Trends of rainfall and rainy days at Sindewahi station in Vidarbha of Maharashtra

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Abstract
Changes in climate over the Indian region would have significant impact on agricultural production, water resources management and overall economy of the country. This study focuses on Rainfall variation and detecting trends in the annual, monthly, seasonal and weekly rainfall and rainy days for Sindewahi station in Chandrapur District (eastern part) in Vidarbha Region of Maharashtra State. The analysis of rainfall variation was done by using statistical parametric test and trend analysis was done by using Mann-Kendall and Sen’s slope test. The results revealed that no trend in annual and seasonal rainfall and rainy days whereas rising trend of rainfall observed in September months at 90 per cent confidence level. In rainfall and rainy days SMW 22 and SMW 30, 38 showed decreasing and increasing trend respectively. There are rising rates of rainfall and rainy days in other months and decreasing trend in some other months obtained at non-significant condition by these statistical tests suggesting overall insignificant changes in the area. The decreasing trend in rainfall, rainy days creating the moisture deficiency during crop growing period which ultimately is losing the productivity in rainfed agriculture. To mitigate the adverse effect of uncertainty of rainfall, it is proposed to adopt the location specific in situ soil and moisture conservation practices before and after commencement of the rains and to harvest the excess runoff into farm ponds and recycled for providing protective irrigation for sustainable rainfed agriculture.

Keywords: Rainfall, rainy days, trend, sindewahi station, mann-kendall test, sen’s slope

Introduction
Rainfall is a key input in management of agriculture and irrigation projects and any change in this variable can influence on sustainable management of water resources, agriculture and ecosystems. Water resource has become a prime concern for any development and planning including food production, flood control and effective water resource management. Studies have demonstrated that global surface warming is occurring at a rate of 0.74 ± 0.18 °C over 1906–2005 (IPCC, 2007) [4]. Impact of climate change in future is quite severe as given by IPCC reports which signify that there will be reduction in the freshwater availability because of climate change. This has also been revealed that by the middle of 21st century, decrease in annual average runoff and availability of water will project up to 10–30% (IPCC, 2007) [4]. Study of different time series data have proved that trend is either decreasing or increasing, both in case of temperature and rainfall. Human interference is also leading to climate change with changing land use from the impact of agricultural and irrigation practices (Kalnay and Cai, 2003) [5].

Climate change is a long term process. It has raised as most alarming issue for the whole world. Therefore, quantification of climatic changes has become necessary. Trend analysis is a method to determine the spatial variation and temporal changes for different parameters associated to climate. Mann-Kendall Test has been used to find any trend of rainfall, temperature and evapotranspiration (both monthly and annual) which has shown some significance in case of rainfall and temperature. The prime objective of this study is to analyse the annual rainfall variation and trend of rainfall and rainy days in Sindewahi station of Vidarbha region.

Material and Methods
Study area
The Sindewahi research station is selected as study area a representative station in Chandrapur district (eastern part) of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra under the jurisdiction of Dr.
Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola. Geographically, it is situated at 20°17’ N latitude and 79°39’ Elongitude and at altitude of 214 m above MSL. The normal annual rainfall of station was 1305 mm in 64 rainy days.

Data collection
The required daily rainfall data at Sindewahi station was obtained from AICRP on Agrometeorology, Dr. PDKV, Akola. The acquired data were in the form of daily rainfall for 47 years (1970-2016). This daily rainfall data was converted to the annual, seasonal, monthly and weekly rainfall. The rainy days were determined from rainfall data for further use.

Trend analysis
Trend analysis was statistically examined in two phases i.e., initially the presence of a monotonic increasing or decreasing trend was tested using the non-parametric Mann-Kendall test (Mann, 1945; Kendall, 1975) [7, 6]. Then the rate of change was estimated with the help of Sen’s slope test (Sen, 1968) [8]. The slope of the trend indicates the rate and direction of change (Helsel and Hirsch 2002; Drapela and Drapelova 2011) [3, 1].

Statistical test for variability trend and analysis
Coefficient of variation
The coefficient of variation (CV) is a statistical measure of how the individual data points vary about the mean value. A Greater value of CV is the indicator of larger spatial variability, and vice versa. In this study, annual rainfall variability has been analyzed for Sindewahi station of 47 years CV.

Mann–kendall test (Non-parametric)
Let x1, x2, …xn represent n data points where xj represents the data point at time j and xk represent the data point at time k and N is the number of data points then the Mann-Kendall statistic (S) is given by the following formula:

\[
S = \sum_{k=1}^{N-1} \sum_{j=k+1}^{N} \text{sgn} \left( x_j - x_k \right) \tag{1}
\]

\[
\text{sgn}(x_j - x_k) = \begin{cases} 
+1 & \text{if } (x_j - x_k) > 0 \\
0 & \text{if } (x_j - x_k) = 0 \\
-1 & \text{if } (x_j - x_k) < 0 
\end{cases} 
\tag{2}
\]

For n ≥ 10, the statistic S was approximately normally distributed with the mean i.e. E(S)= 0 (Drapela and Drapelova 2011; Gilbert RO 1987) [1, 2] and variance as follows.

\[
\text{VAR}(S) = \frac{n (n-1) (2n+5)}{18} - \sum_{p=1}^{q} t_p (t_p - 1) (2t_p + 5) \tag{3}
\]

Where,
q = Number of tied groups,
tp = Number of data values in the pth group.

The standard test statistic Z computed as follows
\[
Z = \begin{cases} 
\frac{(S - 1)}{\sqrt{\text{VAR}(S)}} & \text{when } S > 0 \\
0 & \text{when } S = 0 \\
\frac{(S - 1)}{-\sqrt{\text{VAR}(S)}} & \text{when } S < 0 
\end{cases} 
\tag{4}
\]

Z here follows a standard normal distribution. The presence of a statistically significant trend was evaluated using the Z value. A positive and negative value of Z indicates an upward trend and downward trend respectively. In the present study, confidence level of 99, 95 and 90 % signify the positive or negative trends determined by the test statistic. At the 99 % significance level, the null hypothesis of no trend is rejected if |Z| > 2.575; at the 95 % significance level, the null hypothesis of no trend is rejected if |Z| > 1.96; and at the 90 % significance level, the null hypothesis of no trend is rejected if |Z| > 1.645.

Sen’s slope test
To estimate the true slope of an existing trend (as change per year) the Sen’s nonparametric method is used. If a linear trend is present in a time series, then the true slope (change per unit time) was estimated by using a simple nonparametric procedure developed by Sen (1968) [9]. The magnitude of trend is predicted by the Sen’s slope test.

This means that linear model f(t) can be described f(t) = Qt + B -------(5)

Where,
Q: Slope, B: Constant
The slope Ti of all data pairs can be computed by,

\[
Q_t = \frac{x_j - x_k}{j - k} \quad \text{for } i = 1, 2, 3, ..., N \tag{6}
\]

Where xj and xk are considered as data values at time j and k (j>k) correspondingly. The median of these N values of Ti is represented as Sen’s estimator of slope which is given as:

\[
Q_{\text{med}} = \begin{cases} 
\frac{T_{N+1}}{2} & \text{if } N \text{ is odd} \\
\frac{1}{2} \left( T_{N} + T_{N+2} \right) & \text{if } N \text{ is even} 
\end{cases} \tag{7}
\]

Sen’s estimator is computed as Qmed = T_(N+1)/2 if N appears odd, and it is considered as Qmed = [T_(N)+T_(N+2)]/2 if N appears even. At the end, Qmed is computed by a two sided test at 100 (1-α) % confidence interval and then a true slope can be obtained by the non-parametric test. Positive value of Qt indicates an upward or increasing trend and a negative value of Qt gives a downward or decreasing trend in the time series. Makesens Excel template used for the statistical analyses of rainfall and rainy days time series. (Salmi et al. 2000) [9].
Results and Discussion
Trend analysis of Sindewahi station has been done in the present study with 47 years of precipitation data from 1970 to 2016. Mann-Kendall and Sen’s slope test has been used for the determination of the trend (Upadhye et al.) [10].

Annual variation and trends of rainfall and rainy days
Annual rainfall variations at Sindewahi station of 47 years are presented in Fig.1. It represents the annual rainfall for 47 years with maximum rainfall occurrence in the years 1975 with the total rainfall of 2380 mm approximately and minimum rainfall has occurred in the year 1996 with the total of around 767.6 mm. Average rainfall for these 47 years is 1284.2 mm in 60 rainy days. The standard deviation was observed at Sindewahi station 323.7 mm at 25.21 per cent coefficient of variation.

Annual rainfall and rainy days trend of Sindewahi station in over the 47 years didn’t exhibit any statistical significant trend at the significance level of 90 per cent, 95 per cent and 99 per cent.

![Annual Rainfall variations at Sindewahi station of 47 years](image)

Fig 1: Annual Rainfall variations at Sindewahi station of 47 years

Seasonal trends of rainfall and rainy days
Mann- Kendall and Sen’s slope test results revealed that seasonal rainfall and rainy days at Sindewahi station over the 47 years period in kharif, rabi and summer season did not show any statistical significant trend at significance level.

Monthly trends of rainfall and rainy days
In the non parametric Mann-Kendall test, trend of rainfall and rainy days for 47 years from January to December has been calculated for each month individually together with the Sen’s magnitude of slope (Q) as presented in Fig. 2 & 3. From Fig 2, it is observed that the monthly rainfall at Sindewahi station during the months of January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, October, November and December didn’t exhibit any significant trend at considered levels of significance, but only September month observed statistical significant trend. The trend was significant increasing (Z=1.89) of about (Q=2.27 mm/year) at 90 per cent confidence level. The Z statistics shows nature of monthly rainfall trends at Sindewahi station during September month was significantly increasing.

In the Mann-Kendall test the Z statistics that reveals the trends of monthly rainfall series for 47 years for individual 12 months from January to December were as -0.88, -0.58, 1.25, -0.13, -0.72, -0.72, 0.51, -0.84, 1.89, -0.17, -0.17 and -1.26, respectively. For March, July and September, trend was rising while Z value was showing negative trend in January, February, April, May, June, August, October, November and December.

Thus, Z values for two months show a positive trend and nine months it shows negative trend representing almost non-significant condition but remaining one month i.e. September representing positive trend in the significant condition as shown in Fig. 2.

![Mann Kendall and Sen's slope trend statistics of monthly rainfall at Sindewahi station](image)

Fig 2: Mann Kendall and Sen’s slope trend statistics of monthly rainfall at Sindewahi station

The statistical trends for monthly rainy days at Sindewahi station for the period 1970-2016 (47 years) for January to December did not show any significant trend at considered levels of significance (Fig.3) In the Mann-Kendall test the Z statistics that reveals the trends of monthly rainy days for 46 years for March, July and September trend was rising while Z value was showing negative trend in January, February, April, May, June, August, October, November and December. Thus, Z values for three months shows a positive trend and nine months it shows negative trend representing almost non-significant condition as shown in Fig.3.
Weekly trends of rainfall and rainy days

According to IMD standard meteorological weeks are considered for weekly trends analysis of rainfall and rainy days. Weekly rainfall and rainy days trends at Sindewahi station was analysed using Mann-Kendall test and Sen’s slope as shown in Fig. 4 & 5.

Weekly rainfall during the weeks 21\textsuperscript{st}, 23\textsuperscript{rd} - 29\textsuperscript{th}, 31\textsuperscript{st} – 37\textsuperscript{th}, and 39\textsuperscript{th} – 45\textsuperscript{th} did not exhibit statistical significant trends at considered significance levels, respectively. At Sindewahi station, weekly rainfall during 22\textsuperscript{nd}, 30\textsuperscript{th} and 38\textsuperscript{th} weeks shows statistically significant trend at significance levels. From Fig. 4 rainfall trend at Sindewahi station was SMW 22\textsuperscript{nd} (28 May to 3 June), showed significant decreasing trend \((Z= -2.18)\) of about \((Q_r= 0.00 \text{ mm/year})\) at 95 per cent confidence level and SMW 30\textsuperscript{th} (23 to 29 July) and 38\textsuperscript{th} (17 to 23 September) observed significant increasing \((Z= 1.68)\) of about \((Q_r= 0.92 \text{ mm/year})\) and \((Z= 1.82)\) of about \((Q_r= 0.29 \text{ mm/year})\) at 90 per cent confidence level respectively.

Trend of weekly rainy days at Sindewahi station during 21\textsuperscript{st}, 23\textsuperscript{rd} - 29\textsuperscript{th}, 31\textsuperscript{st} – 37\textsuperscript{th}, and 39\textsuperscript{th} – 45\textsuperscript{th} SMW did not show statistical significant trend at confidence levels. From Fig. 5, weekly rainy days during the weeks 22\textsuperscript{nd}, 30\textsuperscript{th} and 38\textsuperscript{th} shows statistically significant trend at significance level.

From Fig. 5 rainy days trends at Sindewahi station SMW 22\textsuperscript{nd} (28 May to 3 June), showed significant decreasing trend \((Z= -1.77)\) of about \((Q_r= 0.00 \text{ mm/year})\) at 90 per cent confidence level and SMW 30\textsuperscript{th} (23 to 29 July) and 38\textsuperscript{th} (17 to 23 September) observed significant increasing \((Z= 1.95)\) of about \((Q_r= 0.04 \text{ mm/year})\) at 90 per cent confidence level and \((Z= 1.69)\) of about \((Q_r= 0.00 \text{ mm/year})\) at 90 per cent confidence level.

Conclusion

The present study analyzed the rainfall data for 47 years from 1970 to 2016 of a Sindewahi station for the determination of the trend of precipitation. The area is rural and thus represents more of agricultural land and cultivation zones. The \(Z\) value of MK Test represents both positive and negative trend in the area although not much significant. The results shows no trend in annual and seasonal rainfall and rainy days whereas individually months of September showing significant positive trend at 90 per cent confidence level.

In rainfall and rainy days SMW 22 and SMW 30, 38 showed decreasing and increasing trend respectively. Rainfall varies in different months for different years which are evident in the graphs. Sen’s Slope is also indicating increasing and decreasing magnitude of slope in correspondence with the MK Test values. Therefore it can be concluded that there is evidence of some change in the trend of precipitation of the region in these 47 years in different months. Further, study of the area may reveal other aspects which will be helpful into mitigate the adverse effect of uncertainty of rainfall, it is proposed to adopt the location specific in situ soil and moisture conservation practices before and after commencement of the rains and to harvest the excess runoff into farm ponds and recycled for providing protective irrigation for sustainable rainfed agriculture. It helps in agricultural planning and management of water resources.

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