AN APPRAISAL OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF RAINFALL IN KANO

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ABSTRACT

The study investigated the nature and characteristics of variability, onset and cessation of rainfall in Kano metropolis in Nigeria for the climatic period 1926 – 2006. The study observed a constant fluctuation in rainfall around a mean value of 70mm. The study showed a steady increase in rainfall amount since 90’s through to 2006. Onset of rains in the study area was observed to be constant throughout the period of the study with onset months ranging from 15\(^{th}\) April – 1\(^{st}\) July. Rainfall cessation months were observed between 1\(^{st}\) August and 23\(^{rd}\) October. The five year moving average indicated a general decreasing trend in rainfall cessation from the 80’s to 2006. A steady fluctuation in rainfall duration was observed around a mean 104 day with the lowest and highest durations in 1935 (35days) and 2004(149days). Generally, the study showed no indication of climate change rather, the decrease in rainfall amounts from 1966 to 1995 as well as in number of rainy days may be accepted as part of the normal climate of the state due to its latitudinal position. The recurrence of the prolonged dry spell has to be expected. There is dare need for rainfall variability prediction and adaptation mechanism studies in the study area as well as introduction of early warning systems that will aid timely remedial measures and training of farmers in water conservation practices.

*Keywords:* Rainfall Variability, Onset, Cessation, Agricultural Production