

LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES

(LEKALA LA TSA BOLEPI)



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

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Highlights

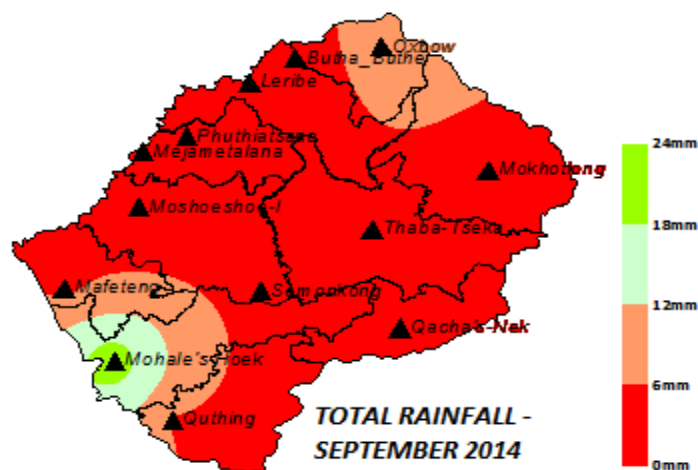
- ❑ Prevailing dry conditions
- ❑ High temperatures experienced throughout the country.
- ❑ No planting in the lowlands, replanting in the mountains.

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RAINFALL SITUATION

The prevailing dry spell from August continued to the month of September. No significant rainfall was received throughout the whole country. Only scattered showers were received during the third dekad of the month with Mohale's Hoek and Oxbow receiving the highest rainfall of 22mm and 10.1mm respectively while all other regions received rainfall below 6mm. (see map. 1)



Map. 1

RAINFALL DISTRIBUTION

Rain days ranged from one to four with Oxbow having the most rainy days (4 days) followed by the mountains areas which had 3 days of rainfall. There remaining regions had 1 to 2 days of rainfall days. (See figure 1).

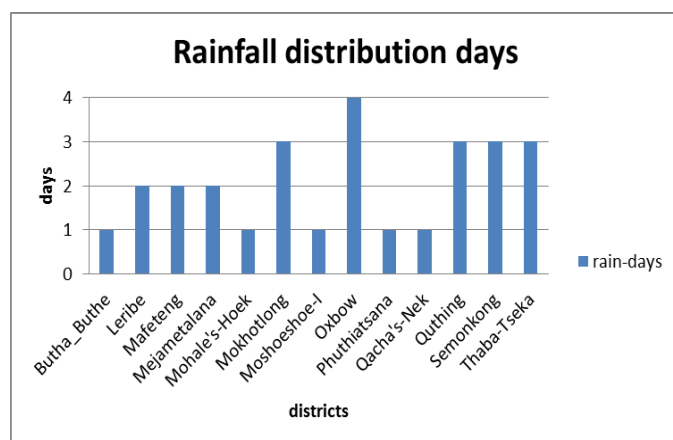
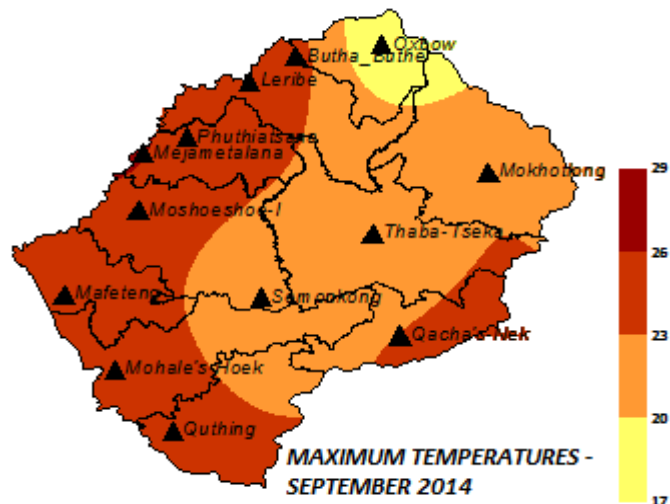


Figure 1

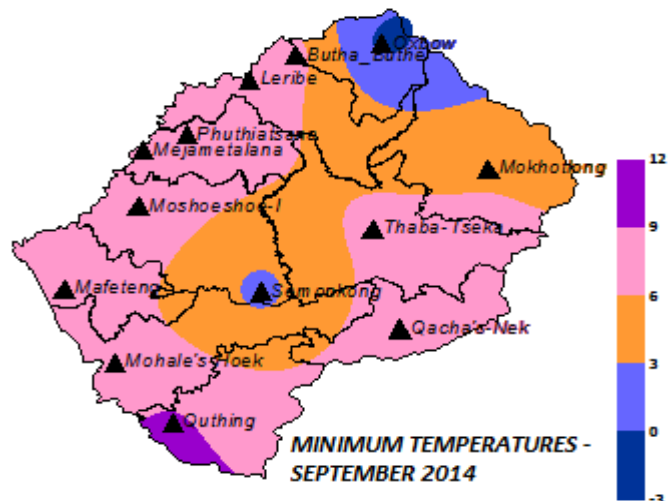
TEMPERATURE

Very hot temperatures continued to be persistent in the lowlands and continued to exacerbate moisture loss due to high rate of evaporation (See Map 2)



Map. 2

Minimum temperatures were a bit higher than what is normal. This led to more moisture loss even in the evenings.(see map. 3)



Map. 3

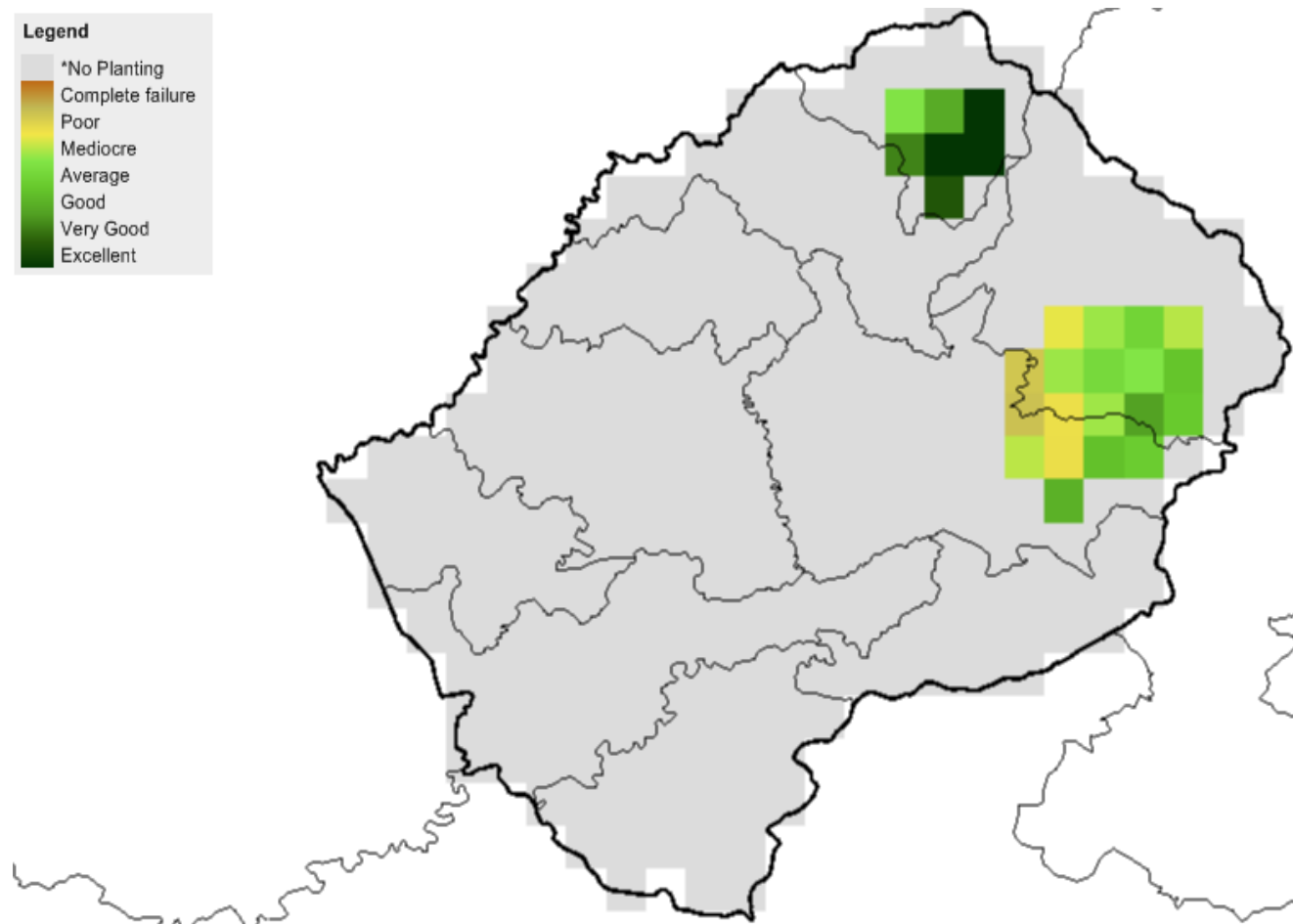
CROP STAGE AND CONDITIONS

Mountains

The planted crops did not do well due to persisting dry spell and they eventually died and there was a replanting at the end of September after the few showers that were received, the planting also took place at the foothills of Butha-Buthe.

Lowlands, Foothills, Senqu River Valley

No agricultural activities took place at the fields due to persisting dry conditions. (See Map. 4)



Map.4