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Agro-Met Monthly Update:

November 2009

Date of issue: December 2009

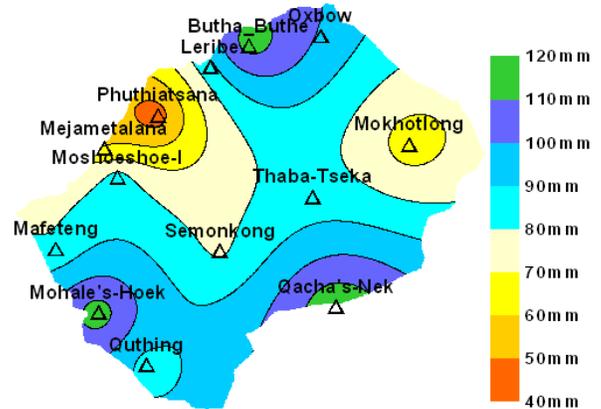
Highlights

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Normal rainfall recorded 2. Normal mean temperatures experienced during the month |
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Rainfall

Monthly Actual Rainfall

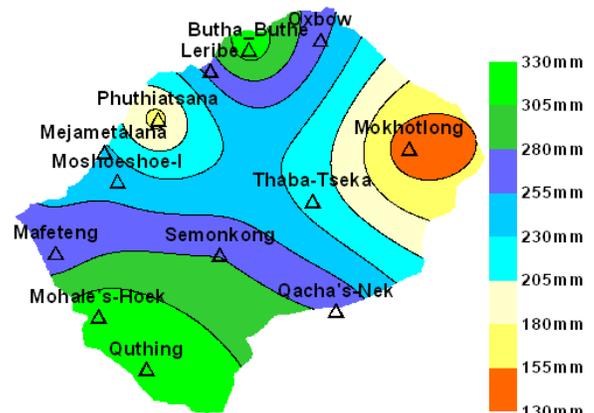
The month of November 2009 recorded normal rainfall at most places. Monthly rainfall was below normal only at Maseru and Phuthiatsana. The highest and lowest monthly rainfall was 119mm at Qacha's Nek and 60.6mm at Maseru respectively (see Map 1).



Map 1: November 2009 Rainfall

Cumulative Rainfall since September 2009

Cumulative rainfall for the period May – August 2009 remains above normal at all places. It is only at Mokhotlong and Phuthiatsana where cumulative rainfall is very close to been below normal. Map 2 reflects that Mokhotlong in the northeast have least cumulative rainfall and the southern parts of the country as well as Butha-Buthe in the north have highest cumulative rainfall.



Map 2: Sept. - Nov Cumulative Rainfall

Temperatures

Monthly mean temperatures ranged from normal to slightly above normal during the month in discussion.

Crop Stage and Conditions

Summer cropping continued into the month of November. Land cultivation and sowing were largely done during the month. Some crops started germinating during the month while weeding also started in few areas.

Seasonal Forecast (October 09 – March 10)

There is a high likelihood of the country to receive below normal rainfall especially in the west and southern parts of the country. The areas in the south west and in the south are expected to receive below normal rainfall for entire rainfall season (October 2009, up to March 2010). Nevertheless, the north and

eastern parts are highly likely to receive above normal to normal rainfall in October to December 2009. It is expected that there will be significant reduction of rainfall in these areas during the period of January to March 2010; where below normal rainfall will be experienced.

Compared to the year 2008/09 rainfall season, the year 2009/10 rainfall season is highly likely to experience less rainfall occurrences and lengthy dry spells which are likely to have negative impacts in agriculture, water and other weather sensitive sectors.