

LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES (LEKALA LA TSA BOLEPI)



Ten-Day Agrometeorological Bulletin

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

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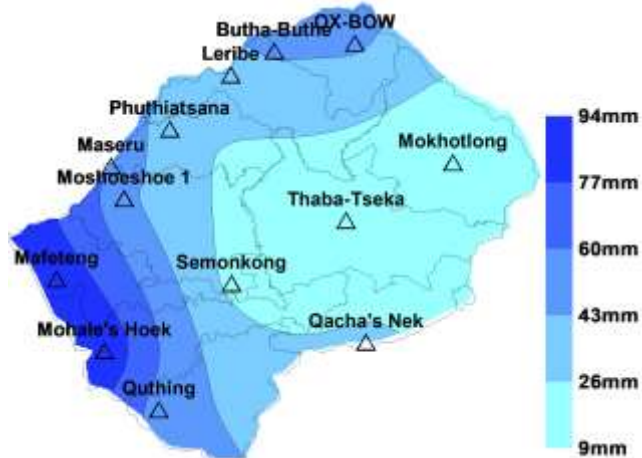
Highlights

- ❑ **Heavy rains and hail experienced during the dekad**
- ❑ **Cumulative rainfall remains mostly normal**
- ❑ **Mostly normal mean temperatures experienced**
- ❑ **Mixed crop conditions**

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Most parts of the country recorded good to excessive rains, accompanied by hail in some places, during the first dekad of April 2019. Most parts of the country recorded above normal dekad rainfall, while few recorded normal dekad rainfall. Places which recorded normal dekad rainfall are Mokhotlong, Semonkong and Thaba-Tseka. The highest amount of rainfall was recorded by Mohale’s Hoek (91.3mm), while the lowest was Mokhotlong (9.1mm) (See Map 1).



Map 1: Rainfall for April 1st Dekad 2019

Cumulative Percentage Rainfall Departure from Normal

Despite plenty of rainfall received for the dekad, the cumulative rainfall since the first dekad of September remains normal in most places, while only a few places remain above normal. None of the places recorded below normal cumulative rainfall. Mokhotlong and Oxbow have the highest percentage at 49%, which is above normal, while Mohale’s Hoek has the smallest cumulative departure at -16% which is in the normal range, as shown in Map 2.



Map 2: Cumulative Rainfall % Departure from Normal

TEMPERATURE CONDITIONS

Most parts of the country recorded normal mean temperature deviation from normal for the dekad. The only place with above normal temperature deviation is Mokhotlong, with 1.3°C as shown in Map 3.



Map 3: Dekadal Mean Temperature Deviation from Normal

CROP STAGE AND CONDITIONS

Crops are generally at vegetative stage. Some crops are in good conditions while others are not due to the dry spells experienced earlier in the season. Hail occurrences also aggravated the bad conditions in some places.

SEASONAL OUTLOOK (Apr-May-Jun 2019)

Rains are expected to be normal. Normal to above normal temperatures are anticipated.