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Lesotho Meteorological Services
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Period 11th to 30th February 2026 | **Season: 2025/2026**

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Ten-Day Agrometeorological Bulletin

…dedicated to the agricultural community

… aimed at harmonizing agricultural activities with weather and climate.

Highlights

- **Unsatisfactory crop performance**

Contents

Rainfall review (10-28 February 2026)

In summary rainfall performance in January was very poor, and this was compounded by very high temperatures which had a direct effect of poor crop performance. The first Dekad of February experienced high rainfall which far exceeded long term average (1981-2010) and 2024/25 season. Going into the second dekad of February there was a decrease in rainfall going below the long term mean, while there was yet another spike in the 3rd dekad where above normal dekadal rainfall was recorded. This is captured in Fig.1 below.

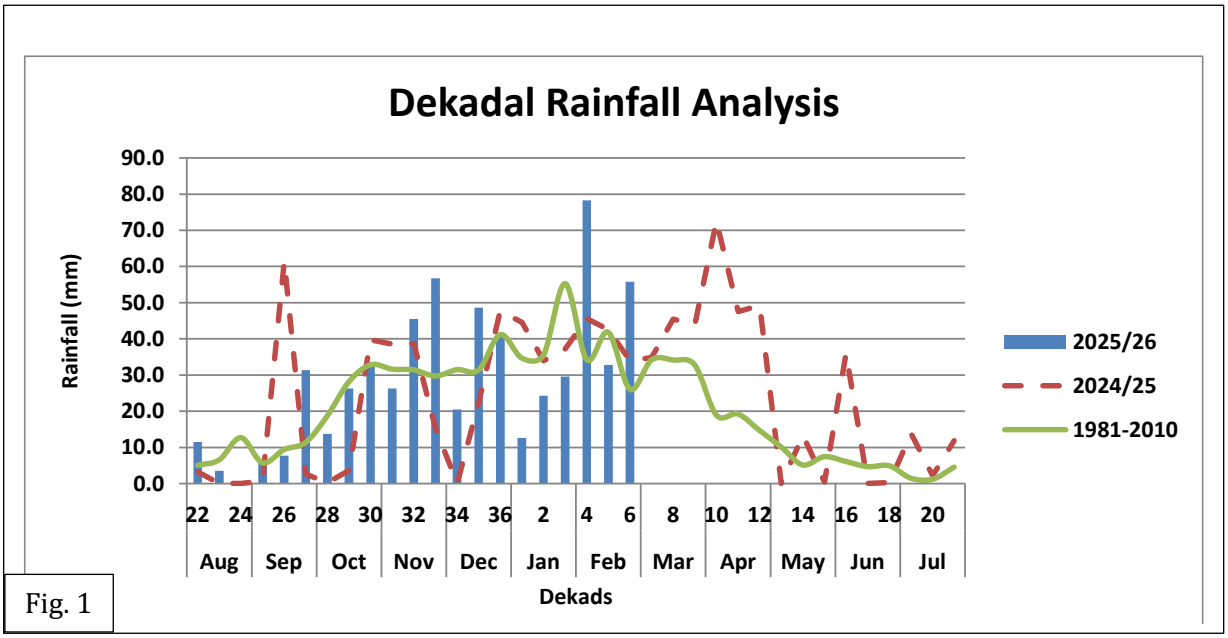

Fig. 1

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Temperature

Both maximum and minimum temperatures predominantly remained within their long term averages in the 2nd and 3rd dekad of February 2026.

Crop perfomance

Two (2) field inspection trips under taken on 12th to 23rd January along the south down to Quthing and Thaba-tseka and then from 01st to 06th February in Mokhotlong, the following aim of the trips is to assess the impacts of meteorological parameters (e.g. rainfall and temperatures) on crops' perfomance.

South and Thaba-tseka field inspection

12th to 23rd January 2026

In Mafeteng there were countable fields still not cultivated. In both Maseru and Mafeteng in some areas visited crops differed from vegetation to grain filling stages. There were observations, crops were performing well in most some areas while in others high temperatures affected crops badly some even turned yellowish (wilting). The yellow patches were mostly seen where there were weeds and stalk worm. Farmers in both districts were in full force hoeing. Around Selaitere areas in Quthing, crops which were mostly at tussling and grain filling stages were perfoming well, some already at wax ripening maturity. Some farmers were cooking maize along the road and selling it.

At Sehong-hong in Thaba-tseka district, stalk worm incidents were highly reported where farmers had to re-plant. Most crops were at vegetation and farmers busy hoeing but crops became poor due to heat stress and moisture loss, it was dry in the area.

Mokhotlong field inspection

01st to 06th February, 2026

In most areas visited in the district, crops differed from vegetation to grain fillings stages. In some few fields crops were on third leave, and no hope for them to reach maturity. The overall observation was plants were wilting due to both water and heat stress. In Malefiloane where wheat is mostly planted, farmers claimed that there were locusts that fed on their wheat. In the Khubelu valley in villages like Mokhomane, Ramaleke, 'Meta up to Thaba-Limpe, crops were badly destroyed by hail.

Fig. 2 below was taken at Malema-Hole fields. It is evident that hail has caused damage to a maize field.

Fig.2

Seasonal Outlook (Mar-Apr-May 2026)

Above average rainfall is anticipated. Temperature is expected be normal to slightly above normal.

N.B. It is important to note that during summer season, flash floods, thunderstorms, hailstorms, and strong winds are frequent and may result in loss of lives while also posing possible damage to property and crops.

General Comments (Advisory)

Climate Smart Agriculture:

Livestock farmers are advised to keep animals under protected structures for protection against weather extremes.

Heavy rainfall:

Heavy rainfall can cause waterlogging in seedbeds, nutrient leaching in prepared fields, and rapid surface runoff leading to soil erosion. Farmers should ensure that drainage systems are clear to prevent field waterlogging.

General Recommendations:

- **Water storage during heavy rainfall can be beneficial for irrigation and drinking for animals.**

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- **Daily weather monitoring and use of indigenous weather forecasts is recommended for signs of significant rainfall patterns shifts.**

Please stay tuned to media and LNBS for latest weather updates. LMS provides updated forecasts daily such as 24hrs weather bulletin, 4-day outlooks, 7-day outlooks (issued every Friday), Weekly weather brief (every Friday) and Agrometeorological bulletin (every ten days during summer cropping), Seasonal Outlook (6-month lead)

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