

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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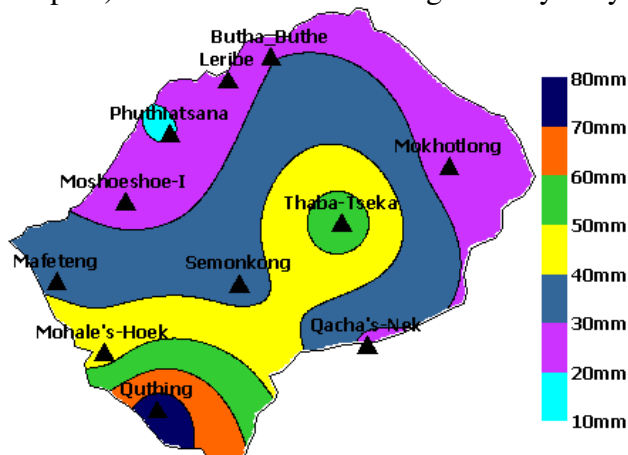
- ❑ Wet conditions at most place.
- ❑ Cumulative rainfall above normal.
- ❑ Normal temperatures experienced at most parts.
- ❑ Crops in fair conditions

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RAINFALL SITUATION

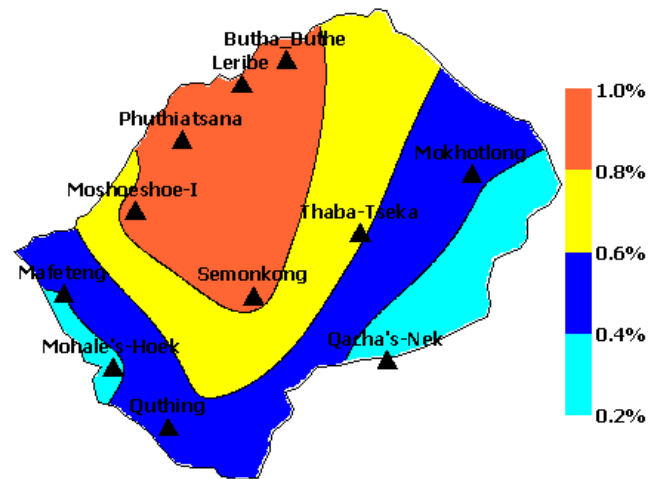
The first dekad of February 2011 recorded above normal rainfall at Mafeteng, Quthing, Mohale’s Hoek, Semonkong and Thaba-Tseka and was below normal everywhere. The highest dekadal rainfall was 77.7mm (Quthing) while 18.8mm was recorded at Phuthiatsana as the lowest (see Map 1). Thaba-Tseka had eight rainy days.



Map1: Rainfall for February 1st Dekad 2011

Cumulative Percentage Rainfall Departure from Normal

Cumulative rainfall since the first dekad of September is above normal at all places (see Map 2). Phuthiatsana has recorded 100% departure while Quthing, Mejametalana, Moshoeshoe I, Butha-Buthe, Semonkong and Thaba-Tseka recorded above 50% departure (see fig.2 below).



Map2: Cumulative Rainfall % Dep from Normal Since Sept 2010

TEMPERATURES

Temperatures were cool but normal during the first dekad. The southern eastern parts of the country were generally cooler than western parts. That may be due to clouding which was concentrated in the southern parts of the country.

CROP STAGE AND CONDITIONS

Crops are generally in fair conditions at most places with most crops at tasselling stage. Summer wheat in the highlands is at vegetative stages (see picture below).



