

AAGWa Crop Production Forecasts Brief Series

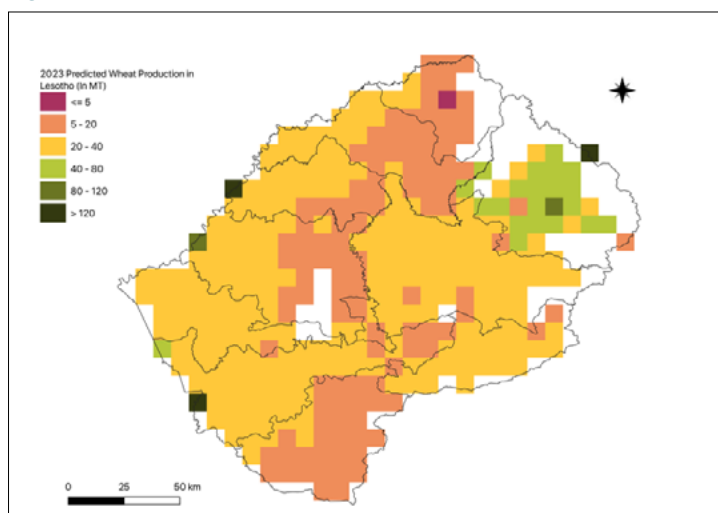
Lesotho – Wheat

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No. 80, October 2023

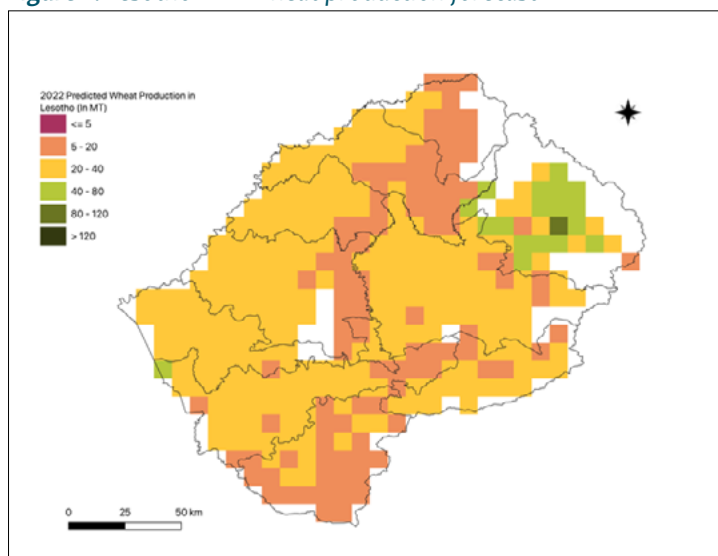
The crop production forecast brief series by AKADEMIYA2063's Africa Agriculture Watch (AAGWa) aims to provide more accurate and timely data on harvest and yields for nine major crops across nearly 50 African countries. The timeliness, wide availability, and easy access to this type of data will allow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

Figure 1. Lesotho 2023 wheat production forecast.



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

Figure 2. Lesotho 2022 wheat production forecast.



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

based) model applied to remotely sensed geobiophysical data to produce estimates at pixel as well as administrative levels as early as the beginning of every growing season. In Brief 80, we provide forecasts on wheat production in Lesotho.

In 2023, wheat production in Lesotho is expected to reach 10,044 metric tons (MT), which corresponds to a 17% increase over 2022 production levels. The highest wheat production levels are expected in districts such as Thaba-Tseka, Mokhotlong, Maseru with production levels estimated at respectively, 1,678 MT, 1,468 MT, 1,454 MT, and 1,202 MT.

In contrast, the production is projected to be lowest in areas such as Butha-Buthe, Qacha's Nek, Quthing, and Berea with levels of respectively, 309 MT, 602 MT, 711 MT, and 805 MT.

Compared to 2022, the most significant wheat production increases are expected to occur in zones such as Thaba-Tseka, Mokhotlong, and Berea with differences of respectively, 282 MT, 273 MT, 253 MT, and 202 MT, respectively. These represent changes of respectively, 20%, 23%, 21%, and 34%.

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Annex – 2023 Lesotho Wheat Production Forecast at District level

Districts	2023 Production (MT)	2022 Production (MT)	Difference (MT)	Change (%)
Berea	805	603	202	34%
Butha-Buthe	309	292	16	6%
Leribe	916	840	76	9%
Mafeteng	900	777	124	16%
Maseru	1202	1092	110	10%
Mohale's Hoek	1454	1181	273	23%
Mokhotlong	1468	1214	253	21%
Qacha's Nek	602	537	65	12%
Quthing	711	630	81	13%
Thaba-Tseka	1678	1396	282	20%
Total	10044	8562	1483	17%

MT (Metric tons): 1 MT is equivalent to 1,000 kilograms.

Change: refers to the relative difference and is calculated as (2023 prod – 2022 prod) divided by 2022 prod.

Suggested Citation: Ndoye, A., M. Dia, and K. Dia. 2023. AAgWa Crop Production Forecasts Brief Series: Lesotho – Wheat. AAgWa Crop Production Forecasts Brief Series, No. 80. Kigali: AKADEMIYA2063. <https://doi.org/10.54067/acpf.80>