LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES (LEKALA LA TSA BOLEPI)



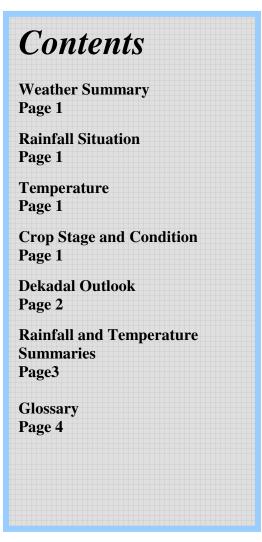
Ten-Day Agrometeorological Bulletin

11 – 20 February 2009



Issue No.14/2008-09

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



Highlights

- **u** Wet conditions prevailed at most places.
- Cumulative rainfall normal to above normal.
- Normal temperatures experienced at most parts.
- **u** Weeding hampered by rains

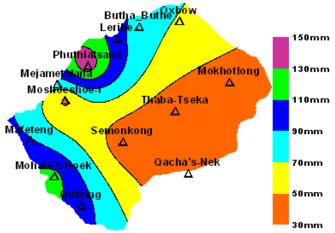
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DEKADAL WEATHER SUMMARY

The period experienced relatively wet weather conditions due to the existence of the interior trough which drew up moist tropical air mass and was further enhanced by the existence of a cold front to the southern tip of the sub-continent. The presence of the above weather system resulted in scattered to widespread rain and thundershowers for much of the dekad.

RAINFALL SITUATION

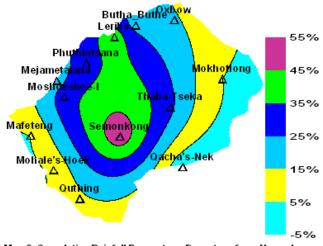
The second dekad of February 2009 received largely normal to above normal dekadal rainfall. Qacha's Nek in the east recorded near normal dekadal rainfall. Widespread rainfall was experienced through out the dekad except on the 16th and 17th. The dekad in review became the third consecutive dekad with good dekadal rainfall. Highest dekadal rainfall was recorded at Phuthiatsana with 146.1mm and Qacha's Nek with 32mm had lowest dekadal rainfall. Soil moisture condition was maintained well by the recorded rains.



Map 1: Dekadal Rainfall for February second dekad 2009

Cumulative Percentage Rainfall Departure from Normal

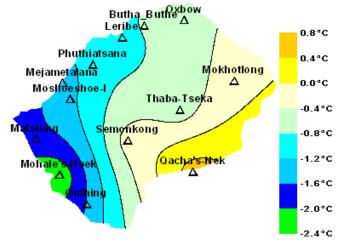
Cumulative rainfall remains normal to above normal in the country. Good rains that the country has received in the last three dekads have improved accumulated rainfall especially in the northern lowlands. Phuthiatsana recovered from the cumulative rainfall deficit of 37% in the second dekad of January 2009 to the current surplus of 28%. Semonkong maintains highest cumulative rainfall percentage departure from normal with a surplus of 52% (see Map 2).



Map 2: Cumulative Rainfall Percentage Departure from Normal

TEMPERATURE

Temperatures were cool but normal during the second dekad of February. The western parts of the country were generally cooler than eastern parts (see Map 3). That may be due to precipitation and clouding which were concentrated in the west.



Map 3: Dekadal Mean Temperature Deviation from Normal

RAINFALL ANOMALIES

Fig 3 below shows how cumulative rainfall has performed at selected stations. Good improvement in rainfall performance was recorded in the last dekad of January and is till continuing. However, it should be noted that enhanced rainfall in the last three dekads was mainly concentrated in the western parts of the country.

CROP STAGE AND CONDITIONS

Crops in the western lowlands continued to experience water-logging at some parts of the country. Water-logging could be harmful to crops in these flowering stages. Crop stages range from vegetative to early flowering stages. Crops are generally in fair to good conditions at most places.

DEKADAL OUTLOOK 21 – 28 February 2009

The coming ten days are expected to be mostly partly cloudy and warm with scattered to widespread rain and thundershowers. Day-time temperatures are expected to remain generally warm during this period.

