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Agro-Met Monthly Update

November 2007

Date of issue: December 2007

Highlights

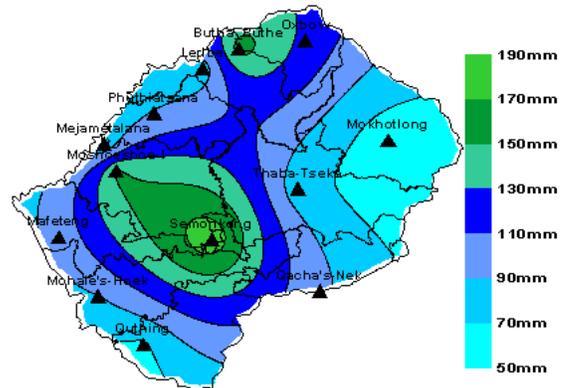
1. Above normal rainfall received in most parts of the country
2. Below normal monthly mean temperatures experienced at most places
3. Summer cropping in progress

Rainfall

Monthly Actual Rainfall

The country experienced normal to above normal rainfall during the month of November 2007. It was only Mokhotlong that recorded below normal monthly rainfall. However, even though total monthly rainfall looks good, majority of it came in the last dekad of the month while the other dekads were dry at most places. It was Semonkong only that consistently experienced good amounts of rain throughout the month.

Semonkong with 185.6mm accumulated the highest monthly rainfall while Mokhotlong with 56.9mm had the lowest monthly rainfall (see Map 1 and Table 1).

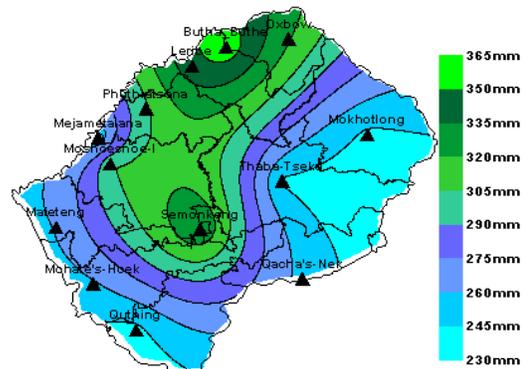


Map 1: November 2007 Monthly Rainfall

Cumulative Rainfall since September 2007

Accumulated rainfall for the period September to November 2007 is above normal countrywide. The highest amounts of cumulative rainfall were recorded on the region from Butha-Buthe extending southwards to Semonkong. Eastern and southern areas of the country have the lowest amounts of accumulated rainfall (see Map 2 and Table 1).

Butha-Buthe, Leribe and Semonkong have the highest accumulated rainfall while Mokhotlong and Quthing have lowest accumulated rainfall.



Map 2: September - November 2007 Cumulative Rainfall



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Temperatures

The mean monthly temperatures for November 2007 were below normal in most parts of the country (see Table 1). Deviations of monthly mean temperatures reflect that the highlands (except Semonkong) were warmer than normal while the lowlands were cooler than normal (see Table 1). The cooling resulted mainly from

cloudiness and precipitation that prevailed during the month.

The lowest daily temperature of the month was 0.1°C recorded at Qacha's Nek on the 11th, while the highest daily temperature of the month was 31.2°C at Mejametalana on the 14th.

Crop Stage and Conditions

Land preparation and sowing continued during the dekad under review, and that could mark the end of land preparation for summer cropping at most places in the country. Any summer crops that can be planted in December faces a high risk of frost attack in autumn.

Summer crops (maize and sorghum) are mostly at germinating to early vegetative stages. These crops are at good conditions and they are on time. However, there are some crops that are yet to germinate. Winter wheat stages vary from watery ripe kernels to kernels hard. However, the wheat is not yet ready for harvest. Conditions of the wheat range from fair to good. Due to

characteristics of the rainfall that the country is experiencing (heavy downpours and sometimes hailstorms) put the wheat at risk of being threshed while still in the fields. That indicates that wheat should be harvested as soon as it is fully ripe

Water and Livestock Conditions

Water resources have improved and are normal countrywide.

General vegetation cover has improved during the last two months. Due to increase in the levels of greenness on the ground, rangelands have improved and as a result livestock conditions are gradually improving.

Weather Outlook (December 2007)

The country is expected to receive normal to above normal rainfall during the month of

December 2007. Temperatures will be above average with occasional cold spells.

Table 1.

Station Name	ALT. (M)	Monthly R/Days	Monthly R/fall		Cumulative R/Fall since September– November 2007			Temperatures		
			Actual	Normal	Actual	Normal	% Dep. from Normal	Monthly Mean		Deviation
								Actual	Normal	
Butha-Buthe	1770	14	158.3	101.3	359.3	228.8	57	17.3	17.8	-0.5
Leribe	1740	15	78.1	92.4	343.7	189.5	81	17.7	18.1	-0.4
Mafeteng	1610	5	97.2	80.5	261.0	168.0	55	17.6	18	-0.4
Mejametalana	1530	11	69.1	83.2	248.4	177.2	40	18.5	19	-0.5
Mohale's Hoek	1600	8	89.7	80.5	258.3	175.5	47	18.0	18.6	-0.6
Mokhotlong	2200	9	56.9	79.7	242.1	171.0	42	16.1	15.2	0.9
Moshoeshoe 1	1628	11	152.4	83.9	303.6	189.6	60	17.9	18.7	-0.8
Ox-Bow	2660	*	*	161.6	*	345	*	*	10.2	*
Phuthiatsana	1750	*	*	100.5	*	208.9	*	*	18.8	*
Qacha's Nek	1970	12	95.4	85.3	256.1	191.1	34	16.4	15.9	0.5
Quthing	1740	8	67.1	81.8	240.8	203.8	18	18.1	18.1	0.0
Semonkong	2458	11	185.6	73.3	334.7	181.2	85	12.6	13.3	-0.7
Thaba-Tseka	2160	13	75.8	73.1	243.3	173.4	40	14.9	14.9	0.0

NB: * means that there was no data for that station.