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Agro-Met Monthly Update:

1st Dekad December 2013

Date of issue: December 2013

Highlights

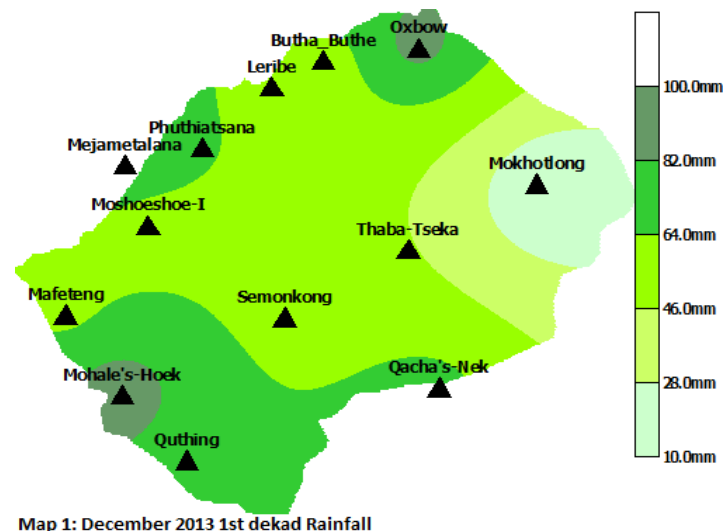
1. Above normal rainfall recorded countrywide
2. Below Normal to Normal Mean temperatures in many places

Rainfall

1st Dekad Rainfall for December 2013

The favorable conditions of rainfall continued from November. Most of the country received above normal rainfall of about 30% increase, the only district that recorded below normal rainfall is Mokhotlong, which received 10mm of rainfall.

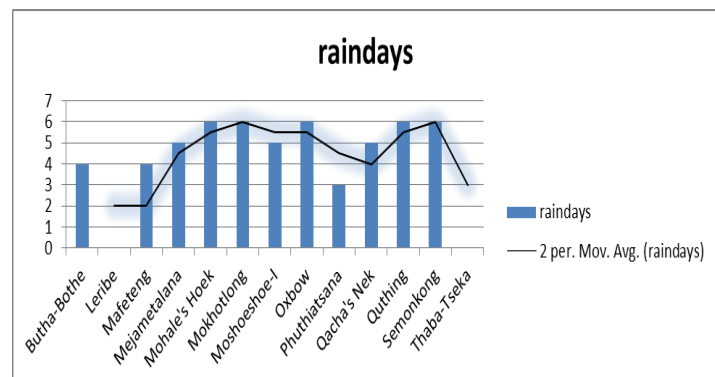
The received rainfall was uniform across the whole country with an average of 60mm. (See Map 2)



Map 1: December 2013 1st dekad Rainfall

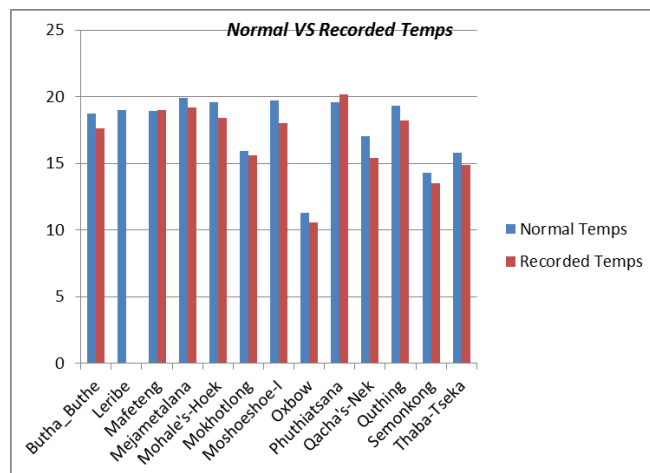
Rainfall Days

The rainfall distribution was uniform throughout the country with an average of 6 rain days. Four districts; Mohale's Hoek, Mokhotlong, Oxbow, Quthing, Semonkong had rainy for 6 days while Mejametalana, Moshoeshe-I and Qacha's Nek has 5 rainy days. Botha-Buthe and Mafeteng had 4 rainy days while Phuthiatsana was the lowest with 3 days. (See Raindays Graph).



Temperatures

Temperatures remained mostly normal, with only a few places experiencing slight below normal temperatures. (See Normal Vs Recorded Temps Gaph)



Crop Stage and Conditions

Cultivation continued into this month after the first rains were received in October, whereas some crops are at the germination to early

vegetation stages for those who planted in the previous month – October 2013.

SEASONAL OUTLOOK FOR OCTOBER 2013 TO MARCH 2014

This outlook covers the major rainfall season from October 2013 to March 2014. The outlook is presented in overlapping three-monthly periods as follows: October-November-December (OND); November-December-January (NDJ); December-January-February (DJF); and January-February-March (JFM).

The period October to March is the main rainfall season over Lesotho. It is responsible for future or success of the agricultural production.

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2013-JANUARY 2014

Leribe, Butha-Buthe, Oxbow, Mokhotlong, Thaba-Tseka and Semonkong - *Increased chances of average to above-average rainfall*

Qacha's Nek, Quthing, Mohales'hoek, Mafeteng, Maseru and Phuthiatsana - *Increased chances of average to above-average rainfall*

DECEMBER 2013-JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2014

Leribe, Butha-Buthe, Oxbow, Mokhotlong, Thaba-Tseka and Semonkong - *Increased chances of average to above-average rainfall*

Qacha's Nek, Quthing, Mohales'hoek, Mafeteng, Maseru and Phuthiatsana - *Increased chances of average to above-average rainfall*

JANUARY-FEBRUARY-MARCH 2014

Leribe, Butha-Buthe, Oxbow, Mokhotlong, Thaba-Tseka and Semonkong - *Increased chances of average to above-average rainfall*

Qacha's Nek, Quthing, Mochales'hoek, Mafeteng,
Maseru and Phuthiatsana - *Increased chances of*

average to above-average rainfall
