

LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES (LEKALA LA TSA BOLEPI)



Ten-Day Agrometeorological Bulletin

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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

Rainfall and Temperature
Summaries
Page 2

Glossary
Page 3

Highlights

- ❑ Above rainfall situation during this period.
- ❑ Planting is still in progress.
- ❑ Scattered rains anticipated.

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WEATHER SUMMARY

The interior surface trough has been active and oscillating over the subcontinent while advecting moist tropical air. Coupled with the interior surface trough was a series of cold fronts associated with a weak medium level trough.

RAINFALL SITUATION

Rainfall during this first dekad of November 2006 was above normal dekad rainfall throughout the country. The rain days were within two (2) days. The rainfall distribution was spatially well distributed. The rainfall amount of 139.8mm was registered at Moshoeshe I as the highest dekad rainfall while 34.8mm was recorded at Mafeteng as the lowest dekad rainfall. This improved rainfall is believed to have promoted agricultural activities throughout the country.

Cumulative percentage rainfall departure from Normal

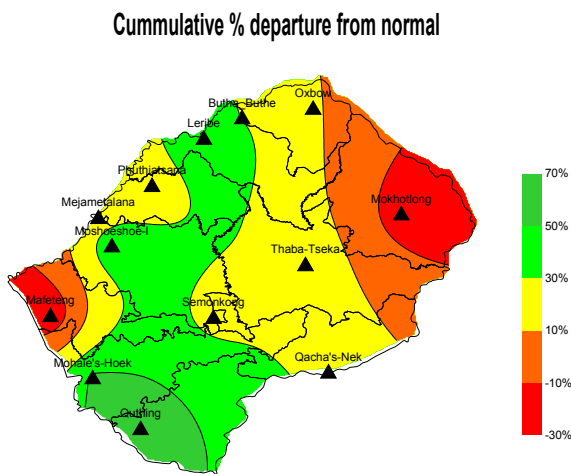


Fig.1: Cumulative rainfall departure from normal since 1st Sept to 1st dekad November 06.

Cumulative rainfall since 1st dekad of September 2006 has improved because it's only Mafeteng and Mokhotlong which shows rainfall shortage occurrence where negative % departure of -26% and -20% were registered respectively. This is clearly shown on the map above (red shaded areas). Nevertheless, the rest of the country had improved cumulative rainfall as % departure

ranged between 15% at Phuthiatsana and 61% at Quthing.

TEMPERATURE

Dekadal mean temperatures were slightly below dekadal normal temperatures throughout the country. This is precisely shown in table 1 where only negative temperature deviations registered throughout the country. These negative temperature deviations from normal ranged between -0.9 and -2.5 (see table 1 under temperature). The highest dekadal temperature of 29.5⁰C was registered at Quthing on the 10th and the lowest temperature of -0.5⁰C was registered at Semonkong on the 6th. These low temperatures slowed crop development.

CROP STAGE AND CONDITION

Agricultural activities are currently centered at planting summer crops especially maize and sorghum throughout the country. Furthermore, some of these crops are at germinating stage. Apart from that, planting has started earlier this year as compared to last year. This is because rainfall occurred in time, that is improved rainfall were experienced since the beginning of the planting season.

DEKADAL OUTLOOK

21st – 30th November 2006

This period is expected to be mostly partly cloudy to cloudy and warm becoming hot at times. Scattered to widespread rain with thundershowers is anticipated especially between the 16th and the 19th.

Table 1

Rainfall and Temperature Summaries												
					Rainfall (mm)				Temperature (°C)			
		01 - 10 Nov 2006			Total From Sept06 to 1st Dek Nov06				01 - 10 November 2006			
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	78.5	38.5	2	191.6	148.3	29	5.0 (7)	26.2 (10)	15.6	17.5	-1.9
Leribe	1740	83.2	28.9	2	188.0	126.0	49	4.5 (6)	27.0 (10)	15.7	17.8	-2.1
Mafeteng	1610	34.8	23.2	2	81.4	110.6	-26	5.0 (6, 7)	-		17.5	N/A
Maseru Airport	1530	70.5	26.4	2	139.1	120.4	16	4.8 (6)	28.3 (10)	16.8	18.8	-2.0
Mohale's hoek	1600	66.0	24.5	2	182.0	119.5	52	5.6 (6)	27.6 (9)	15.8	18.2	-2.4
Mokhotlong	2200		27.5		95.0	118.8	-20	3.0 (4)		13.6	14.9	-1.3
Moshoeshoe I	1628	139.8	29.2	2	195.6	135.0	45	4.0 (6)	27.4 (9)	15.8	18.3	-2.5
Ox-Bow	2600		55.4		0.0	239.0			-		10.0	N/A
Phuthiatsana	1750	81.9	33.4	2	163.7	141.8	15	4.9 (6)	27.9 (10)	17.6	18.5	-0.9
Qacha's Nek	1970		29.9			135.8			-		15.8	N/A
Quthing	1740	73.1	32.6	3	231.2	143.4	61	5.6 (4)	29.5 (10)	16.0	17.8	-1.8
Semonkong	2458	63.8	24.6	3	165.1	132.5	25	-0.5 (6)	21.8 (10)	10.9	13.0	-2.1
ThabaTseka	2160	55.6	21.5	2	154.5	121.8	27	1.5 (6)	23.1 (9, 10)	13.0	14.5	-1.6

Fig.3

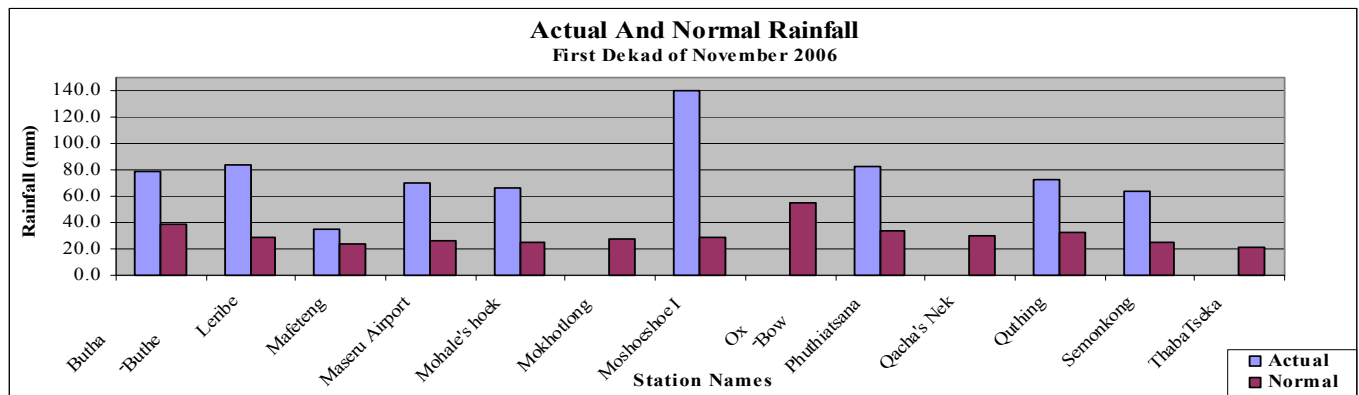
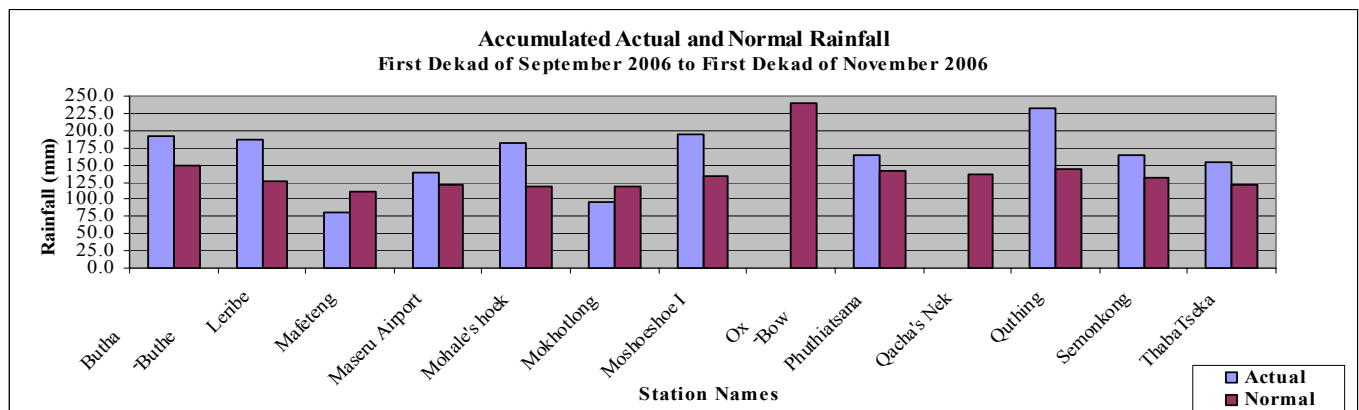


Fig.4



Glossary

Dekad : Ten day period

Normal: Average figure over a specific time period.

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

NDVI: Normalized Difference Vegetation Index -

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And it is

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Comments and Contributions would be highly appreciated.