

# Trend Analysis of Precipitation in Some Selected Stations in Anambra State

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Received 19 November 2014; revised 19 December 2014; accepted 28 December 2014

Academic Editor: Mohammad Valipour, University of Tehran, Iran

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## Abstract

State is in the South East geopolitical zone of Nigeria. The major occupation of the people in this region is trading and farming, which depends on rainfall and other climatic factors. This paper presents statistical and trend analyses of the rainfall in some selected stations in Anambra State, which includes Ifite-Ogwari, Awka, Onitsha and Ihiala. Rainfall data for a period of 1971-2010 were obtained from Climate Research Unit (CRU). The existence of trend and statistical analyses was conducted on monthly total rainfalls using non-parametric techniques. The study revealed that overall averages of yearly and monthly total rainfall were 5798.78 mm and 1739.62 mm in Ifite-Ogwari, 6051.8 mm and 1815 mm in Awka, 6288.87 mm and 1886.88 mm in Onitsha, and 6637.19 mm and 1997.1 mm in Ihiala. Yearly total rainfall has Mann-Whitney of 26 and 41 between 1971 and 1990, 1991 and 2010 respectively in Ifite-Ogwari, 32 and 42 between 1971 and 1990, 1991 and 2010 respectively in Awka, 42 and 39 between 1971 and 1990, 1991 and 2010 respectively in Onitsha, and 33 and 45 between 1971 and 1990, 1991 and 2010 respectively in Ihiala. These parameters show that there are significant trends in the rainfall in term of yearly total for the period. Sen's estimator revealed that there were significant downward trends for yearly total (-0.775 mm/year) and (-0.094 mm/year) within the period of 1971-1990 and 1991-2010 in Ifite-Ogwari. There was an upward trend of yearly total (1.841 mm/year) between 1971 and 1990, whereas there was a downward trend of yearly total (-0.211) between 1991 and 2010 in Awka. It was concluded that there was a significant downward trend in the yearly total and mean rainfalls in Ifite-Ogwari, Awka, Onitsha and Ihiala in the last four decades (40 years), which could be attributed to climate change.

## Keywords

Precipitation, Trend Analysis, Non-Parametric Tests

**How to cite this paper:** Ifeka, A. and Akinbobola, A. (2015) Trend Analysis of Precipitation in Some Selected Stations in Anambra State. *Atmospheric and Climate Sciences*, **5**, 1-12. <u>http://dx.doi.org/10.4236/acs.2015.51001</u>

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## **1. Introduction**

Trend detection is an active area of interest for both hydrology and climatology in order to investigate climate change scenarios and enhance climate impact research. Therefore, trend detection in precipitation time series is crucial for planning and designing regional water resources management. Several recent studies on climatologic trends conclude that trends in observed precipitation comprise a complex function of climatic environment, precipitation intensity and season [1] [2]. Relevant reviews on trend analysis in precipitation time series include the studies of [3]-[7].

The purpose of this work is to investigate the trend of total amount of rainfall in Ifite-Ogwari, Awka, Onitsha and Ihiala in Anambra State by detecting precipitation changes in the temporal structure for the period 1971-2010.

## 2. Methodology

## 2.1. Study Area

Anambra State of Nigeria was created on 27th August, 1991 out of the old Anambra State with its state capital as Awka and lies at Latitude 6°20'N and Longitude 7°00'E. The land area is approximately 4844 km<sup>2</sup>, its annual population growth rate of 2.21% per annum [8]. Anambra State has over 60% of its people living in urban areas making it one of the most urbanized places in Nigeria [9]. Since then, the state has being witnessing immense growth in the size of built-up areas, number of immigrants, transportation and commercial activities. It experiences warm humid tropical climate, with average rainfall between 1520 and 2020 mm per annum. Minimum and Maximum temperatures range between 25.4°C and 30.6°C and its vegetation is the tropical forest type [10].

For this study, the following towns were selected; they are Awka, Onitsha, Ihiala and Ifite-Ogwari. Awka lies between  $6^{\circ}21$ 'N and  $7^{\circ}61$ 'E, Onitsha lies between  $6^{\circ}17$ 'N and  $6^{\circ}78$ 'E, Ihiala lies between  $5^{\circ}86$ 'N and  $6^{\circ}86$ 'E and Ifite-Ogwari lies between  $6^{\circ}60$ 'N and  $6^{\circ}95$ 'E (Figure 1).

## 2.2. Materials and Methods

The data used in this study include the records of the precipitation obtained from Climatic Research Unit (CRU). The precipitation records includes reanalysis observation spanning from 1971 to 2010 and cover a period of 40 years, which is considered to be long enough for a valid mean statistic [11]. Moreover, [12] states that a minimum record length of 25 years ensures statistical validity of the trend results in climate change research.

Statistical tools commonly used to detect significant trends in climatic and hydrological time series is either or the non-parametric test such as Mann-Whitney U, Wilcoxon W, Mann-Kendall or Spearman's rank correlation and the parametric test such as student's t-test [13] [14]. The non-parametric test is considered better because it is a function of the ranks of observation and it displays much insensitivity to outliers unlike the parametric counterpart. Slope (S) of the existence trend were determined using Sen's estimator and overall slopes (Tan  $(\beta + \alpha + \varphi)$  were computed as follows:

$$S = \frac{R_A - R_B}{N_A - N_B}$$
 where,  $R_A =$  rank of group  $A$ 

 $R_B$  = rank of group *B* 

 $N_A$  = number of samples in group A

 $N_{B}$  = number of samples in group B

$$\operatorname{Tan}(\alpha + \beta + \varphi) = \frac{\operatorname{Tan}\alpha + \frac{\operatorname{Tan}\beta + \operatorname{Tan}\varphi}{1 - \operatorname{Tan}\beta * \operatorname{Tan}\varphi}}{1 - \operatorname{Tan}\alpha + \frac{\operatorname{Tan}\beta + \operatorname{Tan}\varphi}{1 - \operatorname{Tan}\beta * \operatorname{Tan}\varphi}}$$

(1)

where,  $Tan(\alpha) = slope of group A$ 

 $Tan(\beta) = slope of group B$   $Tan(\varphi) = slope of group C$  $\alpha = angle of group A$ 



Figure 1. Map of anambra State showing the selected stations.

 $\beta$  = angle of group *B* 

$$\varphi = \text{ angle of group } C$$
 (2)

Mann-Whitney U-test

$$U_{x} = n_{x}n_{y} + \left(\left(n_{x}(n_{x}+1)\right)/2\right) - R_{x}$$
(3)

$$U_{x} = n_{x}n_{y} + \left(\left(n_{y}\left(n_{y}+1\right)\right)/2\right) - R_{y}$$
(4)

Where,  $n_x$  is the number of observations in the first group,  $n_y$  is the number of observations in the second group,  $R_x$  is the sum of the ranks assigned to the first group and  $R_y$  is the sum of the ranks assigned to the second group. In other words, both (U) equations can be understood as the number of times observation in one sample precede or follow observation in the other sample.

Wilcoxon Rank Sum Test

$$z_T = \frac{T - \mu_T}{\sigma_T} \tag{5}$$

Where,  $\mu_T = \frac{N(n+1)}{4}$ 

$$\sigma_T = \sqrt{\frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{24}}$$

n = sample size

 $T = \text{ sum of ranks for smaller sample size } (n_1)$ 

 $n_1$  = smaller of sample sizes

 $n_2 =$  larger of sample sizes

 $n_1 \ge 10$  and  $n_2 \ge 10$ 

Sen's Slope Estimator Test: The magnitude of trend is predicted by Sen's estimator. Here, the slope  $(T_i)$  of all data pairs is computed as [15]

$$T_i = \frac{x_j - x_k}{j - k}$$
 for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, N$  (6)

where  $x_j$  and  $x_k$  are considered as data values at time j and k (j > k) corresponding. The median of these N values of  $T_i$  represented as Sen's estimator of slope which is given as:

$$Q_{i} = \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \left( T_{\frac{N}{2}} + T_{\frac{N+2}{2}} \right) - N \text{ is odd} \right.$$
(7)

$$Q_i = \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \left( T_{\frac{N+1}{2}} \right) - N \text{ is even} \right.$$
(8)

Sen's estimator is computed as  $Q_i = \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \left( T_N + T_{N+2} - T_N \right) \right\}$  if N appears odd, and it is considered as

 $Q_i = \left\{\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{T_{N+1}}{2}\right) \text{ if } N \text{ appears even. At the end, } Q_i \text{ is computed by a two sided test at } 100(1-\alpha)\% \text{ confi-}\right\}$ 

dence interval and then a true slope can be obtained by the non-parametric test. Positive value of  $Q_i$  indicates an upward or increasing trend and a negative value of  $Q_i$  gives a downward or decreasing trend in the time series.

Models that relate yearly total rainfall to the year were developed from the trend analysis using Statistical and logical techniques.

## 3. Results and Discussion

Results of this study are discussed in the following categories: statistical summary of rainfall (annual mean precipitation); monthly rainfall trend and sequential analyses.

## **3.1. Statistical Monthly Rainfall Summary**

#### 3.1.1. Ifite-Ogwari

**Table 1** presents monthly mean, median, maximum and minimum rainfalls in Ifite-Ogwari. The table revealed that the rainy period is between February and November, with May, June, July, August, September and October as significant rainy months. The month August has the highest magnitude of monthly rainfall with 597 mm followed by month September with 573 mm. This shows that for farming activities in rainy seasons crops with maximum water demands month of six months are best situated for the station.

#### 3.1.2. Awka

Table 2 presents monthly mean, median, maximum and minimum rainfalls in Awka. The table showed the rainy period is between March and October, with April, May, June, July, August, September and October as signifi-

Table 1. Statist														
Months	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.		
Mean	6.18	23.2	70.15	132.9	203.16	230.25	277	250.9	292.2	209.5	35.91	8.27		
Maximum	30.9	107.1	205	286.5	376.1	330.7	423.7	597.9	573.6	336.9	163.5	53.9		
Minimum	0	0	14.6	43.6	128.5	137.1	144.7	89.8	187.2	60.4	0	0		
Median	3.45	17.25	59.2	122.35	193.8	231.35	271.1	219.8	287.1	208.3	31.4	4.65		
Standard Deviation	8.64	24.04	43.27	55.42	51.47	39.63	75.5	111.1	72.8	68.6	35.79	11.4		
Coefficient of Variation	139.8	103.65	61.69	41.7	25.34	17.21	27.24	44.28	24.93	32.74	99.66	137.85		

Table 1. Statistical summary of monthly rainfall in Ifite-Ogwari.

Table 2. Statistical summary of monthly rainfall in Awka.

Months	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Mean	7.04	16.87	71.2	147.61	209.4	239.7	292.6	266	298.4	217.5	40.59	8.64
Maximum	51.3	94.9	222.3	331.2	403.1	392.2	587.7	487.8	582.7	345.6	179.9	50.4
Minimum	0	0	7.3	26.7	96.2	90.2	113.1	88.5	152.3	64.6	0	0
Median	2.45	13	65.4	145.3	202.9	236.4	293.5	245.9	286.1	218.2	24.5	2.35
Standard Deviation	12.12	19.33	48.97	58.72	66.3	63.7	95.5	112.3	82.5	74.7	47.31	13.1
Coefficient of Variation	172.26	114.59	68.78	39.78	31.68	26.56	32.63	42.23	27.66	34.36	116.6	151.54

cant rainy months. The month of July has the highest magnitude of monthly rainfall with 587.7 mm followed by month September with 582.7 mm.

#### 3.1.3. Onitsha

**Table 3** presents monthly mean, median, maximum and minimum rainfalls in Onitsha. The table revealed that the rainy period is February and September, with March, April, May, June, July, August and September as significant rainy months. The month of September has the highest magnitude of monthly rainfall with 615.6 mm followed by month August with 535.2 mm.

#### 3.1.3. Ihiala

**Table 4** presents monthly mean, median, maximum and minimum rainfalls in Ihiala. The table showed that the rainy period is March and October, with April, May, June, July, August, September and October as significant rainy months. The month of September has the highest magnitude of monthly rainfall with 648 mm followed by month of July with 536.7 mm.

#### **3.1.4. Trend Analysis**

The result of trend analyses are discussed in the following ways: trend of yearly rainfalls with the sequences of the monthly and yearly rainfalls.

## 3.2. Ifite-Ogwari

## 3.2.1. Trend of Yearly Rainfalls

**Table 5** presents results of non-parametric analyses (mean rank, Mann-Whitney, Wilcoxon, standard anomaly index (SAI:Z), Asymptotic Significant, Sen's estimator. From these analyses presented in the table, it was observed that they are downward trend in the total, mean, maximum and minimum rainfall in Ifite-Ogwari between 1971 and 1990, but these trends were not statistically significant at 95% confidence level. Between 1991 and 2010, there are downward trends in the rainfall parameters with SAI's of -1.814 and -0.680 for between 1991

able 3. Statistical summary of monthly rainfall in Onitsha.													
Months	Ianuary	February	March	Anril	May	Iuno	Inly	Δυσ	Sent	Oct	Nov	Dec	
wontins	January	February	March	Арти	wiay	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	0	1107.	Det.	
Mean	8.38	23.37	78.59	151.6	215.6	244.88	299.8	267.3	309.9	228	48.25	11.01	
Maximum	58	131.8	215.7	352.6	434.3	385	524.8	535.2	615.6	359.5	257	62.9	
Minimum	0	0	10.3	15.3	119.1	100.8	115.2	100.7	188.1	34.2	0	0	
Median	4.85	19.8	69.05	137.4	208.3	242.85	304	230.6	311.1	228.9	34.65	4.7	
Standard Deviation	13.36	24.48	48.29	64.1	63.8	54.1	93.1	113.6	80.3	75.4	53.29	15.25	
Coefficient of Variation	159.38	104.74	61.44	42.3	29.59	22.09	31.06	42.51	25.91	33.05	110.4	138.44	

Table 4. Statistical summary of monthly rainfall in Ihiala.

Months	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Mean	12.7	28.94	91.55	161.18	223.55	258.14	314.5	265.9	321.3	244.4	59.22	15.72
Maximum	86.6	154.7	226.9	352.3	391.7	440.2	536.7	527.6	648	414	289	74.9
Minimum	0	1.3	14.4	31.7	129.5	118.7	140.7	94.1	203.9	50.6	0.4	0
Median	7.15	25	86.25	155.05	219.65	246.9	317.9	254.5	318.3	241.7	47	9.35
Standard Deviation	17.69	27.99	47	58.54	62.24	62.64	102.1	105.5	85.8	82.6	53.67	19.15
Coefficient of Variation	139.31	96.7	51.34	36.32	27.84	24.27	32.47	39.68	26.72	33.81	90.63	121.81

Table 5. Non-parameter test of summarized statistical data in Ifite-Ogwari.

Year	Mean	Mann-Whitney U	Wilcoxon	Z-Statistics	Asymptotic Significant (2 Tailed)	Sen's Estimator	Number of Samples
1971-1980 1981-1990	12.9 8.1	26	81	-1.814	0.070	-0.775	10 10
1991-2000 2001-2010	11.4 9.6	41	96	-0.680	0.496	-0.094	10 10

and 2010. Asymptotic significant (probability) of these rainfall parameters were found to be 0.070 and 0.496 for these periods respectively. SAI provides an area average index of relation rainfall yields based on the standard of total, mean, maximum and minimum rainfalls. These magnitudes of SAI (Z > 1.96) and probabilities show that the downward trends are statistically significant at 95% confidence level. Also the sign (Z < 0) revealed that the values were less than expected overall mean rainfall and that there was more dryness in the period between 1971 and 1990 than the period between 1991 and 2010.

Sen's estimator revealed that yearly total rainfalls have trends of -0.775 mm/year and -0.094 mm/year for a period of 1971-1990 and 1991-2010 respectively.

#### 3.2.2. Sequence Analysis of the Rainfalls

Figures 2(a)-(d) present sequential values of the rainfalls in Ifite-Ogwari. The figures apparently show decreasing trends in rainfalls.

Figures 2(a)-(d) illustrate the downward trends appearance of the yearly total, maximum, minimum and mean rainfall. From the graphs, it appears the strongest decreasing trend occurred between 1979 and 1986.

Figure 2(c) clearly shows yearly maximum rainfall from 1971 to 2010 which implies that 1987 and 2004 recorded highest magnitude of rainfall with 579.9 mm and 573.6 mm respectively. These trends can be attributed to



Figure 2. (a)-(d) Sequence of yearly total rainfall in Ifite-Ogwari; (e) Sequence of rainfall in the month of May, June, July, August, September and October from 1971 to 2010 in Ifite-Ogwari.

climate change, which manifest itself in the area as temperature is increasing and reduction in rainfall in the years 1971-1974, 1980-1985 and 1991-1994 as showed in Figure 2(d).

**Figure 2(e)** clearly shows the month of August in 1987 recorded the highest magnitude of rainfall with 597.9 mm followed by the month of September in 2004 with 573.6 mm of rainfall amounts. The month of October in 1992 recorded the lowest magnitude of rainfall with 60.44 mm.

## 3.3. Awka

#### 3.3.1. Trend of Yearly Rainfalls

**Table 6** presents results of non-parametric analyses (mean rank, Mann-Whitney, Wilcoxon, standard anomaly index (SAI:Z), Asymptotic Significant, Sen's estimator. From these analyses presented in the table, it was observed that they are upward trend in the total, mean, maximum and minimum rainfall in Awka between 1971 and 1990, but these trends were not statistically significant at 95% confidence level. Between 1991 and 2010, there are downward trends in the rainfall parameters with SAI's of -1.361 and -0.605 for between 1991 and 2010. Asymptotic significant (probability) of these rainfall parameters were found to be 0.174 and 0.545 for these periods respectively. SAI provides an area average index of relation rainfall yields based on the standard

Table 6. Non-par	rameter te	est of summarized st	atistical dat	a in Awka.			
Year	Mean	Mann-Whitney U	Wilcoxon	Z-Statistics	Asymptotic Significant (2 Tailed)	Sen's Estimator	Number of Samples
1971-1980	8.7						10
1981-1990	12.3	32	87	-1.361	0.174	1.841	10
1991-2000	11.3						10
2001-2010	9.7	42	97	-0.605	0.545	-0.211	10

of total, mean, maximum and minimum rainfalls. These magnitude of SAI (Z > 1.96) and probabilities show that the downward trends are statistically significant at 95% confidence level. Also the sign (Z < 0) revealed that the values were more than expected overall mean rainfall and that there was more wetness in the period between 1971 and 1990 than the period between 1991 and 2010.

Sen's estimator revealed that yearly total rainfalls have trends of 1.841 mm/year and -0.211 mm/year for a period of 1971-1990 and 1991-2010 respectively.

#### 3.3.2. Sequence Analysis of the Rainfalls

**Figures 3(a)-(d)** present sequential values of the rainfalls in Awka. The figures apparently show decreasing trends in rainfalls.

**Figures 3(a)-(d)** illustrate the downward trends appearance of the yearly total, maximum, minimum and mean rainfall. From the graphs, it appears the strongest decreasing trend occurred between 1979 and 1983.

**Figure 3(c)** clearly shows yearly maximum rainfall from 1971 to 2010 which implies that 1990 and 2004 recorded highest magnitude of rainfall with 587.7 mm and 582.7 mm respectively. These trends can be attributed to climate change, which manifest itself in the area as temperature is increasing and reduction in rainfall in the years 1971-1975, 1979-1983 and 1991-1992 as showed in **Figure 3(d)**.

**Figure 3(e)** clearly shows the month of July in 1990 recorded the highest magnitude of rainfall with 587.7 mm followed by the month of September in 2004 with 582.7 mm of rainfall amounts. The month of October in 1983 recorded the lowest magnitude of rainfall with 64.6 mm.

#### 3.4. Onitsha

#### 3.4.1. Trend of Yearly Rainfalls

**Table 7** presents results of non-parametric analyses (mean rank, Mann-Whitney, Wilcoxon, standard anomaly index (SAI:Z), Asymptotic Significant, Sen's estimator. From these analyses presented in the table, it was observed that they are upward trend in the total, mean, maximum and minimum rainfall in Onitsha between 1971 and 1990, but these trends were not statistically significant at 95% confidence level. Between 1991 and 2010, there are downward trends in the rainfall parameters with SAI's of -0.605 and -0.832 for between 1991 and 2010. Asymptotic significant (probability) of these rainfall parameters were found to be -0.545 and -0.406 for these periods respectively. SAI provides an area average index of relation rainfall yields based on the standard of total, mean, maximum and minimum rainfalls. These magnitudes of SAI (Z > 1.96) and probabilities show that the downward trends are statistically significant at 95% confidence level. Also the sign (Z < 0) revealed that the values were more than expected overall mean rainfall and that there was more wetness in the period between 1991 and 2010.

Sen's estimator revealed that yearly total rainfalls have trends of 0.146 mm/year and 0.535 mm/year for a period of 1971-1990 and 1991-2010 respectively.

#### 3.4.2. Sequence Analysis of the Rainfalls

Figures 4(a)-(d) present sequential values of the rainfalls in Onitsha. The figures apparently show decreasing trends in rainfalls.

**Figures 4(a)-(d)** illustrate the downward trends appearance of the yearly total, maximum, minimum and mean rainfall. From the graphs, it appears the strongest decreasing trend occurred between 1979 and 1983.

Figure 4(c) clearly shows yearly maximum rainfall from 1971 to 2010 which implies that 1990 and 2004 rec-



Figure 3. (a)-(d) Sequence of yearly minimum rainfall in Awka; (e) Sequence of rainfall in the month of May, June, July, August, September and October from 1971 to 2010 in Awka.

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Table 7 Ma

Table 7. Non-par	able 7. Non-parameter test of summarized statistical data in Omtsha.												
Year	Mean	Mann-Whitney U	Wilcoxon	Z-Statistics	Asymptotic Significant (2 Tailed)	Sen's Estimator	• Number of Samples						
1971-1980	11.3						10						
1981-1990	9.7	42	97	-0.605	-0.545	0.146	10						
1991-2000	11.6						10						
2001-2010	9.4	39	94	-0.832	-0.406	-0.535	10						

orded highest magnitude of rainfall with 524.8 mm and 615.6 mm respectively. These trends can be attributed to climate change, which manifest itself in the area as temperature is increasing and reduction in rainfall in the years 1971-1977, 1979-1984 and 1991-1994 as showed in Figure 4(d).

**Figure 4(e)** clearly shows the month of September in 2004 recorded the highest magnitude of rainfall with 615.6 mm followed by the month of August in 1971 with 535.2 mm of rainfall amounts. The month of October in 1983 recorded the lowest magnitude of rainfall with 34.2 mm.

## 3.5. Ihiala

### 3.5.1. Trend of Yearly Rainfalls

**Table 8** presents results of non-parametric analyses (mean rank, Mann-Whitney, Wilcoxon, standard anomaly index (SAI:Z), Asymptotic Significant, Sen's estimator. From these analyses presented in the table, it was observed that they are upward trend in the total, mean, maximum and minimum rainfall in Ihiala between 1971 and 1990, but these trends were not statistically significant at 95% confidence level. Between 1991 and 2010, there are downward trends in the rainfall parameters with SAI's of -1.285 and -0.378 for between 1991 and 2010. Asymptotic significant (probability) of these rainfall parameters were found to be 0.199 and 0.705 for these periods respectively. SAI provides an area average index of relation rainfall yields based on the standard of total, mean, maximum and minimum rainfalls. These magnitudes of SAI (Z > 1.96) and probabilities show that the downward trends are statistically significant at 95% confidence level. Also the sign (Z < 0) revealed that the values were more than expected overall mean rainfall and that there was more wetness in the period between 1991 and 2010.



Figure 4. (a)-(d) Sequence of yearly total rainfall in Onitsha; (e) Sequence of rainfall in the month of May, June, July, August, September and October from 1971 to 2010 in Onitsha.

Sen's estimator revealed that yearly total rainfalls have trends of 1.437 mm/year and -0.023 mm/year for a period of 1971-1990 and 1991-2010 respectively.

## 3.5.2. Sequence Analysis of the Rainfalls

Figures 5(a)-(d) present sequential values of the rainfalls in Ihiala. The figures apparently show decreasing



Figure 5. (a)-(d) Sequence of yearly total rainfall in Ihiala; (e) Sequence of rainfall in the month of May, June, July, August, September and October from 1971 to 2010 in Ihiala.

T	abl	e	8.	Non-	-parameter	test of	summarized	statistical	data in	Ihiala.

Year	Mean	Mann-Whitney U	Wilcoxon	Z-Statistics	Asymptotic Significant (2 Tailed)	Sen's Estimator	Number of Samples
1971-1980	8.8	22	00	1 295	0.100	1 427	10
1981-1990	12.2	55	00	-1.283	0.199	1.437	10
1991-2000	11	45	100	0.279	0.705	0.0222	10
2001-2010	10	40	100	-0.378 0.705	0.705	-0.0232	10

trends in rainfalls.

**Figures 5(a)-(d)** illustrate the downward trends appearance of the yearly total, maximum, minimum and mean rainfall. From the graphs, it appears the strongest decreasing trend occurred between 1973 and 1976 and 1981 and 1984 respectively.

**Figure 5(c)** clearly shows yearly maximum rainfall from 1971 to 2010 which implies that 1990 and 1971 recorded highest magnitude of rainfall with 536.7 mm and 470.9 mm respectively. These trends can be attributed to climate change, which manifest itself in the area as temperature is increasing and reduction in rainfall in the years 1973-1976, 1981-1984, 1986, 1989, 1991 and 1999 as showed in **Figure 5(d)**.

**Figure 5(e)** clearly shows the month of September in 2004 recorded the highest magnitude of rainfall with 648 mm followed by the month of September in 2006 with 536 mm of rainfall amounts. The month of October in 1983 recorded the lowest magnitude of rainfall with 0.5 mm.

## 4. Conclusion

The application of this trend analysis framework revealed an overall downward precipitation trend. If the Ogwari station indicated downward trends between 1971 and 1990 and 1991 and 2010, but Awka, Onitsha and Ihiala showed an upward trend between 1971 and 1990 and a downward trend between 1991 and 2010. However, this decrease was found to be statistically significant at 95% confidence level at the four stations. The trend revealed that August and October had downward trends.

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