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AAgWa Crop Production Forecasts Brief Series

Lesotho – Maize

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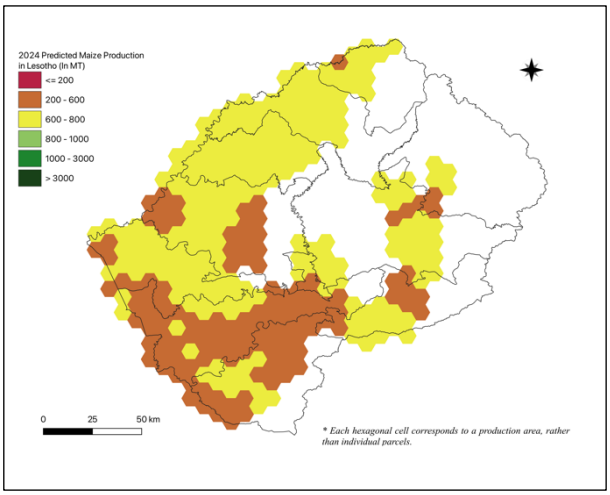
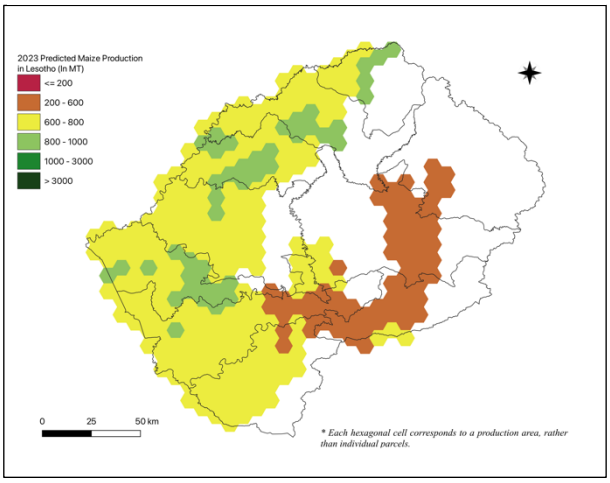
The crop production forecast brief series by AKADEMIYA2063's Africa Agriculture Watch (AAgWa) aims to provide more accurate and timely data on harvest and yields for ten major crops across nearly 50 African countries. The timeliness, wide availability, and easy access to this type of data will allow stakeholders across the value chain to better plan and execute policy and business actions more efficiently. The data published in the briefs are generated through the Africa Crop Production (AfCP) model, an Artificial Intelligence (AI-based) model applied to remotely sensed geo-biophysical data to produce estimates at pixel as well as administrative levels as early as the beginning of every growing season. In Brief 131, we provide forecasts on maize production in Lesotho.

Figure 1. *Lesotho 2024 Maize production forecast.*



Data source: Africa Agriculture Watch (www.aagwa.org).

Figure 2. *Lesotho 2023 Maize production forecast.*



Data source: Africa Agriculture Watch (www.aagwa.org).

In 2024, maize production in Lesotho is projected to decline by 10% compared to the previous year, resulting in an annual production of 115,431 metric tons (MT). The highest maize producers are expected to be Mohale's Hoek, Maseru, Mafeteng, and Berea, with production levels estimated at 22,494 MT, 19,423 MT, 16,829 MT, and 14,265 MT, respectively. In comparison, lower production values are observed in Mokhotlong, Qacha's Nek, and Butha-Buthe, with production of, respectively, 1,291 MT, 4,213 MT, and 4,523 MT.

Compared to 2023, the most significant maize production declines in 2024 are expected to occur in Maseru, Mafeteng, Mohale's Hoek, and Berea, with differences of respectively 3,520 MT, 2,986 MT, 2,380 MT, and 1,477 MT. These correspond to changes of respectively, -15%, -15%, -10%, and -9%.

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Annex – 2024 Lesotho Maize Production Forecast at District Level

District	2024 Production (MT)	2023 Production (MT)	Difference (MT)	Change (%)
Berea	14265	15743	-1477	-9%
Butha-Buthe	4523	5350	-827	-15%
Leribe	13929	15203	-1273	-8%
Mafeteng	16829	19815	-2986	-15%
Maseru	19423	22943	-3520	-15%
Mohale's Hoek	22494	24874	-2380	-10%
Mokhotlong	1291	1130	161	14%
Qacha's Nek	4213	3882	331	9%
Quthing	10017	11380	-1363	-12%
Thaba-Tseka	8446	7315	1131	15%
Total	**115431**	**127635**	**-12204**	**-10%**

MT (Metric tons): *1 MT is equivalent to 1,000 kilograms.*
Change: *refers to the relative difference and is calculated as (2024 prod – 2023 prod) divided by 2023 prod.*

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