

LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES (LEKALA LA TSA BOLEPI)



Ten-Day Agrometeorological Bulletin

21st – 31st October 2004



Issue No.3/2004-05

Vol.3

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

Contents

Weather Summary

Page 1

Rainfall Situation

Page 1

Temperature

Page 1

Crop Stage and Condition

Page 1

Dekadal Outlook

Page 1

Rainfall and Temperature
Summaries

Page 2

Glossary

Page 3

Highlights

- ❑ Good rainfall registered during this period.
- ❑ Drop in temperatures experienced countrywide.
- ❑ The northern and western parts have not received adequate cumulative rains.
- ❑ Planting in the Lowlands in progress.
- ❑ Crops in the Highlands at vegetative stage
- ❑ The next ten days expected to be dry.

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

TEL: (+266) 22324374/22324425
FAX: (+266) 22325057/22350325
E-mail: agrometeorology@lesmet.org.ls
<http://www.lesmet.org.ls>

WEATHER SUMMARY

The third dekad of October was dominated by a surface trough which resulted in light to moderate widespread thundershowers at the beginning and during the second part of the dekad.

RAINFALL SITUATION

The country received near normal to above normal rains during the dekad under review. Oxbow, Leribe, Qacha’s Nek and Thaba Tseka registered the highest rainfall of 35.2mm, 34.2mm, 33.2mm and 31.3mm respectively. Semonkong had the lowest rainfall of 17.5mm. The rest of the country received rainfall within the range of 20.6mm to 24.3mm (see table 1). Most parts of the country registered between 60% and 99% of their dekad normal rainfall in the first two days of the dekad. Semonkong, Moshoeshoe 1 and Qacha’s Nek are the exceptions which only had 34.3%, 37.2% and 47.6% of their dekad normal rainfall coming in the first two days of the dekad respectively.

Cumulative percentage rainfall departure from Normal

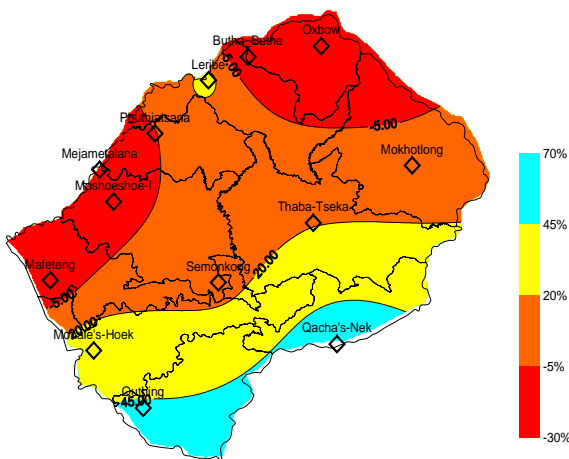


Fig.1: Cumulative rainfall departure from normal since 1st Sept to 31st dekad.Oct.04.

Cumulative rainfall since 1st September to 31st October 04 is still below normal in the Northern and Western parts of the country. However, the remaining parts of the country have normal to

above normal cumulative rainfall. Cumulative rainfall in the southern and southeastern parts is 45% more than the normal cumulative rainfall (see fig.1 and fig.2)

TEMPERATURE

Below normal temperatures were registered. The last half of the dekad was generally cool as the minimum temperatures dropped to below 10°C. On the 30th and the 31st, the temperatures were minimal in most parts of the country. Maseru Airport had the highest temperature deviation of 1.5°C and Mohale’s Hoek had the lowest deviation of -1.0°C. Otherwise the temperature deviations ranged between -0.7°C and 0.7°C over the entire country (see table 1).

CROP STAGE AND CONDITION

Good rains that came at the end of the second dekad of October and the first days of the third dekad of October 04 have helped in the commencement of agricultural activities in the lowlands. Cultivation and sowing of staples (maize and sorghum) in the lowlands is in progress with few crops at an emergence stage. Maize and sorghum in the highlands are at vegetative stage.

DEKADAL OUTLOOK

1st – 10th November 2004

The sub-region is anticipated to be dominated mostly by the high pressure cell during the first dekad of November. As a result, this period is expected to be relatively dry as compared to the previous dekad. However, light thundershowers may be expected towards the end of the forecast period.

Table 1

Rainfall and Temperature Summaries													
		Rainfall (mm)						TEMPERATURE (°C)					
		21-31st Oct 2004			Total From 1st Sept. 04 to 31st Oct. 04					21-31st Oct 2004			
STATION NAME	ALT. (M)	Actual	Rain	Normal	Cum.Act & Nor. Rainfall		%Dept. from Normal	Minimum	Maximum	Dekadal Mean	Dekadal Normal	Deviation	
		R/Fall	Days	R/Fall	Actual	Normal		Lowest(Day)	Highest (Day)				
Butha-Buthe	1770	20.6	3	25.2	67.7	92.9	-27	5.0(31)	27.0(29)	16.7	16.9	-0.2	
Leribe	1740	34.2	3	22.6	108.0	84.7	28	7.2(29,31)	27.0(29)	17.1	17.4	-0.3	
Mafeteng	1610	20.7	2	23.0	61.3	79.5	-23	6.1(27)	27.0(29)	16.5	16.9	-0.4	
Maseru Airport	1530	22.2	3	23.3	75.4	96.8	-22	6.9(30)	27.8(29)	18.4	16.9	1.5	
Mohale's hoek	1600	23.9	3	26.2	137.0	97.5	41	5.4(30)	27.0(26)	16.6	17.6	-1.0	
Mokhotlong	2200	23.0	3	23.7	84.7	82.3	3	2.0(31)	24.9(25)	14.6	13.9	0.7	
Ox-Bow	2600	35.2	3	49.0	138.0	182.6	-24	-2.6(31)	18.5(26)	9.9	9.4	0.5	
Phuthiatsana	1750	24.3	3	26.0	89.3	95.3	-6	7.4(31)	27.6(29)	17.7	17.3	0.4	
Qacha's Nek	1970	33.2	5	28.6	156.0	96.6	61	2.9(30)	24.5(24,29)	14.6	15.3	-0.7	
Semonkong	2458	17.5	3	26.3	106.0	96.2	10	0.0(31)	21.1(24)	11.8	11.4	0.4	
Moshoeshoe I	1628	23.1	3	23.8	100.0	116.0	-14	8.0(28,31)	27.2(25,29)	17.5	N/A	N/A	
Thaba-Tseka	2160	31.3	3	27.0	115.0	96.9	19	2.4(30)	24.1(31)	14.0	14.4	-0.4	

Fig. 2

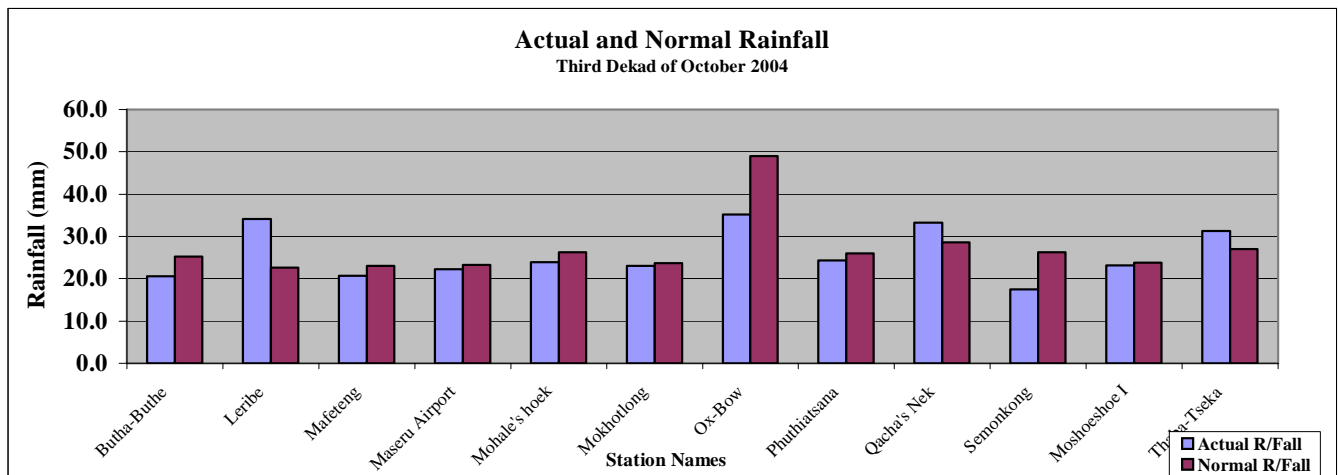
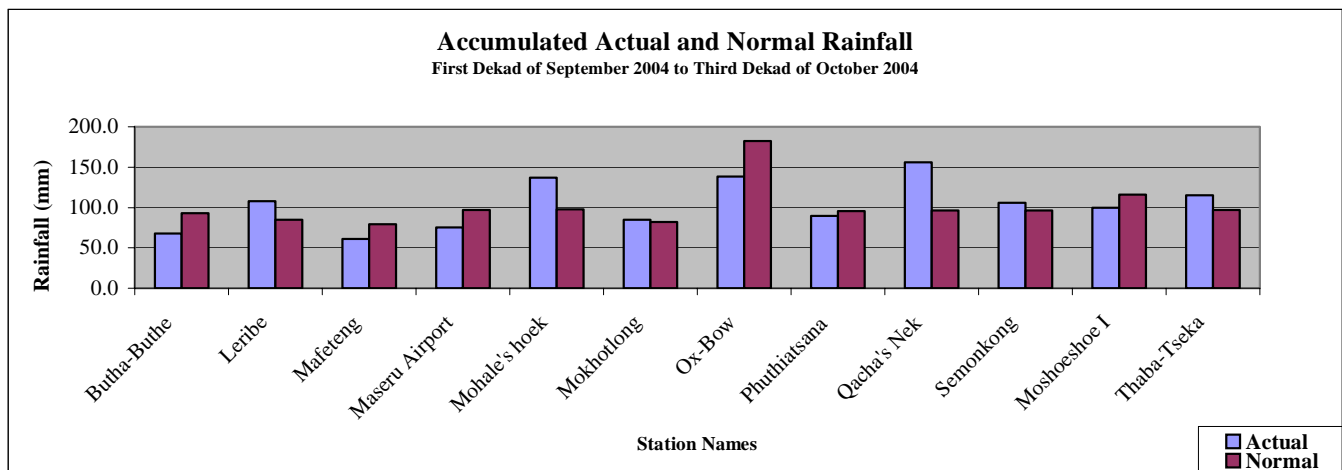


Fig.3



Glossary

Dekad : Ten day period

Normal: Average figure over a specific time period.

% Rainfall Departure from Normal: $(\text{Actual Rainfall} - \text{Normal Rainfall}) / \text{Normal Rainfall} \times 100$

This Bulletin is issued during the Summer Cropping Season (October – April).

And it is

Produced by the

Lesotho Meteorological Services as a contribution to the

National Early Warning Unit for Food Security.

The Unit is coordinated by the Disaster Management Authority in the

Prime Minister's Office.

Comments and Contributions would be highly appreciated.