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Agro-Met Monthly Update:

August 2009

Date of issue: September 2009

Highlights

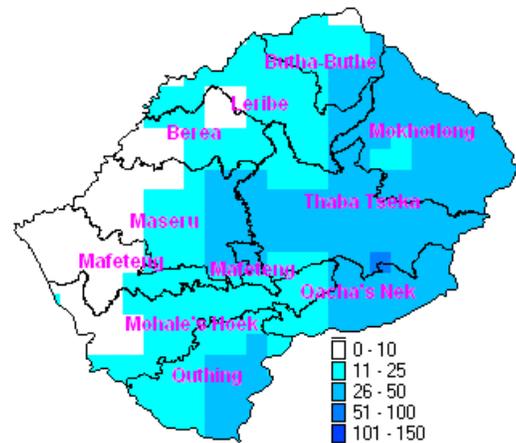
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|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Above normal rainfall in the eastern parts of the country recorded 2. Below normal mean temperatures experienced during the month |
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Rainfall

Monthly Actual Rainfall

August 2009 experienced rainfall on its early days. Monthly rainfall was above normal in the eastern parts of the country. The remaining parts of the country experienced normal to below normal monthly rainfall (see Map 1).

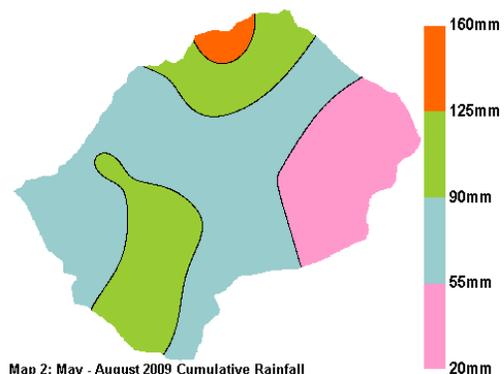
Rain days ranged from one (in Mafeteng) to four (in Semonkong, Qacha's Nek, Thaba-Tseka and Leribe).



Map 1: August 2009 Actual Rainfall

Cumulative Rainfall since May 2009

Cumulative rainfall for the period May – August 2009 was above normal except in Mokhotlong where it was normal. Highest amounts of cumulative rainfall were recorded in the northern parts of the country, while the lowest amounts of rainfall are in the eastern parts of the country (see Map 2).



Map 2: May - August 2009 Cumulative Rainfall

Temperatures

Monthly mean temperatures were below normal countrywide. That was as a result of frequent

frontal systems from the Atlantic ocean, that passed over the country.

Crop Stage and Conditions

Winter cultivation was activated by relatively good soil moisture accumulated from above normal rains this winter. Some farmers have taken the advantage of this condition.

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.

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

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.
