LESOTHOMETEOROLOGICALSERVICES

(LEKALALATSABOLEPI)

Agrometeorological Update

Period:01 August-10November2016



IssueNo.:01/18

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<u>Highlights</u>

>Normal to Above Normal Cumulative rainfall across the country

Above average maximum and minimum temperatures

➢Rangelands in good condition

➢ Maize stalking and third leaf stages, Winter Wheat is ripening and maturing

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November2016

MOISTUREANDHEATSTATUS

RAINFALLSITUATION

There was a slow start in the agricultural season in the Lowlands as the onset of rains with sufficient moisture was acquired late in the season. Significant rains were received in the second dekad of September

First rains were received countrywide which were above normal, this occurred in the second dekad of August followed by a dry spell which lasted until second dekad of September, where there was some rain although it was below normal. The rains occurred again during the first dekad of November with the second dekad of September and the first dekad of November receiving above normal rainfall.(*See Figure1*).

National Rainfall distribution

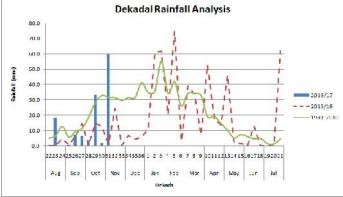
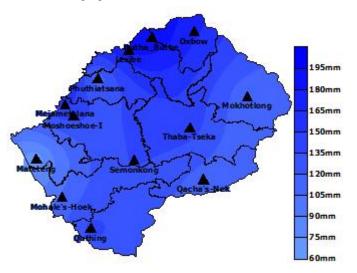


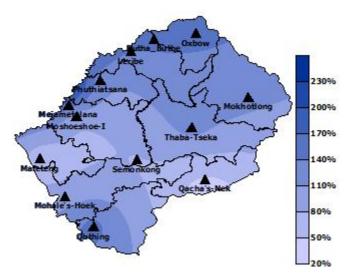
Figure1:Seasonalrainfalldistributionasof1stdekadAugust – November 2016

The northern lowlands (Leribe, Botha-Buthe) recorded the highest rainfall between (165 - 195 mm). Mafeteng and the eastern parts of the mountains (Mokhotlong, Qacha's Nek) received the lowest rainfall ranging between 60mm to 90mm (*see Map1.Below*).



Map 1: Cumulative Rainfall for 01 August – 10 November 2016

The whole country received normal to above normal rainfall for the period of fisrt dekad of August to first dekad of November. Mafeteng and Qacha's Nek received normal rainfall while the other districts recorded above normal rainfall with a gain from 80% to 200% (See *Map2 below*).



Map 2: Percentage departure from normal Rainfall for 01 August – 10 November 2016

TEMPERATURES

1st

Maximum Temperature

The Lowlands, Mountains and Foothills all recorded above normal maximum temperatures for the entire first dekad of November (*See Figure3 below*).

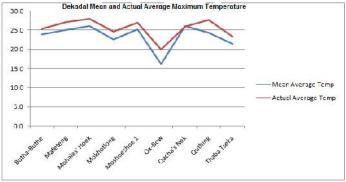


Figure3:MaximumTemperatureduring 01-10 November2016

Minimum Temperature

Like the maximum temperatures, Minimum temperatures were also above normal throughout the dekad in both the Lowlands and Mountains.(*See Figure 4 below*).

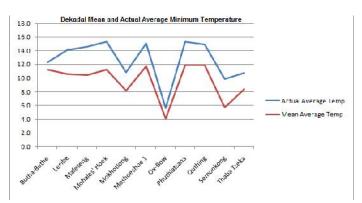


Figure 4: Minimum Temperature during 01 - 10 November2016

CROPSTAGEANDCONDITIONS

Mountains

Maize Crop Stage and Condition

Most of the maize in the mountains is at second stalk with some fields a little bit behind at third leaf.

Lowlands

Maize at third leaf but most of the fields are planted winter wheat which is maturing and ripening but at some certain fields wheat is at heading and flowering stage.



Figure 5: Wheat at ripening stage in Leribe district

RANGELANDCONDITIONS

Rangelands are in good condition hence livestock feed is sufficient

Map.3

Outlook for 15th-21st November 2016

The southern parts of the country (Mafeteng, Mohale's Hoek and Quthing will experience decreasing chances of rain throughout the forecast period. This is also the case with the western Lowlands of Maseru and Berea. Therefore isolated to Scattered (40%) rain and thundershowers anticipated tomorrow,16 November over these areas becoming isolated (20%) from Thursday, 17th until the 21st.

As for the rest of the country there is a chance (40%) of scattered rain and thundershowers on Wednesday, 16th becoming isolated (30%) thereafter till the 21st Nov.

Soil Moisture

Sufficient soil moisture is anticipated countrywide for good crop growth.