

LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES (LEKALA LA TSA BOLEPI)



Ten-Day Agrometeorological Bulletin

01 – 10 October 2010



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

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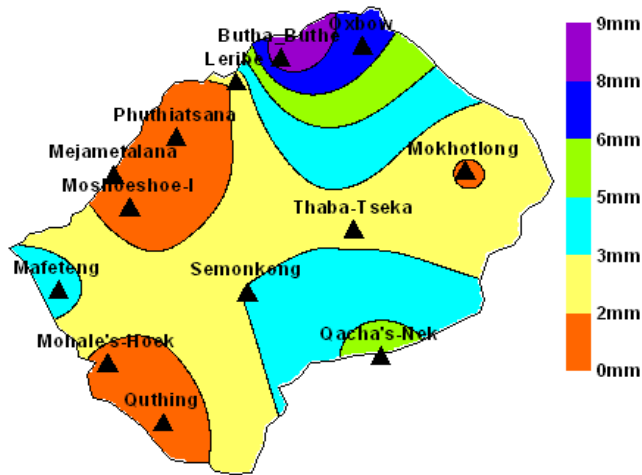
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Highlights

- ❑ drought continuing
- ❑ Above normal mean temperatures experienced in most places.
- ❑ No agricultural activities in progress.

The Director
Lesotho Meteorological Services
Agrometeorological Section
P.O. Box 14515
Maseru 100, Lesotho

TEL: (+266) 22324374
FAX: (+266) 22325057/22350325
E-mail: agrometeorology@lesmet.org.ls
<http://www.lesmet.org.ls>



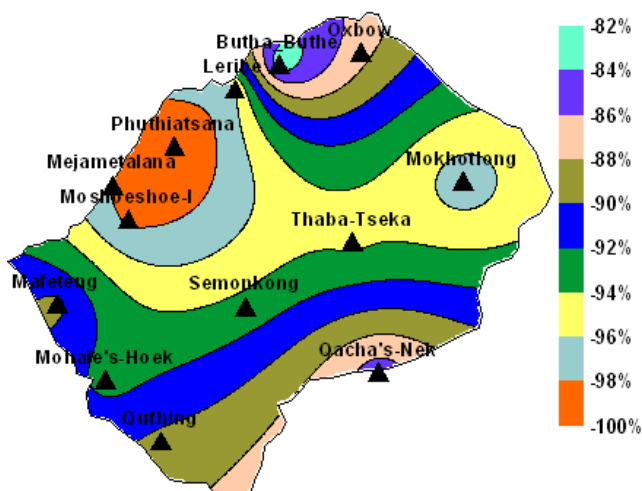
Map 1: October 1st Dekad 2010 Rainfall

First dekad of October 2010 was predominantly dry all over the country. The highest dekadal rainfall recorded was 8.9mm at Butha-Buthe while Phuthiatsana was the lowest with no rainfall (see Map 1).

Rain days during the dekad under review range from zero to three days.

Cumulative Percentage Rainfall Departure from Normal

Cumulative rainfall since the first dekad of September is below normal throughout the country (see Map 2). Low cumulative rainfall leaves the soil moisture very poor and presently the land surface is uncultivable.



Map 2: Cumulative Rainfall % Dep. from Normal

TEMPERATURE

Mean temperature had been largely above normal country wide.

CROP STAGE AND CONDITIONS

Moisture content of the soil is very low and little or no agricultural activities can take place.

Wheat grown in winter is at vegetative stages and conditions range from bad to fair.

Pastures and livestock in general are in bad state. Potable water shortages are reported at some places.

WEATHER SUMMARY (01st – 10th October, 2010)

Mostly partly cloudy conditions were experienced due to little or insignificant tropical moisture advection into the subcontinent induced by the passage of cold fronts over the southern interior. Strong winds and dusty conditions also prevailed. On the contrary, the passage of the cold fronts have resulted in less activities over our area as the subcontinent is mostly invaded by cool dry air brought by the ridging Atlantic Ocean high pressure system from the west after the passage of the cold fronts. The effects of the ridging Anticyclone over our area is to inhibit or delay moisture influx into the subcontinent thereby delaying the onset of the much anticipated rainfall.

DEKADAL OUTLOOK

11th – 22nd October 2010

It is expected to be mostly cloudy and warm to hot with a likelihood of isolated rain showers and thundershowers are anticipated especially over the north-eastern parts of the country. Thus next dekad is expected to be predominantly dry.

Glossary

Dekad:	Ten day period
Normal:	Average figure over specific time period
% Rainfall departure from normal:	$(\text{Actual rainfall} - \text{Normal rainfall}) / \text{Normal rainfall} * 100$