

AAGWa Crop Production Forecasts Brief Series

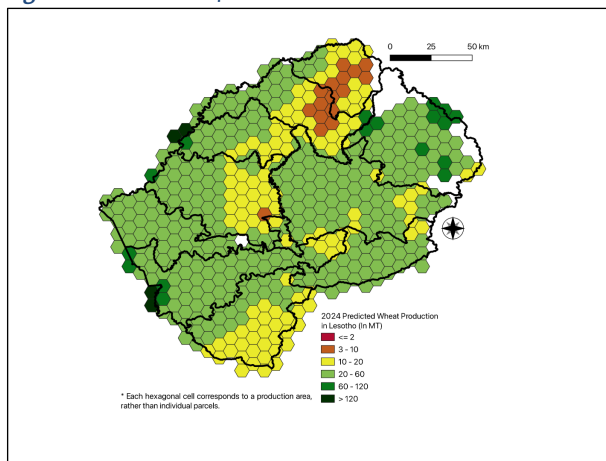
Lesotho – Wheat

Mansour Dia*, Khadim Dia**, and Aïssatou Ndoye***

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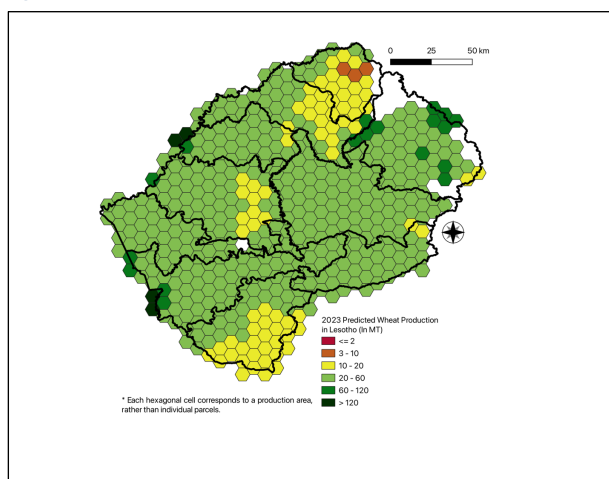
The crop production forecast brief series by AKADEMIYA2063's Africa Agriculture Watch (AAGWa) aims to provide more accurate and timely data on harvest and yields for ten major crops across nearly 50 African countries. The timeliness, wide availability, and easy access to this type of data will allow 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 223, we provide forecasts on wheat production in Lesotho.

Figure 1. Lesotho 2024 Wheat Production Forecast.



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

Figure 2. Lesotho 2023 Wheat Production Forecast.



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

In 2024, wheat production in Lesotho is projected to reach 9,786 metric tons (MT), indicating a 3% decrease over 2023 production levels. The highest wheat producers are expected to be Mphahle's Hoek, Thaba-Tseka, Maseru, and Mafeteng, with production levels estimated at 1,580 MT, 1,401 MT, 1,338 MT, 1,254 MT, and 1,100 MT. In contrast, lower production values are observed at Leribe, Berea, Quthing, Qacha's Nek, and Butha-Buthe with production of, respectively, 814 MT, 782 MT, 731 MT, 538 MT, and 248 MT.

Compared to 2023, the most significant wheat production increases in 2024 are expected in districts such as Mafeteng, Mphahle's Hoek, Maseru, Quthing, and Berea, with differences of 199 MT, 126 MT, 52 MT, 20 MT, and -23 MT respectively. These correspond to changes of 22 %, 9 %, 4 %, 3 %, and -3 %.

*Associate Scientist, Department of Data Management, Digital Products, and Technology, AKADEMIYA2063

**Senior Associate Scientist, Department of Data Management, Digital Products, and Technology, AKADEMIYA2063

***Associate Scientist, Department of Data Management, Digital Products, and Technology, AKADEMIYA2063



Annex – 2024 Lesotho Wheat Production Forecast at District Level

Districts	2024 Production (MT)	2023 Production (MT)	Difference (MT)	Change (%)
Berea	782	805	-23	-3%
Butha-Buthe	248	309	-61	-20%
Leribe	814	916	-101	-11%
Mafeteng	1100	900	199	22%
Maseru	1254	1202	52	4%
Mohale's Hoek	1580	1454	126	9%
Mokhotlong	1338	1468	-129	-9%
Qacha's Nek	538	602	-64	-11%
Quthing	731	711	20	3%
Thaba-Tseka	1401	1678	-277	-17%
Total	9786	10045	-258	-3%

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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