



LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES

We are at your service. Re sebelise



Agro-Met Monthly Update:

January 2010

Date of issue: February 2010

Highlights

1. Wet weather prevailed during the month of January 2010
2. Below normal to normal mean temperatures experienced during the month

Rainfall

Monthly Actual Rainfall

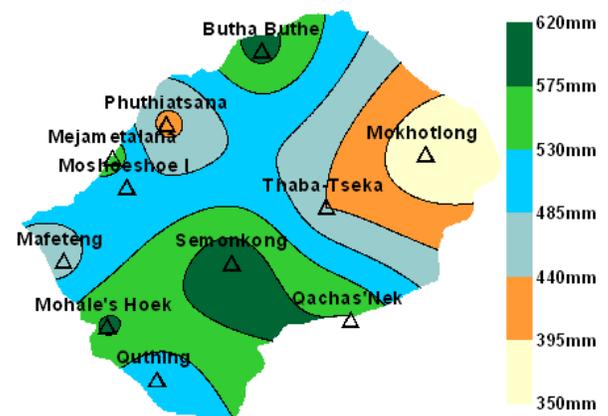
The first month of 2010 experienced a lot of rain. Monthly rainfall is still below normal for Mofale's Hoek, Quthing and Mafeteng. Monthly rainfall was normal only in Quthing and above normal everywhere in the country. The highest recorded rainfall was 286mm at Mejametalana and the lowest recorded rainfall amount was 128.7mm at Quthing (see Map 1). Widespread and sometimes heavy falls were experienced during the last ten days of January.



Map 1: January 2010 Rainfall

Cumulative Rainfall since September 2009

Cumulative rainfall for the period September to January 2010 is normal at Mokhotlong and Phuthiatsana and above normal in all other places. Map 2 shows how cumulative rains are spread over the country. Semonkong has the highest cumulative rainfall recorded amount of 616.5mm, followed by Butha-Buthe with 596.9mm whereas Mokhotlong recorded the lowest cumulative rainfall of 352mm.



Map 2: Sept 2009 - Jan 2010 Cumulative Rainfall

Temperatures

Monthly mean temperatures were normal all over the country. Mean monthly temperatures deviations from normal range from -0.9°C at Moshoeshoe I to 1.1°C at Semonkong. The

highest daily maximum temperature of the month was 31.5°C that was recorded on the 17th at Quthing.

Crop Stage and Conditions

Crops stages are ranging from late vegetative to early reproductive stages countrywide. Weeding and other field operations ended in most places though in other places heavy rains impacted on field operations from being carried out effectively. Wet weather that prevailed during the month provided crops with enough water requirements at some places. Generally crop conditions are satisfactory.

entire rainfall season (October 2009, up to March 2010). Nevertheless, the north and eastern parts are highly likely to receive above normal to normal rainfall in October to December 2009. It is expected that there will be significant reduction of rainfall in these areas during the period of January to March 2010; where below normal rainfall will be experienced.

Seasonal Forecast (October 09 – March 10)

There is a high likelihood of the country to receive below normal rainfall especially in the west and southern parts of the country. The areas in the south west and in the south are expected to receive below normal rainfall for

Compared to the year 2008/09 rainfall season, the year 2009/10 rainfall season is highly likely to experience less rainfall occurrences and lengthy dry spells which are likely to have negative impacts in agriculture, water and other weather sensitive sectors.