMMARY

The interior surface trough remained mostly well developed, which resulted in either partly cloudy conditions due to little moisture influx or isolated to scattered rain showers and thundershowers when moisture was pouring into the interior from the north.

RAINFALL SITUATION

The last dekad of November 2008 was wet for large parts of the country, and relatively dry at Mohale’s Hoek (southwest), Qacha’s Nek (east) and Phuthiatsana (northwest). Rainfall was normal at Thaba-Tseka only. Localized torrential rains were also experienced at various areas at different times during the dekad. Highest dekadal rainfall was 77.1mm (Moshoeshoe 1) and lowest rainfall was 14.7mm (Mohale’s Hoek).

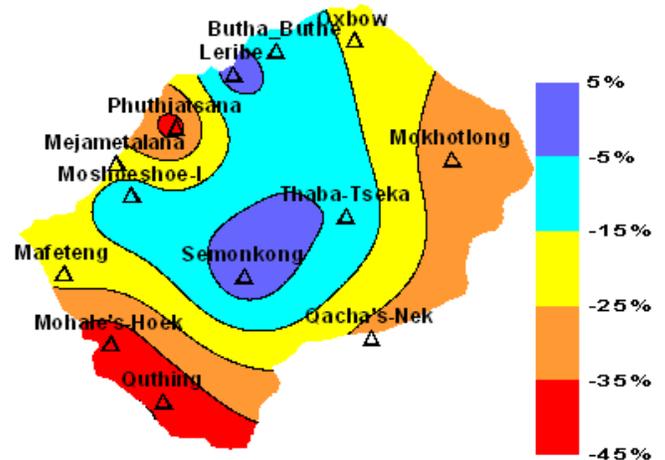


Map 1: Dekadal Rainfall for November Dekad 3, 2008

Temporal distribution of the rain varied from place to place during the period. Number of rain days ranged from two days (Phuthiatsana) to six days (Butha-Buthe & Mokhotlong).

Cumulative Percentage Rainfall Departure from Normal

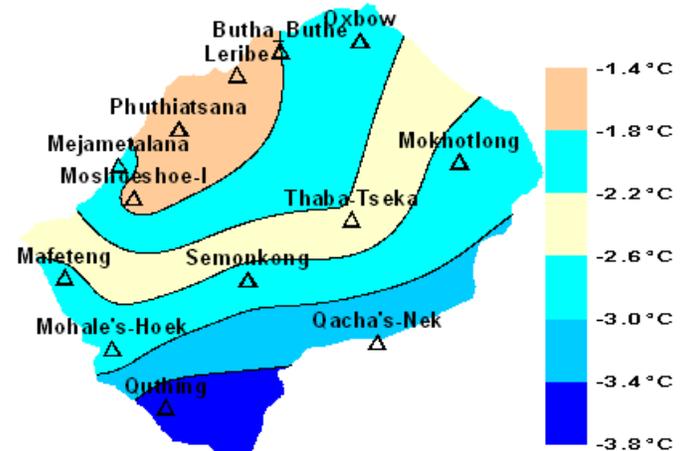
Cumulative rainfall since the first dekad of September 2008 is normal at most places. It is below normal in the regions extending from south-southwest; east-northeast and Phuthiatsana in the northwest (see Map 2). There have been general improvements in cumulative rainfall percentage departure from normal at most places.



Map 2: Cumulative Rainfall % Departure from Normal

TEMPERATURE

Mean temperatures were below normal at most places during the last dekad of November. They were largely cool in the southern tip of the country (see Map 3). Clouding and passage of frontal systems contributed significantly for the decrease in temperatures during the dekad. Highest and lowest mean temperature deviations from normal were -3.7°C (Quthing) and -1.4°C (Phuthiatsana).



Map 3: Dekadal Mean Temperature Deviation from Normal

RAINFALL ANOMALIES

Dekadal rainfall has been generally normal in all the zones. Northern lowlands and the highlands have recorded rainfall better than other zones (see Fig 3). Since the first dekad of November the country has been registering some relatively good rainfall.

CROP STAGE AND CONDITIONS

Planting is in progress at most parts of the country and farmers countrywide are racing against time to have seeds in the soil. And it is important to note that cereal crops that will be planted from now into the month of December are likely to be affected by frost later in the season. Planting took off during the second dekad of November and they are generally at germination and early vegetative stages and conditions are satisfactory.

Wheat grown in winter is at maturing and its conditions range from bad to fair.

Pastures and livestock are generally improving. Water resources have improved at most parts of the country, but queues at rural water sources are still observed at some areas of the southern lowlands.

DEKADAL OUTLOOK

1 – 10 December 2008

It is anticipated that half of the coming period is likely to experience isolated to scattered rain showers and thundershowers becoming scattered at times especially towards the end of the period.

Fig.1

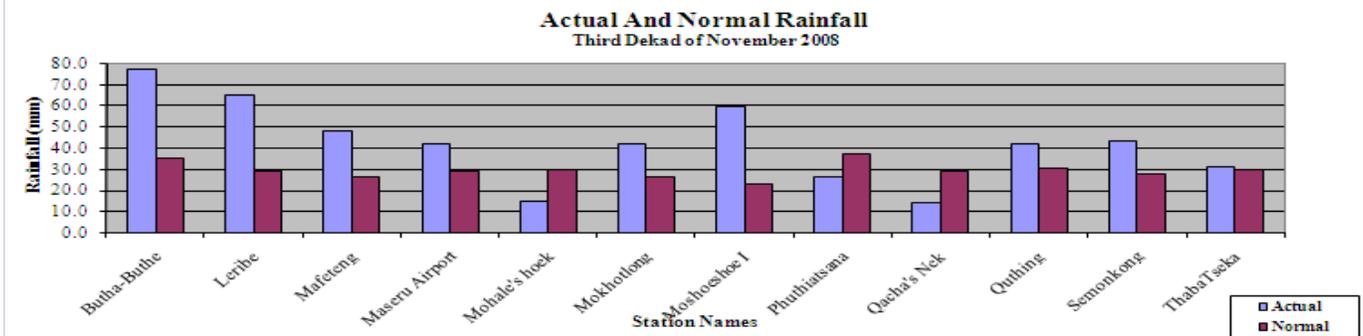


Fig.2

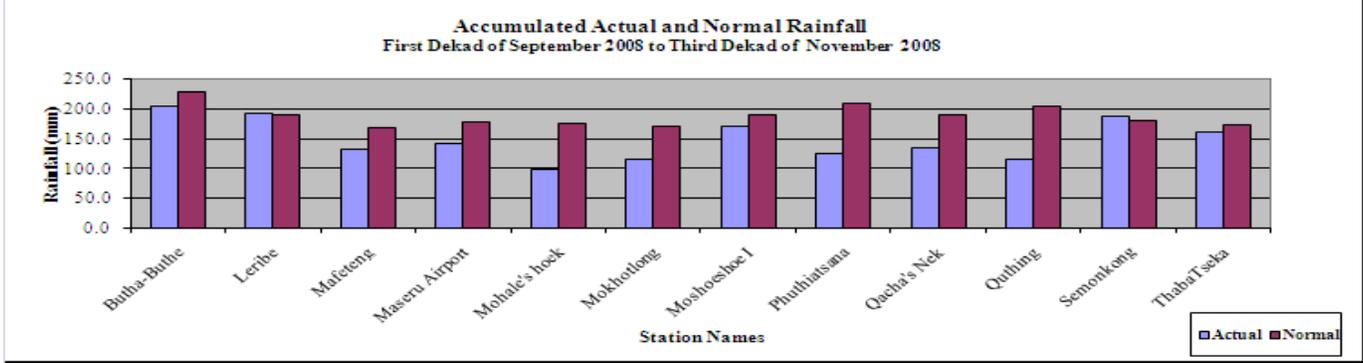
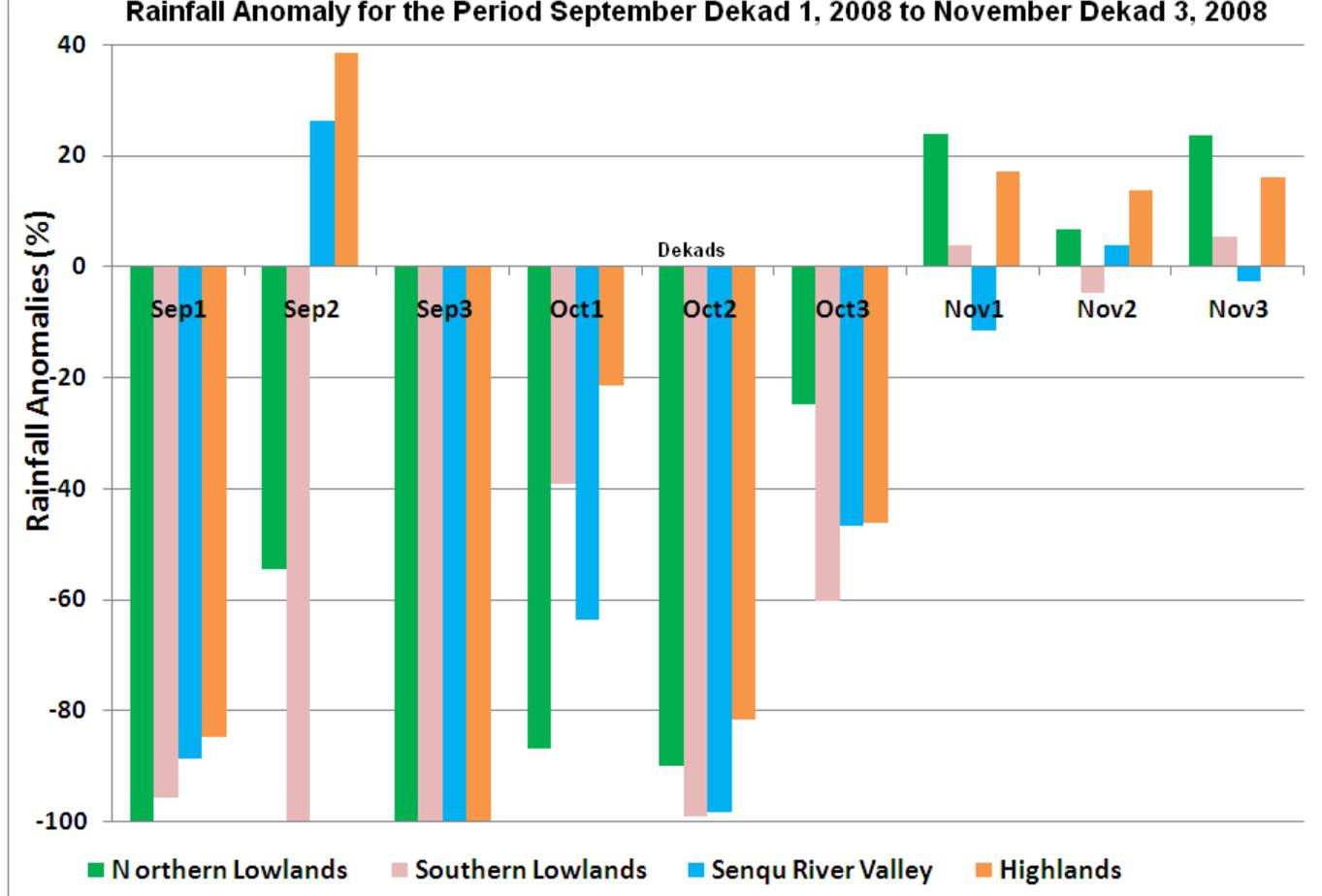


Fig.3



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.

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And it is

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Comments and Contributions would be highly appreciated.