

Variability of potential evapotranspiration and moisture conditions in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

In the present study, evapotranspiration and moisture adequate index for the 37 mandals of the Srikakulam district for the year 2018 has been estimated. The PET values were very high in the summer season of all the mandals than in the other seasons. The normal PET values were lower than that of the actual PET values showing location specific and better estimation characteristics. This estimation of location-specific PET can be helpful for the drought classification and water management planning within the district. Moisture adequate index of all the mandals has indicated that the district as a whole has a humid/temperate climate; but within the district, mandals report different conditions. This makes it a more relevant tool for drought, microclimatic classification and annual water planning for sustainable agriculture.

Keywords: Evaporation, moisture adequate index, humid, microclimate.

Under the exacting conditions of climate change and unpredictable weather conditions following uneven rainfall events (IPCC, 2008) the availability of water-limited not only for domestic use but also for agricultural and non-agricultural practices. Evaporation is a major component of the hydrologic cycle as water balance, water resources planning and management, crop management and irrigation scheduling (Rao *et al.*, 2012). Some studies have documented (Mallick *et al.*, 2007; Bhattacharya *et al.*, 2010) the spatial variability of Evapotranspiration over crops in India. Rathore and Biswas (1991) prepared the climatological maps of daily evaporation and weekly evaporation those maps give a good idea about the spatial and temporal variation of evaporation over India. The likely causative meteorological parameters for such changes are identified. Future warming seems likely to lead to increased potential evapotranspiration over India, (Goroshi *et al.*, 2017) exhibiting potential evapotranspiration season-wise increasing trend during northeast winter monsoon ($m = 0.156 \text{ mm season}^{-1} \text{ year}^{-1}$) and pre-monsoon ($m = 0.068 \text{ mm season}^{-1} \text{ year}^{-1}$) periods in India. The main objective of the study was to estimate PET using FAO -56-Penmann Monteith method at mandal (within district) level which may effectively

help to the drought and water management and irrigation scheduling locations wise.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study area

Srikakulam is the coastal district of the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. It is within the geographic coordinates of 18°-20' and 19°-10' N latitude and 83°-50' and 84°-50' E longitude with an elevation of 10 m AMSL. It is one of the districts in the line of Eastern Ghats. It receives an average annual rainfall of 1100 mm of which about 60 per cent received in the monsoon season, 25 per cent in post-monsoon season and the rest of 15 per cent in winter and pre-monsoon seasons.

Weather parameters *viz.*, maximum temperature, minimum temperature, maximum relative humidity, minimum relative humidity, wind speed, pressure have been collected from 115 AWS stations installed in 36 mandals for the Andhra Pradesh State Development Planning Society (APSDPS), AP in the district of Srikakulam for the year 2018. The required climatological data (1981-2015) has been collected from the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD). The geo-coordinates for the respective AWS Stations have been used for the calculation of the

Table 1: Equations used to derive various parameters.

S. No.	Parameters	Expressions	Units
1.	Slope of the saturation vapour pressure curve	$\Delta=0.618 \exp ((17.27T)/(T+237.3)) [T+237.3]^2$	KPa°C ⁻¹
2.	Mean saturated vapour pressure	$e_s = \frac{e_0 T_{\max}(\text{mean})+e_0 T_{\min}(\text{mean})}{2}$	KPa
3.	Saturated vapour pressure at temp 'T'	$e_0(T)=0.6108 \exp ((17.27T)/(T+237.3))$	KPa
4.	Actual vapour pressure	$e_a=[e_0(T_{\min})\times(RH_{\max}/100)]+e_0(T_{\max})\times(RH_{\min}/100)]^2$	K Pa
5.	Vapour pressure deficit	$(e_s - e_a)$	K Pa
6.	Clear sky solar radiation	$RS=(0.75\times 2\times 10^{-5}\times Z)RSO$ Where Z=Altitude of location, RSO=Extra-terrestrial radiation	$\mu \text{ Jm}^{-2}\text{d}^{-1}$
7.	Incoming solar radiation	$R_s=\sqrt{(0.16 \times (T_{\max} - T_{\min}) \times R_s}$	
8.	Net short wave radiation	$R_{ns} = (1-\alpha)\times R_s$ Where α =Albedo or(anopy reflection constant (0.23))	$\mu \text{ Jm}^{-2}\alpha^{-1}$
9.	Net long wave radiation	$R_{nl}=\alpha\{[(T_{\max}K)^4-(T_{\min}K)^4]\div 2\}\times(0.34-0.14\sqrt{e})\times[1.35(RS/RO)-0.35]$	$\mu \text{ Jm}^{-2}\text{d}^{-1}$
10.	Net radiation(Rn)	$R_n=R_{ns}-R_{nl}$	$\mu \text{ Jm}^{-2}\text{d}^{-1}$
11.	Wind speed at height 'Z' cm	$\mu_z = \frac{4.87 \mu_2}{\text{Ln}(67.8Z-5.42)}$	Ms ⁻¹
12.	Psychrometric constant	$\gamma=0.655\times 10^{-3}\times P$	K Pa ⁰ C ⁻¹
13.	ET _o	Reference evapotranspiration	mm day ⁻¹
14.	G	Soil heat flux density	M J m ⁻² day ⁻¹

sunshine hours, solar radiation using empirical equations (Table 1). The monthly and seasonal values of PET and MDI for Srikakulam have been presented. The followings methods have been used to calculate the PET and MDI for the determination of PET from meteorological data. According to Rambabu and Bapuji Rao (1999) and Rao *et al.*, (2012), potential evapotranspiration estimated with the FAO-56 Penman-Monteith method was the effective method when compared to the other estimated methods in Indian conditions. For the estimation of PET, the FAO Penman-Monteith Model with the following formulae was used:

$$ET_o = \frac{0.408\Delta(R_n - G) + \gamma \frac{900}{T + 273} u_2 (e_s - e_a)}{\Delta + \gamma(1 + 0.34u_2)}$$

Where expressions considered in FAO PM Model

The following formula (Thornthwaite) was used to calculate the MDI.

$$MDI = (P - PET) / PET \times 100$$

P = Precipitation (in mm);

PET = Potential evapotranspiration (in mm)

The inverse distance weighted interpolation technique was also used to explore the spatial analysis of PET and MDI with the help of Quantum GIS.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The seasonal weekly average PET values at each mandal of the district Srikakulam are presented in Table 2. In the winter season, the PET values ranged from 10.7 to 31.7 mm across the mandals. In the winter months, due to low temperatures, the values of PET were also low being a function of temperatures. The SMWs from 40 to 52 (post-monsoon) season and SMWs of 1-8 (winter) season has shown the lowest value of PET, particularly for the Srikakulam district. In the post-monsoon season, the PET values range from 6.9 in Pathapatnam to 35.1 mm in Tekkali. Srikakulam district is the most vulnerable with the advent of cyclonic storms in the post-monsoon season. The path of the cyclone may hit the district or cross near the Orissa coast causing very heavy rainfall

Table 2 : Average PET (mm day⁻¹) of the year 2018 for the mandals of the Srikakulam District

Mandal name	Average potential evapotranspiration in (mm day ⁻¹)			
	1-8 SMWs	9-22 SMWs	23-39 SMWs	40-52 SMWs
Amadalavalasa	28.6	78.1	36.4	20.7
Bhamini	28.3	112.2	38.7	23.1
Burja	22.7	70.0	38.3	25.0
Etcherla	28.2	78.3	31.7	16.3
Ganguvarisigadam	32.4	71.8	32.3	25.2
Gara	26.5	67.9	31.4	19.8
Hiramandalam	24.7	29.4	9.5	24.7
Ichchapuram	23.0	80.2	48.4	20.6
Jalumuru	31.7	84.3	45.9	21.7
Kanchili	30.1	73.0	29.2	24.5
Kaviti	10.7	45.4	26.0	16.2
Kottabommili	24.6	74.6	34.4	19.4
Kotturu	33.0	78.7	36.6	19.1
Laveru	28.7	77.8	29.8	22.0
Mandasa	27.1	76.2	37.0	23.5
Meliaputti	19.7	34.8	40.0	19.0
Nandigam	26.9	53.2	31.5	23.9
Narsannapeta	31.4	100.8	34.0	18.7
Palakonda	24.4	71.9	26.1	20.6
Palasa	16.6	57.1	34.3	16.4
Pathapatnam	21.4	54.7	27.0	6.9
Polaki	27.4	63.9	30.6	22.7
Rajam	28.9	34.8	25.3	19.9
Ranastalam	18.9	28.0	20.3	14.7
Regidiamadalavala	30.0	88.1	38.1	25.4
Santhabommali	20.8	39.2	38.9	29.7
Santhakaviti	21.7	66.8	28.0	13.9
Sarbujjili	26.5	58.1	36.5	15.9
Seethampeta	18.8	37.0	22.0	22.4
Sompeta	14.7	35.1	30.2	15.5
Srikakulam	25.5	63.1	28.9	21.2
Tekkau	29.6	50.9	35.3	35.1
Vajrapukotturu	27.6	56.9	19.6	16.3
Vangara	22.9	76.5	31.4	17.3
Veeraghattam	31.4	72.8	30.9	22.8
Average	25.3	64.0	31.8	20.6

which resulted in low evaporation. In the summer season, i.e. 9-22 SMWs, the PET values were higher ranged from 28.0 - 112.2 mm. Bhamini mandal recorded a very high value 112.2 mm followed by Narasannapeta at 100.8 mm. However, places like Ranastalam mandal recorded a minimum value of 28.0mm followed by Hiramandalam (29.4). In the SW monsoon season, the PET values were ranged from 9.5 mm in Hiramandalam to 48.4 mm in Ichchapuram. The actual PET values for the year 2018 have been compared with the normal (1981-2010) PET value of

the Srikakulam district as a whole (Fig. 1). Actual PET values during 1 to 8 SMWs exhibited slightly high values compared to the normal; the normal being 20.0 mm day⁻¹ and the actual value 25.0 mm day⁻¹. However, for SMWs 9 to 22, the normal value was 28.0 mm day⁻¹ as against the actual value of 65.0 mm day⁻¹. Such an enormous increase may be attributed due to increased warming. During 23 to 39 SMWs, the actual value of 30.0 mm day⁻¹ was 10.0 mm day⁻¹ higher than the normal value. It was only during the 40 to 52 SMWs, the actual value was less than the normal

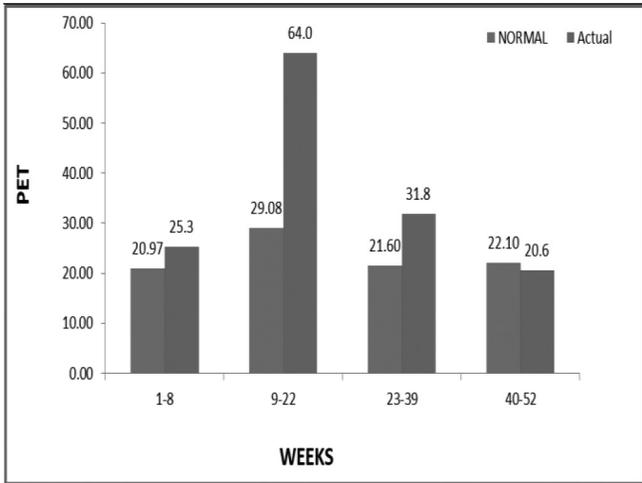


Fig. 1: Comparison between actual and normal PET of Srikakulam

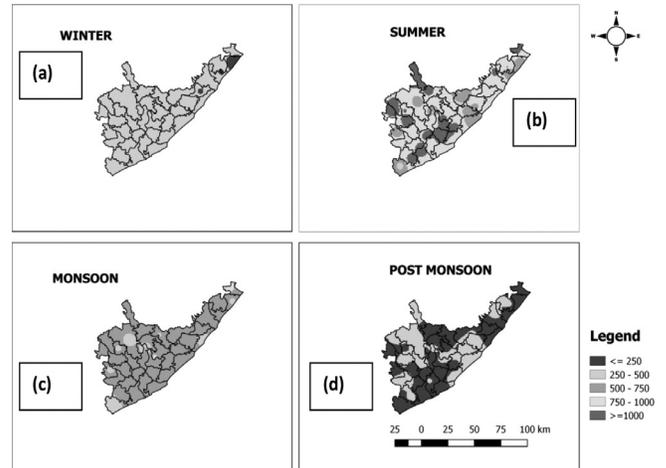


Fig.2 (a-d). Seasonal spatial distribution of PET

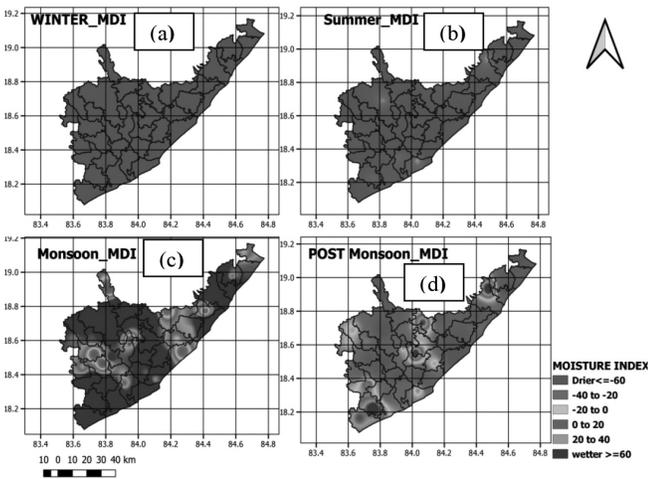


Fig. 3 (a-d): Seasonal spatial distribution of MDI

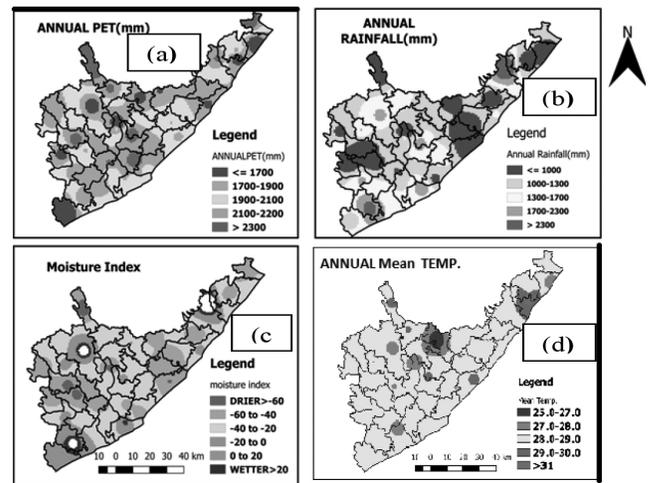


Fig. 4 (a-d): Spatial distribution of PET, annual rainfall, moisture index and mean temperature

value. According to Subrahmanayam, (1982) most of the crops in India do not seem to have favourable conditions for growth below 40 per cent of MAI unless otherwise raised as irrigated crops. The seasonal PET of the Srikakulam district has been depicted in Fig. 2; mandals with high and low values in winter months were in the northernmost area and showed lower values <250 mm (blue colour). The summer months have shown PET of >1000 mm (red colour) in coastal and southern mandals. During the monsoon period, the PET values were in the 500-750 mm range for almost the entire district. Very few mandals reported 250-500 mm values of PET. The overall observations have shown the PET values predominately in the range of 250–500 mm in winters whereas monsoon season has shown a dominant value range of 500–750 mm. The moisture adequate index had a value of -8.5 indicating the temperate climate of the Srikakulam district. Fig. 3 (a-

d) depicted the seasonal spatial distribution of MDI for the year 2018 of Srikakulam district. The index values can provide valuable information on the liability to drought and therefore the climatic suitability of a region for agricultural or forest development (Gautam *et. al.*, 2012). The natural pattern has been observed in many mandals in the Srikakulam district which was better during monsoon season lower moisture index value. This indicated that the season is more suitable for crops. The high value of MDI is high in winter and summer seasons, only allow short duration crops to complete their growth cycle. Fig. 4(a-d)) depicted variations of PET, MDI, annual rainfall as well as annual mean temperature in each mandal. Sonali *et al.*, (2016) too reported that the spatial and temporal variability was directly related to the changes in the PET. While looking at the mean annual temperature figures there were five spots of high annual mean temperature

(marked in red) not suitable for crops like paddy; whereas there were four spots with low annual mean temperature (shown in blue), suitable for crops requiring more water and lower mean annual temperatures.

CONCLUSIONS

The seasonal PET values across mandals in the district have shown a certain trend. The PET values observed were higher in summer with the decrease in the monsoon season and a slight increase thereafter increases in the winter season. The rainy/monsoon season *viz.*, 23 to 39 SMWs showed wide variations in PET values. Bhamini Mandal surrounded on three sides by Orissa state has shown wide variation. The coastal mandals *viz.*, Santhabommali, Vajrakothe, Sompeta, Kaviti and Ichapuram have shown less variation; whereas in the mandals located in the centre of the district, the variation was maximum. The high PET values indicated the increased water requirement for crops in the district. The results provided insight into the water requirement, management planning and drought classification in both the spatial and temporal scale for sustainable and resilient farming well within the district.

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