

# LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES (LEKALA LA TSA BOLEPI)



## Ten-Day Agrometeorological Bulletin

1<sup>st</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> November 2003



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*...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

Seasonal Outlook

Page 1

Rainfall and Temperature  
Summaries

Page 2

Glossary

Page 3

## Highlights

- ❑ Slight improvement in the rainfall situation observed.
- ❑ Cumulative rainfall still remains below the expected normal.
- ❑ Soil moisture over several places adequate to support cropping.
- ❑ Abnormally high temperatures experienced.
- ❑ Large scale cropping over most parts of the country has started.
- ❑ Winter wheat recovering from retardation.
- ❑ Normal rainfall expected for November to January 2004.

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**Weather Summary**  
1<sup>st</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> November 2003

The first dekad of November was generally relatively moist as compared to the last dekad of October. Rainfall distribution was also good as most parts of the country received light isolated thundershowers especially during the first half. Temperatures were generally mild.

**RAINFALL SITUATION**  
1<sup>st</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> November 2003

Below normal rainfall was experienced in the 1<sup>st</sup> dekad of November 2003. However, some light rainfall was registered countrywide with Mokhotlong and Ox-Bow registering relatively high rainfall of 37.7mm and 40.1mm respectively (See table 1 and fig 1). Maseru, Mohale’s Hoek and Quthing registered the lowest rainfall of 5.0mm, 9.2mm and 8.4mm respectively.

It is however, noticed that accumulated rainfall since September to date still remains below normal with the exception of Semonkong. The rainfall registered, may provide sufficient moisture over several places that may support cropping except in Maseru, Mohale’s Hoek and Quthing.

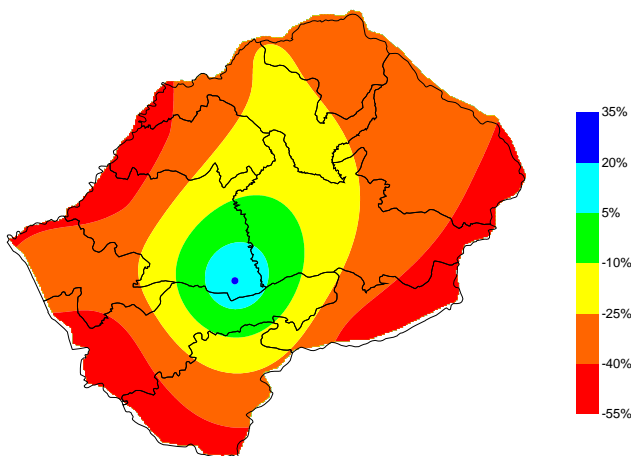


Fig.1: Cumulative rainfall departure from normal since 1<sup>st</sup> Sept to 1<sup>st</sup> dek. Nov 03.

**TEMPERATURE**  
1<sup>st</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> November 2003

In comparison, the dekad experienced above normal temperatures as compared to dekadal normal. This is shown by relatively high positive temperature deviation reached (table 1). These relatively high temperatures could accelerate rapid loss of soil moisture through evaporation.

**CROP STAGE AND CONDITION**  
1<sup>st</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> November 2003

Due to the late rains received, summer cropping is still in progress countrywide. In the highlands, some of the crops planted are at an emergence stage. Winter wheat is recovering from retardation it experienced during the prolonged drought conditions.

**DEKADAL OUTLOOK**  
11<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2003

Light isolated thundershowers are expected to continue this forecast period, especially during the second half of the dekad. However, rainfall distribution is anticipated to be slightly poor as compared to the previous dekad. Temperatures will be generally mild.

**SEASONAL OUTLOOK**  
(November – January 2003)

Rainfall situation is anticipated to improve during this period, where normal rainfall is still expected to occur.

Table 1

		Rainfall and Temperature Summaries										
		Rainfall (mm)				TEMPERATURE (°C)						
		Total From Sept 03 to 1st Dek Nov 03										
STATION	ALT.	Actual	Normal	Rain	%Dept. from		Minimum	Maximum	Dekadal	Dekadal		
NAME	(M)	R/Fall	R/Fall	Days	Actual	Normal	Normal	Lowest (Day)	Highest (Day)	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Butha-Buthe	1770	19.2	30.8	4	96.6	124.6	-23	8.2(6)	30.6 (9)	19.0	17.3	1.7
Mafeteng	1610	18.6	21.6	3	74.0	105.1	-30	6.9(6)	30.0 (9)	18.7	17.2	1.5
Maseru Airport	1530	5.0	24.8	3	48.9	116.6	-58	8.4(6)	32.5 (9)	20.6	17.4	3.2
Mohale's hoek	1600	9.2	21.7	2	54.2	119.6	-55	6.5(6)	32.0 (8)	19.9	18.1	1.8
Mokhotlong	2200	37.7	24.1	5	65.3	103.5	-37	6.0(6, 7)	27.7 (8)	16.3	14.1	2.2
Ox-Bow	2600	40.1	51.4	5	156.7	231.4	-32	.5(6)	22.0 (9)	10.6	9.8	0.8
Phuthiatsana	1750	13.9	27.3	4	72.5	122.6	-41	8.5 (6)	32.1 (9)	20.1	17.6	2.5
Qacha's Nek	1970	21.3	26.9	5	63.2	131.7	-52	5.9 (6)	29.4 (8)	17.3	15.5	1.8
Quthing	1740	8.4	25.4	2	71.1	131.5	-46	9.5 (6)	32.0 (9)	20.0	17.1	2.9
Semonkong	2458	32.8	21.5	5	149.4	122.8	22	N/A	N/A	14.4	12.2	2.2
Moshoeshoe I	1628	16.7	27.5	5	68.1	118.9	-43	8.0 (6)	31.5 (9)	20.0	N/A	N/A
Leribe	1740	24.9	21.6	5	68.7	112.3	-39	8.4 (6)	31.2 (9)	19.3	17.8	1.5

Fig.4

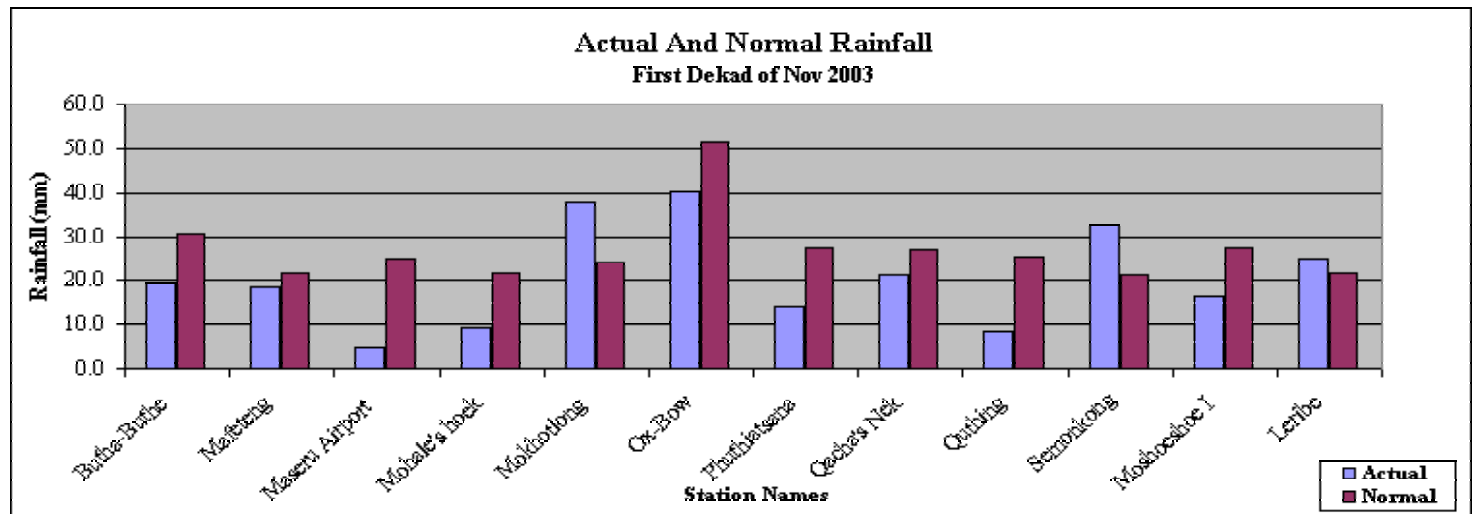
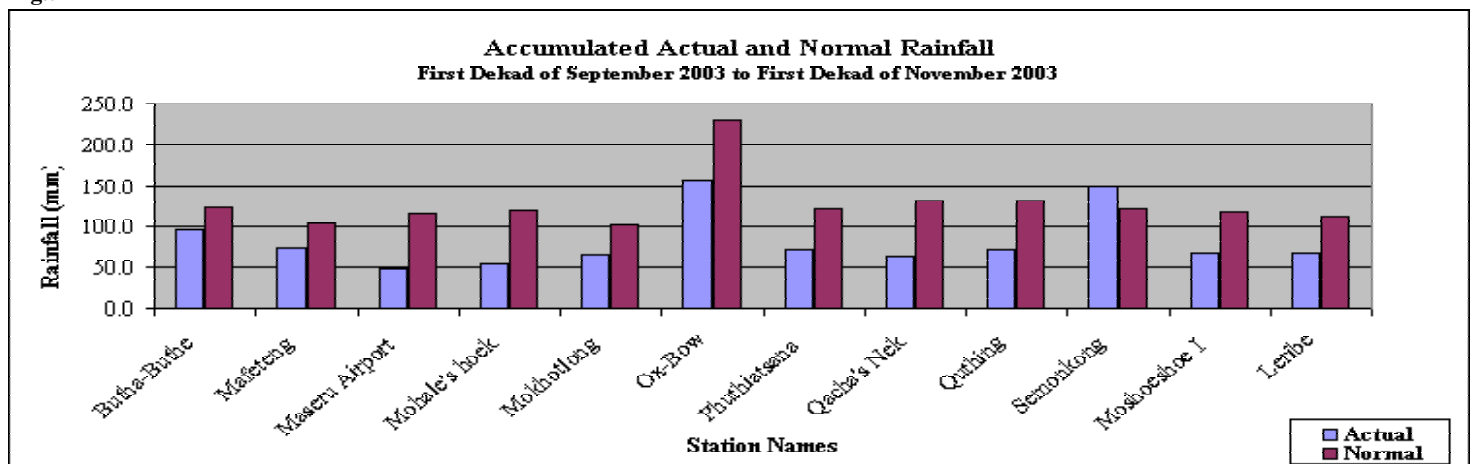


Fig.5



## 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

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Comments and Contributions would be highly appreciated.