The effect of climatic parameters on tuber crops yields in kwara state, nigeria.

Abugu, M.C.

*Corresponding author: Ph No: 2348038489144 E-mail: asifikameen2007@gmail.com

Received: November 29, 2015, Accepted: December 23, 2015. Published: December 23, 2015.

ABSTRACT

Climatic data on rainfall, evaporation, relative humidity, maximum and minimum atmospheric temperature, soil temperature and sunshine hours were obtained from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) for a decade (2002-2011) while crop yield data were sourced from Kwara State Agricultural and Development Project (KWADP). These data were analyzed in order to evaluate the impact of climate on the cultivation of cassava, yam, and sweet potato in Kwara State, Nigeria. Multiple regression, trend analysis and correlation analytical techniques were employed to analyze the data. The result obtained shows that the impact of climate on tuber cultivation is significant for yam and cassava yield at 95% probability levels. This implies that climate has a strong linear correlation with two of the selected crops within the years under review. As a result, it is recommended that investment should be made in to supplement rain-fed agriculture under these practices of extensive agricultural extension services, adoption of modern agricultural techniques and provision of agro-chemicals to farmers. Agricultural yield in the study area will be greatly improved if the above recommendations and other government policies are put in place.


INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is the growing, processing and distribution of food and other products through intensive plant cultivation and animal husbandry in and around cities. It includes green belts around cities, farming at the city edge, vegetable plots in community gardens and food production in thousands of vacant inner – city lots (CFSCNAAC, 2003). Agriculture is the practice of crop cultivation and livestock keeping within the boundaries. The choice of what to produce and how to produce it is determined by the culture, traditions, market, water supply, climate, soil condition, plot size and distance from home (AbdulAziz, 2002 & Wiebe, 2003). In view of the foregoing, climate has been undoubtedly identified as one of the fundamental factors that determine both crop cultivation and livestock keeping.

Climate is a long-term average weather conditions that exercise either directly or indirectly controls or affects agricultural production. That is to say, climate forms the major part of the physical environment in which agriculture thrives. Climate determines the choice of what plant to cultivate, how to cultivate it, the yields of crops and nature of livestock to keep. Ajadi (2011) explained that solar radiation, temperature, moisture and other climatic parameters determine the global distribution of crops and livestock as well as crop yield and livestock productivity. Reuben and Barau (2012) observed that rainfall distribution and the occurrence of moisture stress condition during vegetative period are critical for the yield formation of cassava crop at Kabba, Kogi State.

From above, it can be deduced that climate parameters are the major environmental factors capable of affecting agriculture. Olarenwaju, (2012) declared that many of the problems facing agricultural products are climate related. It is against this background that this paper is put forward to ascertain the impact of climate on agriculture in Kwara State. The specific objectives are to:

- Examine the relationship between selected climatic elements and yield of the three major tuber crops in the state and
- Examine the contribution of climatic element to the trends and variation of tuber crop yield over the decade under review.

Study Area

The study area is, University of Ilorin, Kwara State. Ilorin is located between latitudes 8o05’N to 10 o05’N (8o30’N) and longitudes 2o50’E to 6o 05’E (4o33’E). The state has an elongated shape running from west to east and covering an area of about 32,500 sq.km and has River Niger as its natural boundary along its northern and eastern margins see Fig. 1. Kwara State lies within a region described as tropical climate and is characterized by double rainfall maxima and has tropical wet and dry climate (Olanrewaju, 2009). Both seasons last for about six months. Kwara State is a summer rainfall area, with an annual rainfall range of 100 mm to 1500 mm. The rainy season begins at about the end of March and lasts until early September, while the dry season begins in early October and ends in early March. Temperature is uniformly high and ranges between 25oC and 29oC in the wet season throughout the season except in July – August when the clouding of the sky prevents direct insolation (heatstroke) while in the dry season it ranges between 33oC to 34oC.

Relative humidity at Ilorin in the wet season is between 75 to 80% while in the dry season it is about 65%. The daytimes are sunny and the sun shines brightly for about 6.5 to 7.7 hours daily from November to May (NBS, 2009).
The geology of the study area consists of Precambrian basement complex rock. The elevation on the western side varies from 273m to 333m above sea level while on the Eastern side it varies from 273m to 364m. Ilorin is majorly drained by Asa River, whose course enters the southern end of the industrial estate from Asa Dam and it runs northwards through residential and commercial areas of Ilorin city (Ajadi et al, 2011).

The soils of Ilorin are loamy soil and easy to farm. However, low fertility is observed due to leaching of minerals and nutrients because of the high seasonal rainfall coupled with the high temperatures.

The climate of Kwara State supports tall grass interspersed with short scattered trees. This attribute predisposes the people of Kwara State to make farming their major occupation. Food crops produced in the state are mostly root crops namely yam, cassava, water yam and sweet potato and they constitute the main staple food aside cereals (Ajadi, et al 2011).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Ajadi et al 2011 reported that there are three methods of establishing agriculture – climate relationships. The first method establishes the fundamentals of plant – climate relationship in terms of the solar radiation and moisture balance for various crops in various climatic environments. The second method involves studying agricultural products yield data and climate for a number of places within a given area for as long a period as constant record of both agriculture and climate allow. A decade climate data (rainfall, maximum temperature, minimum temperature, evaporation, relative humidity, sunshine hours, soil temperature) were obtained from Nigeria Meteorological Service, Oshodi, Lagos and National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Lagos. While, crop yield data were obtained from National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Lagos and Kwara State Agricultural Development Project (KWADP), Ilorin on cassava, sweet potato, and yam. The choice of the aforementioned climatic parameters is based on their vital role to the selected crops yield and the evaluation of a decade data is based on statistical theories.

Both descriptive and inferential statistical techniques were employed in data analysis. While simple correlation and multiple regressions were used in showing the relationship between climatic parameters and crop yield and showing the trend and variation in crop yield over the ten years in the study area. these statistical techniques were employed in the analysis of both crop yield data and climatic parameters because of their peculiarity in revealing the relationship and variation among variables.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION


Table 1 shows the descriptive analysis of the agricultural data in Kwara State 2002 – 2011. Out of the three selected tuber crops, cassava has the highest mean value (969.34). This was followed by yam (732.35) while sweet potato has the lowest mean value (67.83). This implies that within the years under study, cassava has the highest yield value. Similarly, the highest deviation was obtained in cassava production (359.98). this reveals that the dispersion characteristics of cassava production in Kwara State are generally low. The coefficient of variation, which shows the relative deviation between crop yields, indicates that all the tuber crops (yam, cassava and sweet potato) are heterogeneous. This suggests that the value of yam, cassava and sweet potato yields in the study years does not differ significantly. The relative deviation in crop production could be as a result of impact of climate on the crops and soil fertility.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>Mean Yield</th>
<th>Standard Deviation</th>
<th>Skewness</th>
<th>Kurtosis</th>
<th>Co-efficient of Variation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yam</td>
<td>732.35</td>
<td>310.31</td>
<td>0.063</td>
<td>-1.636</td>
<td>82.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cassava</td>
<td>969.34</td>
<td>359.99</td>
<td>-0.429</td>
<td>-1.811</td>
<td>93.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S/Potato</td>
<td>67.83</td>
<td>14.11</td>
<td>-0.022</td>
<td>-1.635</td>
<td>72.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Pattern of Meteorological Data (2002-2011)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yr</th>
<th>RF, mm</th>
<th>MxT</th>
<th>MnT</th>
<th>Ev</th>
<th>R/H</th>
<th>SSH</th>
<th>ST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>95.1</td>
<td>32.6</td>
<td>21.8</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>29.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>109.9</td>
<td>32.8</td>
<td>22.1</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>28.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>119.8</td>
<td>33.4</td>
<td>22.2</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>108.7</td>
<td>31.9</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>29.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The result of the trend analysis in Table 4 shows that there is a direct relationship between the trend in crop yield and the climate. This implies that the climate has in one way or the other affected the pattern of variation in crop yield within the years under review.

### Correlation Analysis

The correlation coefficient (r) between the climate parameters and the selected crop yields is presented in Table 5. The result shows that the correlation coefficient values of rainfall, minimum and maximum temperature, and evaporation for yam yield are greater than 0.5 except that of relative humidity, sunshine hours and soil temperature. This implies that the other climatic parameters apart from temperature have strong correlation coefficient with the selected crops. In case of cassava, evaporation and soil temperature have values greater than 0.5 while for sweet potato, it is the minimum atmospheric temperature and soil temperature that have values greater than 0.5. This implies that there is an average linear relationship between these climatic parameters and sweet potato yield in the study area. However, there is a weak relationship between sweet potato yeld and rainfall, minimum temperature, evaporation, relative humidity and sunshine hours.

### Further Research

The analysis in this study was based on the effect of weather parameters on tuber crops yield neglecting the effect of soil management practices. A similar research can be carried out taking into consideration these practices.

### Conclusion

The result obtained from the regression and correlation statistics reveals that climate has impact on crop productivity within the years under consideration. The result implies that, though there has been increase in the area of cultivation and provision of farm inputs to farmer in the years specified, however, climate has taken its toll on the selected crops yield. This indicates clearly that variation in crop yield in Kwara State could be attributed to climatic influence on agriculture. Taking into consideration the array of factors mitigating tuber crops yield in Kwara State, Nigeria, climate has been identified as the major culprit and the only factor that is impossible to control in the open field. As a result, this study recommends the following measures towards improving tuber crops production:

### Relationship between Climatic Variables and Crop Yield

The result of the regression analysis in Table 3 shows that 99.8%, 99.9% and 82.4% of the variation in yam, cassava and sweet potato respectively can be explained as the effect of the climate. This implies that the impact of climate on crop yield is significant for yam and cassava yield at 95% probability levels.

### Trend in Crop Yield

Table 4: Trend in Crop Yield between 2002-2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>Kendall’s tau</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yam</td>
<td>.689</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cassava</td>
<td>.822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweet Potato</td>
<td>.600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).
* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

The result of the correlation analysis presented in Table 5. The result suggests that variations in tuber crops yield in Kwara State, Nigeria, climate has been identified as the major culprit and the only factor that is impossible to control in the open field. As a result, this study recommends the following measures towards improving tuber crops production.
and agriculture in general.

1. Application of fertilizer and other agro-chemicals to improve soil fertility and prevent field losses.
2. Adoption of modern agricultural techniques to boost crop yield.
3. Adoption by farmers improved seedlings.
4. Application of pesticides to reduce the effects of pests on crops.
5. Introduction of improved seedlings and input for high crops yields.

REFERENCES

**Citation:** Abugu, M.C. (2015). The effect of Climatic Parameters on Tuber Crops Yields in Kwara state, Nigeria. J. of Advancement in Engineering and Technology, V3I4. DOI: 10.15297/JABZ.V3I4.06.

**Copyright:** © 2015 Abugu, M.C.. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.