

# Long-Term Rainfall Dynamics and Trend Assessment Using Observed and Gridded Satellite Precipitation Products and Implications for Climate Change Adaptation over Modjo Catchment, Ethiopia

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*Article*

# Long-Term Rainfall Dynamics and Trend Assessment Using Observed and Gridded Satellite Precipitation Products and Implications for Climate Change Adaptation over Modjo Catchment, Ethiopia

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**Abstract:** The evaluation of long-term rainfall variability and trends in the context of a changing global climate is essential for developing effective adaptation strategies. It is also important to analyze trends using global precipitation products. The objective of the present study was to assess the long-term trends in annual and seasonal rainfall over the Modjo catchment in central Ethiopia by utilizing both observed and satellite precipitation products, CHIRPS and PERSIANN-CDR. The study employed CV and PCI to evaluate the variability and monthly rainfall concentration within the catchment. The Sen Slope Estimator, Mann-Kendall test, and Innovative Trend Analysis were used to assess the trends within the data series. The results indicate that annual and Kiremt rainfall showed low to moderate variability at all stations, whereas the Meher, Bega, and Belg seasons exhibited high variability, with CV values exceeding 30%. The PCI values indicated that the annual rainfall data series exhibited a moderate and irregular distribution, while the seasonal rainfall distribution displayed a highly irregular pattern, with all values exceeding 20. The MK and SSE trend analysis revealed no significant trends (at  $\alpha = 0.05$ ) in the annual rainfall across all stations; however, significant trend changes were observed in the seasonal rainfall datasets. Additionally, Trend analysis revealed a significant decrease in most Bega season trends (at  $\alpha = 0.05$ ,  $\alpha = 0.01$ ), whereas Kiremt and annual seasons showed similar patterns. Conversely, the Meher season showed an increasing trend with no significance at  $\alpha = 0.05$ . The ITA shows trends similar to MK and SSE, but with different significance levels. In the analysis, 22% of the data was insignificant, while the rest was significant at a 95% confidence level. The study reveals temporal dynamics in rainfall trends, underscores important implications for climate change adaptation, and offers valuable insights for planning effective adaptation measures.

**Keywords:** climate change; ITA; MK trend test; precipitation; satellite rainfall; SSE

## 1. Introduction

Precipitation is the key component of the hydrological cycle (Aldreies et al., 2023; Saha, 2015) and is a commonly used variable for climate change studies, and even a minor alteration in rainfall could lead to severe and devastating effects on both society, environment and the economy. Rainfall plays a critical role in many environmental and human domains; it is essential to maintaining food security (Affoh et al., 2022; Kinda & Badolo, 2019), controlling land management (Bedane et al., 2022), supporting biodiversity (Muluneh, 2021) and livestock production (Leweri et al., 2021), promoting water supply services (Twisa & Buchroithner, 2019), hydropower generation (Wei et al., 2020), regional flooding (Cheng et al., 2021) and having a substantial influence overall country's economic growth (Kotz et al., 2022). This confirms that it is a distinctive force that shapes the delicate balance of life on our planet. On the other hand, a variety of types of evidence regarding rainfall trends have

come to light recently, revealing the dynamic variability of rainfall patterns (Gedefaw et al., 2018). It is widely accepted that recent climate change has altered annual and seasonal patterns of rainfall along with its spatial distribution (Banerjee et al., 2020). Climate change is currently affecting its amount, frequency, and intensity of rainfall, which results unpredictable flood and longer lasting drought.

Climate change (CC) is an inter-governmental complex challenge globally with its influence over various components of the ecological, environmental, socio-political, and socioeconomic disciplines (Abbass et al., 2022). It is anticipated to increase seasonal variability and uncertainty concerning water availability as well as quantity in nearly all regions (UNESCO & UN-Water, 2020). Sub-Saharan Africa is particularly susceptible to climate change due to the existing environmental conditions, least diversified and poor rural economies, and underdeveloped (but important in the macro-economy) agriculture (Yalew et al., 2018). Flooding and drought are responsible for 80% of disaster-related deaths and 70% of the economic damages in Sub-Saharan Africa (Case & Baylie, 2022). Specifically, the East African region continues to suffer from sustained water insecurity and climate variability over the past decades which have led to massive changes in water levels for sustainable livelihoods. On-going conflicts, widespread poverty, and food insecurity in the region result in a high vulnerability and low coping capacity concerning drought and natural hazards in general (GDO 2022). Ethiopia is a typical example in this regard. The country is susceptible to frequent rainfall variability which has caused significant adverse effects on the country's economy and society and is expected to become more pronounced in the future under climate change (You & Ringler, 2013). The country follows a rainfall-based agricultural production that is susceptible to the impacts of climate change and risk (Sinore & Wang, 2024). Understanding the trends and future prediction is highly helpful for several reasons, including evaluating the effects of climate change, mitigating risks, and predicting its effects.

Rainfall trends refer to the long-term patterns and changes in precipitation over a specific region or globally (Kumar et al., 2023). Trend analysis is the best technique to study the impacts of climate change to recognize future fluctuations in hydrometeorological elements for risk management, flood and drought monitoring, and water resource planning, design, and management (Jakob & Walland, 2016; Pawar et al., 2023). Rainfall trend analysis can be performed using various methods and techniques. One approach involves employing statistical tests such as the Mann-Kendall (MK) test, Sun Slope, and innovative trend analysis over a specific period. Many researchers used the innovative trend analysis method to analyze the time series data together with the MK method (Gedefaw et al., 2018). These tests help in detecting abrupt change points and determining the direction and significance of the trend in rainfall patterns. Furthermore, spatial-temporal trend analysis can be conducted using geostatistical techniques in an ArcGIS environment, which allows for the mapping of rainfall trend patterns across a specific region or country. These methods and tools enable researchers and meteorologists to gain valuable insights into the changing patterns of rainfall, which is essential for understanding climate variability. However, accurately observing precipitation poses another challenge in numerous parts of the world due to limited gauging stations and their unpredictable variations and incomplete data products.

Obtaining and analyzing precipitation measurements is crucial for comprehending changes in climate patterns and water cycles, enhancing precipitation forecasts, and efficiently managing the Earth's valuable freshwater resources. The latest advancements in remote sensing technology have made it possible to gather previously unprecedented data on precipitation, marking a substantial advancement in the mapping of global precipitation. A multitude of satellite observations yields regional and global precipitation datasets with the different spatial and temporal resolution, including the Precipitation Estimation from Remotely Sensed Information using Artificial Neural Network (PERSIANN-CDR) (Ashouri et al., 2015), Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM) (Kummerow et al., 1998), Climate Prediction Centre Morphing product (CMORPH) (Joyce et al., 2004), Multi-satellite Precipitation Analysis (TMPA) (Huffman et al., 2007), Multi-source Weighted Ensemble Precipitation (MSWEP) (Beck et al., 2017), Integrated Multi-satellite Retrievals for the Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) mission (IMERG) (Huffman et al., 2019), Climate Hazard

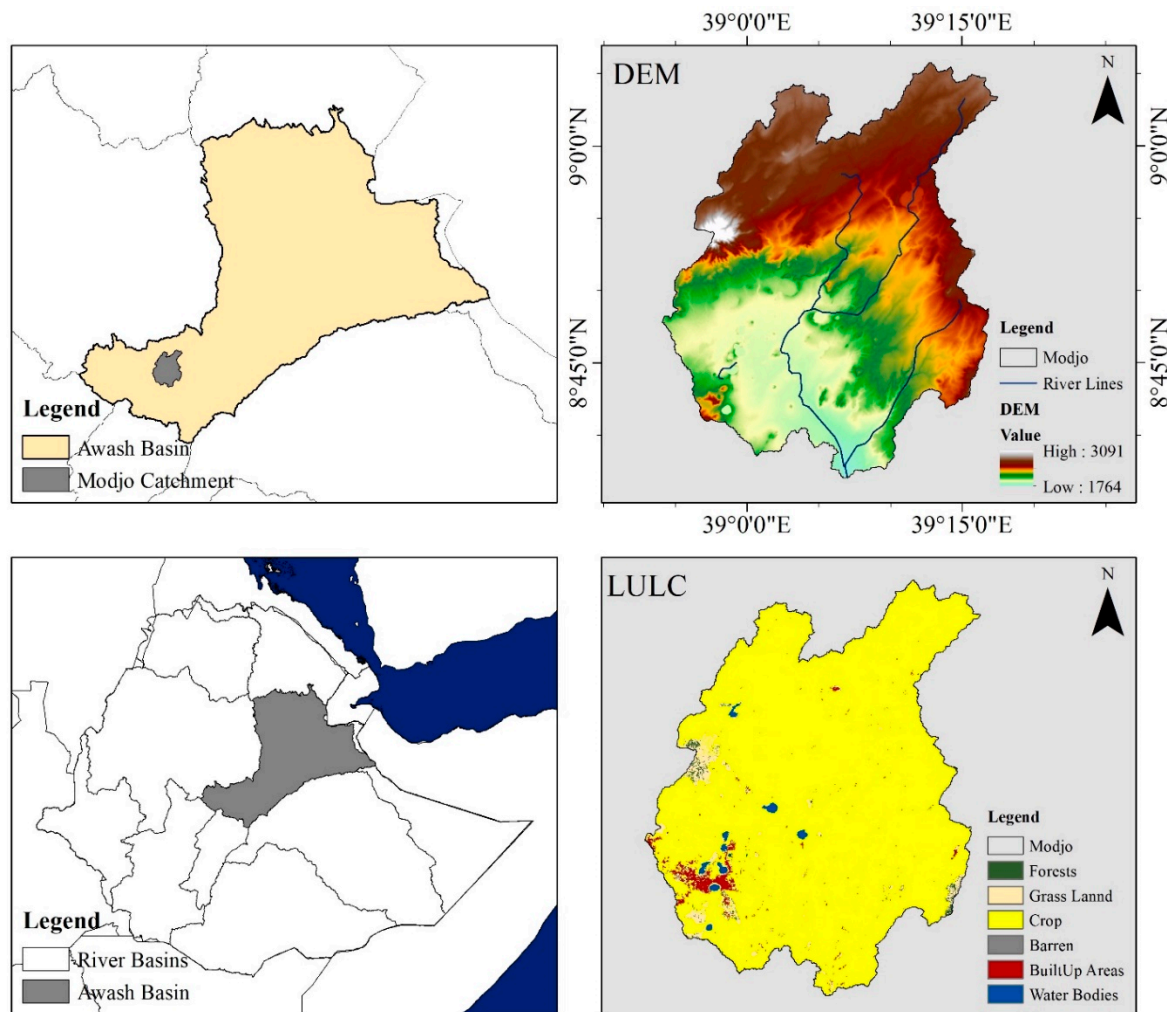
Group Infrared Precipitation with Stations (CHIRPS) (Funk et al., 2015), and others. The main objective of the present study is to assess the Long-term spatiotemporal annual and seasonal rainfall trend using observed and satellite precipitation products over the Modjo catchment an area heavily influenced by agricultural activity and highly sensitive to rainfall variability. After conducting some investigations, two precipitation products, namely CHIRPS and PERSIANN-CDR, have been taken into consideration with three station observed precipitation data. These products have demonstrated relatively high efficiency in other catchments in Ethiopia (Adane et al., 2021; Dubache et al., 2021; Gebere et al., 2015; Gebretsadkan et al., 2023). The study gives significant insights regarding the distribution and trend of observed and gridded satellite precipitation data series throughout the catchment.

## 2. Datasets and Methods

### 2.1. Study Area Description

The study was carried out in the Modjo catchment of the Awash River basin. This region is located in the central part of Ethiopia, with geographic coordinates extending from 8°20' to 9°25' N latitude and 38°30' to 39°45' E longitude, and it is part of the Awash River basin as shown in **Error! Reference source not found.** 1. The area coverage is approximately 1193.66 square kilometers. The elevation of the region belongs between 1764 and 3091m. The district receives an average annual rainfall of 671 mm, ranging from 497 mm to a maximum of 1300 mm. The catchment is characterized by undulating topography, deep and wide valleys of small streams, and narrow flat lands in the southern part caused by poor land-use practices, soil erosion, and deposition processes. The Modjo River catchment area plays a vital role in the hydrology of the larger Awash River basin, influencing both the local ecosystems and agricultural activities. This region experiences a subtropical highland climate, marked by distinct wet and dry seasons, which greatly affects the availability of water and the patterns of land use. The area is primarily composed of agricultural land, which is essential for the local economy and supports the livelihoods of many residents through extensive crop cultivation. The typical minimum and maximum monthly temperatures in this area vary from 9.42 °C to 19.16 °C and from 27.15 °C to 34.16 °C, respectively. The dominant soil types in the watershed include Eutric cambisol, Eutric nitosol, and Pellic vertisol.





**Figure 1.** Study Region.

## 2.2. Datasets

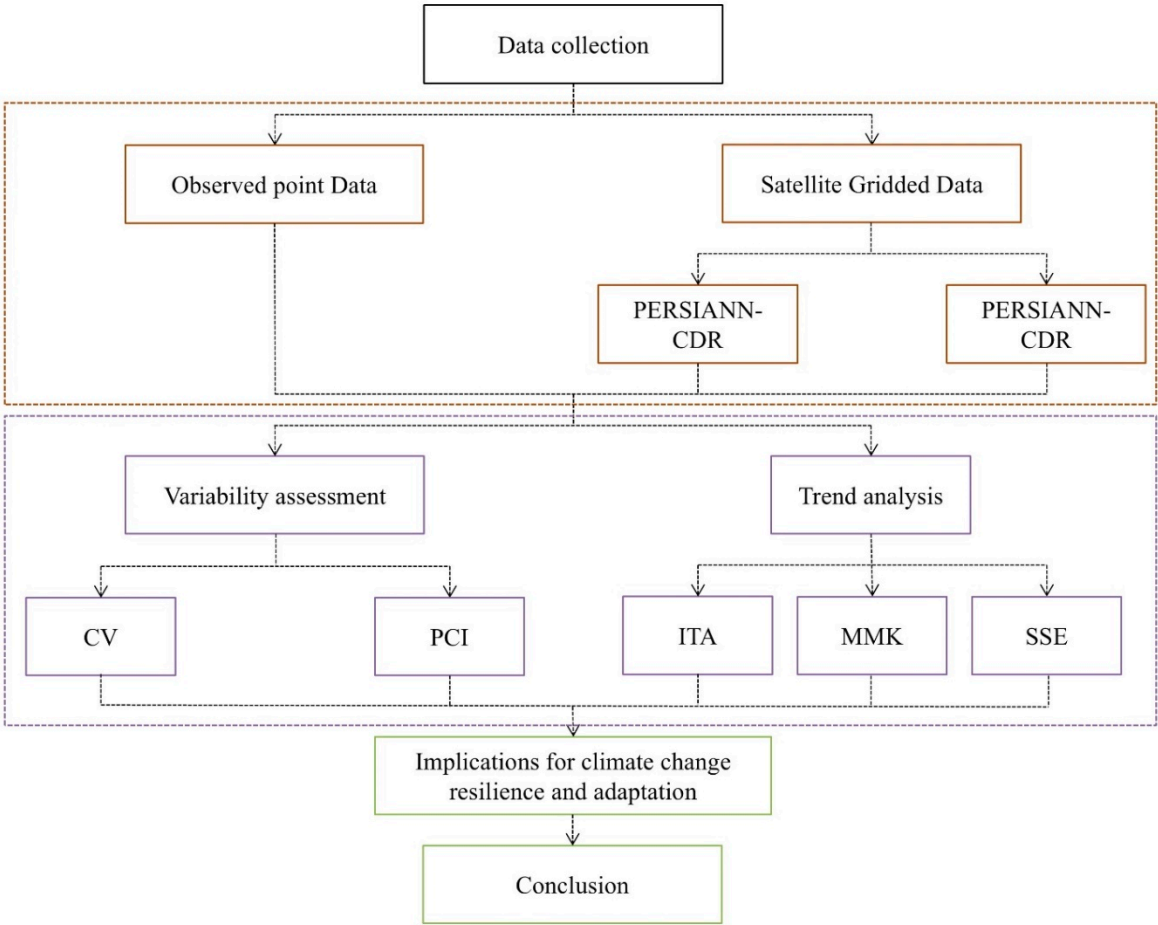
There are two main data products used in this study: multi-temporal ground station data and global gridded satellite precipitation data sets over the years 1985 to 2020 (Table 1). Satellite imagery is highly effective for capturing and detailing the various geospatial patterns present on the Earth's surface (Regassa et al., 2020). The GEE software was employed to download the global precipitation datasets CHIRPS and PERSIANN-CDR. The CHIRPS dataset is a quasi-global rainfall compilation that spans over 30 years, integrating 0.05-degree resolution satellite imagery with in-situ station data to generate gridded rainfall time series (Funk et al., 2015). PERSIANN-CDR is a daily quasi-global precipitation dataset that covers the timeframe from 1982 to the present, typically experiencing a three-month lag. It offers coverage between 60 degrees South and 60 degrees North latitude, as well as from 0 to 360 degrees longitude, with a spatial resolution of 0.25 degrees (Ashouri et al., 2015). The annual, seasonal, and monthly gridded rainfall products were obtained from the GEE platform using the (ee.ImageCollection) algorithm and a filter command (ee.Filter.calendarRange) to cover the study period from 1985 to 2020. The images (.sum) were utilized to generate the gridded rainfall datasets. To align the spatial information with station data, the nearest pixel rainfall values from both the CHIRPS and PERSIANN-CDR gridded datasets were extracted for the locations of the stations using the GEE platform. The data collected at the stations has undergone quality control and has been consistently located for the past forty years by the National Meteorological Services Agency (NMSA) of Ethiopia. Consequently, the primary considerations in selecting the data were (i) the availability of both recent and long-term datasets, and (ii) a minimal number of data gaps. To mitigate biases in the trend analysis caused by missing data, the study limited the analysis to the period from 1985 to

2020. Ultimately, monthly and annual rainfall data were gathered from three stations: Chefe Donsa, Ejere, and Modjo covering the years 1985 to 2020 from the NMAE.

Table 1. Description of data used.

Ground observatory point data					
Station	Longitude (E)	Latitude (N)	Source	Period	Date of acquisition
Modjo	8.622	39.114	NMSA	1989 - 2023	04/03/2024
Ejere	8.778	39.261			
Chefe Donsa	8.972	39.128			
Gridded data					
Data Type	Extractor	period	Source	Resolution	Date of acquisition
CHIRPS	GEE	1985 - 2020	CHG	0.05	13/03/2024
PERSIANN-CDR			UCSB	0.25	

This research delves into the spatiotemporal trends of precipitation in the Modjo catchment area of Ethiopia, analyzing annual and seasonal variations using observed rainfall data alongside two gridded precipitation datasets. The study examines four distinct seasons: Kiremt, which spans from June to August; Meher, occurring from September to November; Bega, lasting from December to February; and Belg, which takes place from March to May. The same seasonal classification was adopted across different studies (Gedefaw et al., 2018; Worku et al., 2022, 2023). The study employed the ITA, Mann-Kendall, and Sen-slope methods, which together create a robust framework for examining shifts in precipitation patterns. Utilizing Sen's slope estimator in conjunction with the Mann-Kendall test proves invaluable in climate research, allowing us to detect meaningful changes in rainfall over time. These insights are crucial for effective water resource management and the development of climate adaptation strategies. The study rigorously assessed both annual and seasonal trends across three distinct precipitation datasets, ensuring a thorough analysis executed using R Studio software. R software-based methodology is consistent with similar investigations conducted in various regions, underscoring the critical role of such analyses in enhancing water resource management and adapting to climate variability (Chisanga et al., 2023; Seneshaw et al., 2021; Tegegn et al., 2024). The following figure (Figure 2) summarizes the methodology and procedure for the study.



**Figure 2.** A schematic diagram of the proposed methodology.

2.3. Variability Assessment

2.3.1. Coefficient of Variation

CV is a statistical measure of the difference between the data points and the mean value of a series (Achite et al., 2021). The coefficients of variation were calculated for both the annual and seasonal series, specifically for rainfall data from all relevant stations and for river runoff at the Modjo station catchment outlet. This analysis provides valuable insights into the variability of precipitation and stream flow, which are essential for understanding hydrological changes associated with climate variability. Greater values of CV indicate larger variability and vice versa. The following equation (Eq.(1)) was used for the calculation of the annual CV.

$$CV = \frac{\sigma}{X} \times 100 \tag{1}$$

CV represents the coefficient of variation, while  $\sigma$  denotes the standard deviation of annual precipitation, and  $X$  signifies the mean of annual precipitation. The coefficient of variation is categorized as follows: a value below 20% is considered less variable, a value between 20% and 30% is regarded as moderately variable, and a value exceeding 30% is classified as highly variable (Bekele et al., 2017).

2.3.2. Precipitation Concentration Index

The Precipitation Concentration Index (PCI) is a powerful metric used to assess the distribution and variability of precipitation within a specific timeframe (Gerardo, 2024; Salameh, 2024). It helps to understand how concentrated or dispersed rainfall is during different seasons. PCI is a valuable

indicator for analyzing temporal precipitation distribution and assessing seasonal precipitation changes and a valuable tool in climatology and hydrology for evaluating precipitation patterns and their implications. The value of PCI was calculated using the following equation (Eq.(2)) (De Luis et al., 2011).

$$PCI = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n P_i^2}{\left(\sum_{i=1}^n P_i\right)^2} \times 100 \quad (2)$$

Where  $P_i$  represents the rainfall in a given month, and  $n$  is the total number of months. A higher PCI indicates a more concentrated rainfall pattern, meaning that most of the precipitation occurs in a few months (Zhang et al., 2019). A lower PCI suggests a uniform distribution of rainfall throughout the year

## 2.4. Trend Analysis

### 2.4.1. Mann-Kendall Test

Mann-Kendall (MK) test (Kendall, 1948; Mann, 1945) is a nonparametric test that detects monotonic trends in time series data (Mugabe et al., 2024). The MK test is commonly used to identify trends in time series analysis due to its insensitivity to outliers and does not consider any distribution assumptions (Simeon et al., 2024). The MK test is strongly advised for widespread application by the World Meteorological Organization (Sahilu et al., 2024). The MK trend test relies on the relationship between the ranks and the order of a time series. For a specific time series  $\{X_i, i = 1, 2, \dots, n\}$ , the null hypothesis  $H_0$  posits that the data is distributed independently, while the alternative hypothesis  $H_1$  suggests that a monotonic trend is present. The test statistic  $S$  is defined as follows (Eq.(3)) (F. Wang et al., 2020):

$$S = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \cdot \sum_{j=i+1}^n \text{sgn}(X_j - X_i) \quad (3)$$

Where  $\text{sgn}$  represents the sign function,  $X$  denotes the rainfall data values, and  $n$  refers to the total count of observations in the time series (Sudarsan & Lasitha, 2023). The data values of each  $X_i$  are used as a reference point to compare with the data values of  $X_j$ , which is given as (Eq. (4)):

$$\text{sgn}(X_j - X_i) = \begin{cases} +1 & \text{if } (X_j - X_i) > 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } (X_j - X_i) = 0 \\ -1 & \text{if } (X_j - X_i) < 0 \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

It has been noted that when  $n$  is equal to or exceeds eight, the statistic  $S$  generally tends to conform to a normal distribution with a defined mean. The mean value of  $S$  is  $E[S] = \text{zero}$ . The  $\text{Var}(S)$  of  $S$  is given by (Eq. (5)) (Mondal et al., 2012):

$$\text{Var}(S) = \frac{n(n-1)(2n+5) - \sum_{k=1}^m t_k(t_k-1)(2t_k+5)}{18} \quad (5)$$

Where  $T_i$  represents the count of data points within the tied group, and  $m$  denotes the total number of groups of tied ranks. The standardized test statistic  $Z$  is calculated using the following method (Eq. (6)) (Kessabi et al., 2022):



$$Z = \begin{cases} \frac{S-1}{\delta} \text{ if } S > 0 \\ 0 \text{ if } S = 0 \\ \frac{S+1}{\delta} \text{ if } S < 0 \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

In a two-tailed test, the null hypothesis of 'no trend' should be accepted at  $\alpha$  significance level for  $-Z_{1-\alpha/2} \leq Z \leq Z_{1-\alpha/2}$ , where  $Z_{1-\alpha/2}$  is the standard score (Z score) of the standard normal distribution with the cumulative probability of  $1 - \alpha/2$ . Otherwise, the null hypothesis should be rejected and a monotonic trend has been identified at  $\alpha$  significance level. Hence, the positive and negative values of Z show an upward and downward trend, respectively (Edo et al., 2021).

#### 2.4.2. Sen's Slope Estimator (SSE) Test

The Sen's slope estimator is a non-parametric technique utilized to evaluate trends in time series data, especially valuable in climatology for examining rainfall trends. This nonparametric approach provides a reliable estimation of the trend in the time series and is employed to determine the magnitude of trends in rainfall data (Markos et al., 2023). The trend magnitude is calculated by slope estimator methods (Eq. (7)) (Muia V. K et al., 2024).

$$Q_i = \frac{Y_j - Y_k}{j - k}, i = 1, 2, \dots, N \quad (7)$$

$Y_j$  and  $Y_i$  are data values at time  $j$  and  $i$  ( $j > i$ ), respectively. If there is only one datum in each period, then  $N = n(n-1)/2$ , where  $n$  is the number of periods. If there are multiple observations in one or more periods, then  $N < (n(n-1))/2$ . The  $N$  values of  $Q_i$  are ranked in ascending order, and the median of slope or Sen's slope estimator is given as (Eq. (8)) (Gocic & Trajkovic, 2013):

$$\beta = \begin{cases} \frac{Q_n + 1}{2} \dots \text{if } N \text{ is odd} \\ \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{Q_n}{2} + \frac{Q_{n+2}}{2} \right) \dots \text{if } N \text{ is even} \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

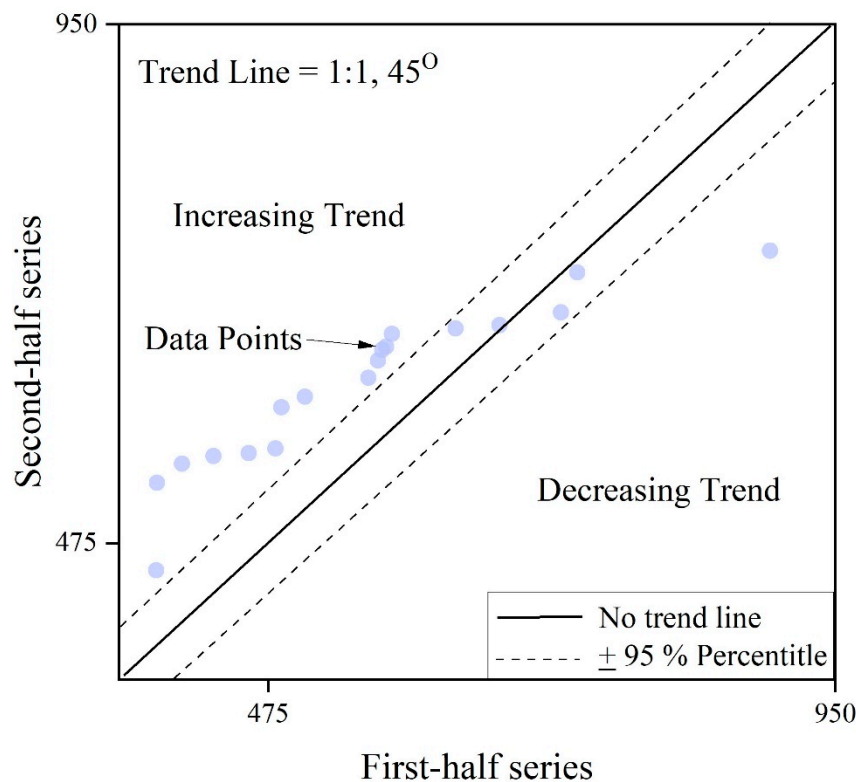
Finally,  $Q_{med}$  has been calculated to obtain the trend and slope magnitude with the help of a non-parametric model. When  $Q_i$  is positive, it implies that there is an increasing trend, while the negative value of  $Q_i$  reveals a decreasing or downward trend in time series analysis. Similarly, a zero value represents no trend in the data (Aswad et al., 2020). The unit of resultant  $Q_i$  would be the magnitude of slope in original units per year or percent per year.

#### 2.4.3. Innovative Trend Analysis

The ITA method, proposed by Sen (2012) divides any given hydrometeorological time series into two halves and then sorts both sub-series in ascending order (Y. Wang et al., 2019). The data should be divided into two subs before performing the ITA to any specific time series. Both segments are arranged in ascending order and presented on the X- and Y-axis. The first segment is presented on the horizontal axis (x-axis) while the second segment is presented on the vertical axis (y-axis) in the Cartesian coordinate system (Benzater et al., 2024). The data for each sub-series is then sorted ascending (or descending). Furthermore, the diagram is split into two separate triangles by the 1:1 (45°) axis of no trend which indicates the increasing (area above 1:1 line) and decreasing (area below 1:1 line) time-series data trend (Pastagia & Mehta, 2022). The trend indicator was identified as (Eq. (9)):

$$\Phi = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{10(X_j - X_i)}{\mu} \quad (9)$$

Where  $\Phi$  = trend indicator,  $n$  = number of observations in the subseries,  $X_i$  = data series in the first half subseries class,  $X_j$  = data series in the second half subseries class, and  $\mu$  = mean of data series in the first half subseries class. A positive value indicates an increasing trend (Das et al., 2021). A negative value indicates a decreasing trend. However, when the scatter points closest around the 1:1 straight line, it implies the non-existence of a significant trend (Benzater et al., 2021). The following figure (Figure 3) gives more information for the understanding and interpretation of the innovative trend analysis method.



**Figure 3.** Description of Innovative Trend Analysis.

### 3. Results and Discussions

#### 3.1. Rainfall Pattern Distribution

The precipitation data sourced from the National Meteorological Service Agency, along with gridded data obtained via Google Earth Engine, underwent a comprehensive technical verification to ensure data integrity before analysis. This study employed strict quality control measures, which included the identification and manual correction of potential outliers, such as negative values or those surpassing maximum allowable thresholds, and accurately addressing any missing rainfall data. The analysis indicated that the lowest annual rainfall was recorded in 2002 for the observed data and in 2015 for both the CHIRPS and PERSIANN-CDR datasets. Conversely, the highest rainfall occurred in 2016 for the observed data, in 1998 for CHIRPS, and in 2005 for PERSIANN-CDR. The distribution of total annual rainfall is depicted in Figure 4, offering a detailed overview of the results.

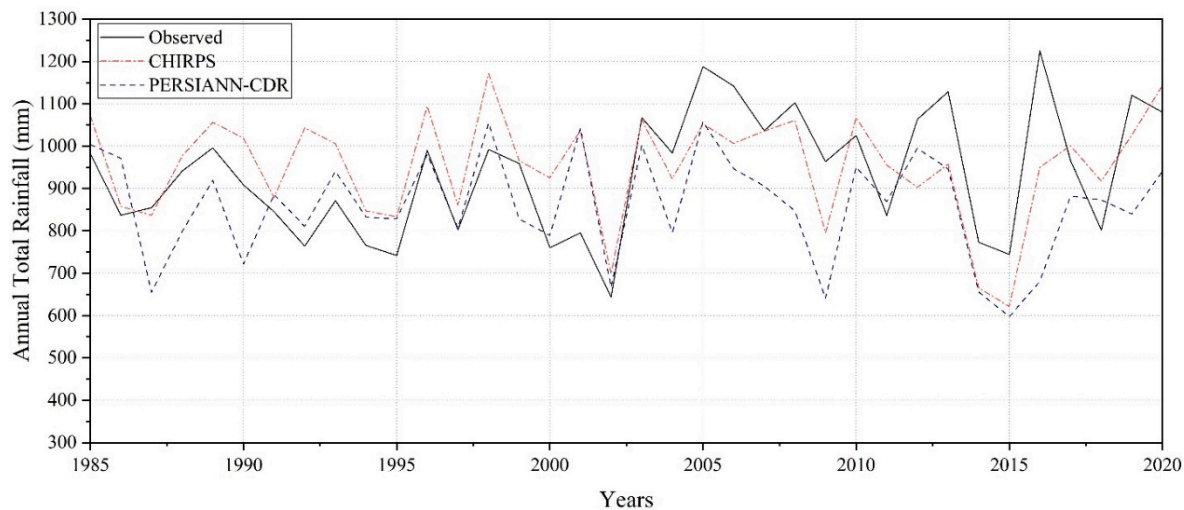


Figure 4. Total annual rainfall distribution over the years.

3.2. Rainfall Variability and Concentration

The distribution and variability of precipitation were analyzed using the Precipitation Concentration Index (PCI) and the Coefficient of Variation (CV) across all stations and seasons. The CV indicated that annual and Kiremt season precipitation showed low to moderate variability at all stations. In contrast, the Meher, Bega, and Belg seasons exhibited high variability, with CV values exceeding 30%. The observed precipitation datasets demonstrated greater variability compared to the CHIRPS and PERSIANN-CDR values, which were classified as moderate for the annual and Kiremt seasons, except at the Chefe Donsa station, where values fell below 20%. For CHIRPS and PERSIANN-CDR, all CV values were categorized as low variability during the Kiremt and annual periods across all stations. This suggests that while CHIRPS and PERCIANN-CDR may provide stable data during certain periods. However, the other seasons recorded CV values above 30% at all stations and precipitation products, indicating significant variability. The PCI serves as a significant measure for understanding the distribution of precipitation over time, where higher values reflect a greater concentration of monthly precipitation throughout the year (Salameh, 2024). The results concerning the Precipitation Concentration Index (PCI) revealed that the catchment experienced moderate, irregular, and highly irregular rainfall distribution. Only the annual precipitation data from the PERSIANN-CDR exhibited a moderate monthly distribution, with values ranging from 10 to 16. In contrast, the annual data series for both observed and gridded precipitation products showed irregular monthly rainfall concentration, with values between 16 and 20. Additionally, the seasonal rainfall patterns displayed a strongly irregular distribution across all stations. This variable and strongly irregular rainfall leads to unpredictable water availability, influencing agriculture and natural water systems. This irregularity increases the risk of flooding and drought, posing challenges for water management, affecting crop yields, and complicating water resource allocation. All the values are summarized in the following table (Table 2).

Table 2. PCI and CV values for all precipitation datasets.

Observed										
Station	Annual		Kiremt		Meher		Bega		Belg	
	CV	PCI	CV	PCI	CV	PCI	CV	PCI	CV	PCI
CD	18.98	17.96	18.9	37.74	38.8	73.27	112	47.32	63.3	34.36
EJ	20.27	17.16	21.3	38.99	33.35	62.14	143.21	43.94	58.87	34.29
MJ	22.91	17.96	27.19	38.3	55.19	59.61	106.63	47.46	59.39	33.64
CHIRPS										
Station	Annual		Kiremt		Meher		Bega		Belg	
	CV	PCI	CV	PCI	CV	PCI	CV	PCI	CV	PCI

CD	13.21	18.63	16.26	38.89	34.88	67.42	68.26	46.17	34.13	33.83
EJ	13.44	17.6	18.17	39.07	39.14	60.71	69.56	44.56	37.51	33.51
MJ	15.89	17.05	19.63	37.49	34.68	62.43	76.31	49.22	39.95	33.71
PERCIANN-CDR										
Station	Annual		Kiremt		Meher		Bega		Belg	
	CV	PCI	CV	PCI	CV	PCI	CV	PCI	CV	PCI
CD	14.45	17.32	17.39	37.94	41.73	64.63	123.42	40.52	36.82	33.89
EJ	14.59	15.79	19.08	37.15	40.3	62.9	136.09	35.28	38.69	33.75
MJ	15.78	15.95	19.04	36.45	44.64	65.52	130.46	38.07	40.19	33.94

3.3. Trend Analysis

3.3.1. Mann-Kendall and Sen Slope Estimator

The value of Z statistics and sun slope indicated the results trend for all stations and seasons. Positive values for MK tau, S, Z, and Sen’s slope indicate an increasing trend. Conversely, negative values for these statistics imply a decreasing trend. The results from the analysis using observed precipitation datasets indicate that most seasons exhibit increasing trends. At the Ejere station, the rainfall trend shows an increasing pattern in all seasons except for the Bega season, which experienced a decreasing trend with Z and Sen’s slope values of -5.1 and -1.065, respectively. The trends for the annual, Kiremt, and Bega seasons at Ejere were significant, with confidence intervals of 95% and 99%, respectively. In contrast, the Chefe Donsa station primarily displayed decreasing trends, with only the Kiremt and Belg seasons showing increasing trends, reflected by Z and Sen’s slope values of 0.858 and 0.074, and 0.101 and 0.009, respectively. Only the trend in the Bega season at this station was significant, with a confidence interval of 99%. At the Modjo station, all seasons demonstrated increasing trends except for Bega, which highlighted a decreasing trend with Z and Sen’s slope values of -0.726 and -0.113, respectively, but without statistical significance. Both the annual and Kiremt seasons showed significant trends at the 95% confidence level.

The PERCIANN CDR Precipitation data exhibited distinct trend distributions compared to the observed and CHIRPS datasets, showing similar phenomena across all stations. Analysis revealed a general decreasing trend at all stations, except during the Meher season, which demonstrated an increasing trend with Z and Sen’s slope values of 0.069 and 0.009 at Chefe Donsa, 0.068 and 0.009 at Modjo, and 0.367 and 0.044 at Ejere. Only the results from Modjo and Ejere stations during the Bega season were statistically significant, while other trends lacked significance. In contrast, CHIRPS rainfall data indicated varied trends, with consistent results in the Bega season across all stations, reflecting a significant decreasing trend with Z and Sen’s slope values of -2.765 and -0.792 at Chefe Donsa, -2.05 and -0.733 at Modjo, and -2.301 and -0.835 at Ejere. The majority of trends observed during the Bega (dry) season exhibited a significant decreasing trend, likely due to the impacts of climate change and altered precipitation patterns in the catchment. The annual and Kiremt season rainfall trends showed an increasing trend at Chefe Donsa but decreasing trends at Modjo and Ejere, all without statistical significance. Both the Meher and Belg seasons exhibited increasing trends at each station. Similar to other precipitation datasets, only the trend during the Bega season demonstrated significance, while no significant trends were observed at the other stations indicating a potential shift in seasonal weather.

The analysis revealed that the most consistent outcome trend was observed during the Bega season. Across all analyses encompassing all stations and types of precipitation, the rainfall trend for the Bega season exhibited a decreasing trend. Notably, only the trend derived from observed precipitation data at the Modjo station did not show significance, while all other analyses indicated a significant decreasing trend. In contrast, no significant trends were observed for the Meher and Belg seasons. Additionally, except for the analysis using observed precipitation, all other trends during the Kiremt season also demonstrated a decreasing trend. The trends for the annual and Kiremt seasons were nearly identical, differing only in the analysis at the Modjo station when using observed precipitation data. The trends in annual rainfall and Kiremt (rainy) season rainfall frequently align

because the Kiremt season usually contributes a substantial share of the total annual rainfall in the areas where it takes place. Studies have shown that understanding the dynamics of the Kiremt season can provide valuable insights into predicting annual rainfall trends, as the two are closely linked through the region's climatic systems and hydrological cycles (Ademe et al., 2020; Bewket et al., 2024; Feleke & Abera, 2020; Weldesenbet, 2019). Overall, most annual precipitation analyses indicated a decreasing trend, although without statistical significance. This suggests that there are more abrupt changes occurring in seasonal precipitation patterns compared to annual trends. The analysis of seasonal and annual rainfall trend values, including Sen's slope, MK tau, the calculated Z-value, and ITA s, along with their corresponding trend detection values for all stations and precipitation datasets, is summarized in the following table (Table 3).

Table 3. MMK and value SSE value.

	Station	Period	Z-Statistics	MK Tau	Sun's Slope	ITA ϕ	ITA Detection
Observed Precipitation	Chefe Donsa	Annual	-0.158	-0.025	-0.947	4.440	Increasing
		Kiremt	0.858	0.101	2.450	3.474	Increasing
		Meher	-0.558	-0.066	-0.708	-0.099	Decreasing
		Bega	-4.77(***)	-0.196	-1.034	-1.280	Decreasing
		Belg	0.074	0.009	0.157	2.523	Increasing
	Ejere	Annual	1.743 (**)	0.204	4.817	6.078	Increasing
		Kiremt	1.757 (**)	0.206	3.250	4.231	Increasing
		Meher	1.403	0.165	4.817	0.577	Increasing
		Bega	-3.67 (**)	-0.242	-1.065	-0.870	Decreasing
		Belg	0.610	0.073	0.240	0.785	Increasing
	Modjo	Annual	2.547 (**)	0.298	9.530	15.356	Increasing
		Kiremt	2.270 (**)	0.266	6.980	8.420	Increasing
		Meher	1.620	0.190	1.430	2.731	Increasing
		Bega	-0.726	-0.085	-0.113	0.185	Increasing
		Belg	1.484	0.175	2.264	4.020	Increasing
CHIRPS Precipitation products	Chefe Donsa	Annual	0.395	0.047	0.976	0.468	Increasing
		Kiremt	1.306	0.1206	1.4	0.778	Increasing
		Meher	0.095	0.012	0.094	0.299	Increasing
		Bega	-2.765 (**)	-0.323	-0.792	-0.696	Decreasing
		Belg	-0.068	-0.009	-0.115	0.07	Increasing
	Modjo	Annual	-0.053	-0.006	-0.188	-0.192	Decreasing
		Kiremt	-0.34	-0.041	-0.877	-0.522	Decreasing
		Meher	0.204	0.025	0.176	0.219	Increasing
		Bega	-2.05 (**)	-0.241	-0.733	-0.63	Decreasing
		Belg	0.595	0.057	0.524	0.739	Increasing
	Ejere	Annual	-0.503	-0.06	-1.24	-0.601	Decreasing
		Kiremt	-0.286	-0.034	-0.888	-0.526	Decreasing
		Meher	0.367	0.044	0.4	0.13	Increasing
		Bega	-2.301 (**)	-0.269	-0.835	-0.659	Decreasing
		Belg	0.204	0.0253	0.221	0.441	Increasing
PERSIANN CDR precipitation products	Chefe Donsa	Annual	-0.105	-0.015	-0.281	0.407	Increasing
		Kiremt	-0.531	-0.063	-0.786	-0.522	Decreasing
		Meher	0.068	0.009	0.091	0.459	Increasing
		Bega	-1.743	-0.204	-1.197	-0.264	Decreasing
		Belg	-0.045	-0.006	-0.060	0.482	Increasing
	Modjo	Annual	-0.103	-0.015	-0.401	-0.123	Decreasing
		Kiremt	-0.340	-0.047	-0.803	-0.282	Decreasing
		Meher	0.068	0.009	0.080	-0.255	Decreasing



Ejere	Bega	-13.6(**)	-0.185	-0.665	-0.009	Decreasing
	Belg	-0.137	-0.015	-0.154	0.344	Increasing
	Annual	-0.562	-0.079	-1.629	-1.270	Decreasing
	Kiremt	-0.694	-0.082	-0.967	-1.120	Decreasing
	Meher	0.367	0.044	0.295	-0.020	Decreasing
	Bega	-0.803 (**)	-0.095	-0.366	0.537	Increasing
	Belg	-0.443	-0.047	-0.529	-0.182	Increasing

(\*\*) Trend is significant at a 95% confidence level, and (\*\*\*) Trend is significant at a 99% confidence level.

The ITA method is a robust statistical approach designed to identify and quantify trends in time series data, particularly in the context of environmental and climatic studies. By employing this method, the study aims to uncover significant patterns in seasonal and annual rainfall trends across various stations and compare the results with those obtained from the Mann-Kendall (MK/mMK) and Sen’s Slope Estimator (SSE) trend values. The results of the Innovative Trend Analysis (ITA) for all rainfall datasets at each station are presented with a 95% confidence level. According to the ITA methodology, when the slope value is situated between the defined lower and upper limits, it indicates that there is no significant trend present (Alifujiang et al., 2021; Esit, 2023; Sanusi et al., 2021). This suggests that the data does not show a reliable increase or decrease over time, reflecting a stable pattern of rainfall at the stations being analyzed. The graphical representations for all datasets and stations are shown in Figures 4–6. A bisector line at a 1:1 ratio divides the graph into two equal triangles. When data points align with the 1:1 line, it indicates no trend in the data. If the data points are located in the upper triangle, this suggests an increasing trend. Most of the ITA findings align closely with the results from the Mann-Kendall (MK) and Sen's Slope Estimator (SSE), although discrepancies were noted in certain analyses, such as the Bega season of observed data at the Modjo station and the Belg season of CHIRPS data at Chefe Donsa, among others. Additionally, significant differences in values across all methods were observed, a finding also noted in a study by (Aswad et al., 2020; Gedefaw et al., 2018). The graphical representations for each analysis reveal that there are both increasing and decreasing data points, which are positioned both above and below the trend lines. The ITA slopes indicate that most of the analysis using each dataset across all stations show statistical significance at the 95% confidence level except for the majority of results from the PERSIANN-CDR dataset. In the ITA analysis, 22% of the data showed insignificance, while the remaining data exhibited significance at a 95% confidence level. Specifically, the PERSIANN results for the following stations and seasons show no significant trends: Chefe Donsa Annual, Chefe Donsa Kiremt, Chefe Donsa Bega, Ejere Meher, Ejere Belg, Mojo Annual, Mojo Meher, Mojo Belg, Mojo Bega, and Mojo Kiremt. This suggests that the PERSIANN-CDR data may not consistently reflect significant trends across these specific datasets. Overall, the trends identified were found to be insignificant in the Mann-Kendall (MK) and Sen's Slope Estimator (SSE) methods, while several significant trends were detected using the Innovative Trend Analysis (ITA). However, some analyses revealed significant increasing or decreasing trends in both the MK and SSE methods as well. The present study analyzing long-term rainfall data reveals significant shifts in seasonal rainfall distribution.

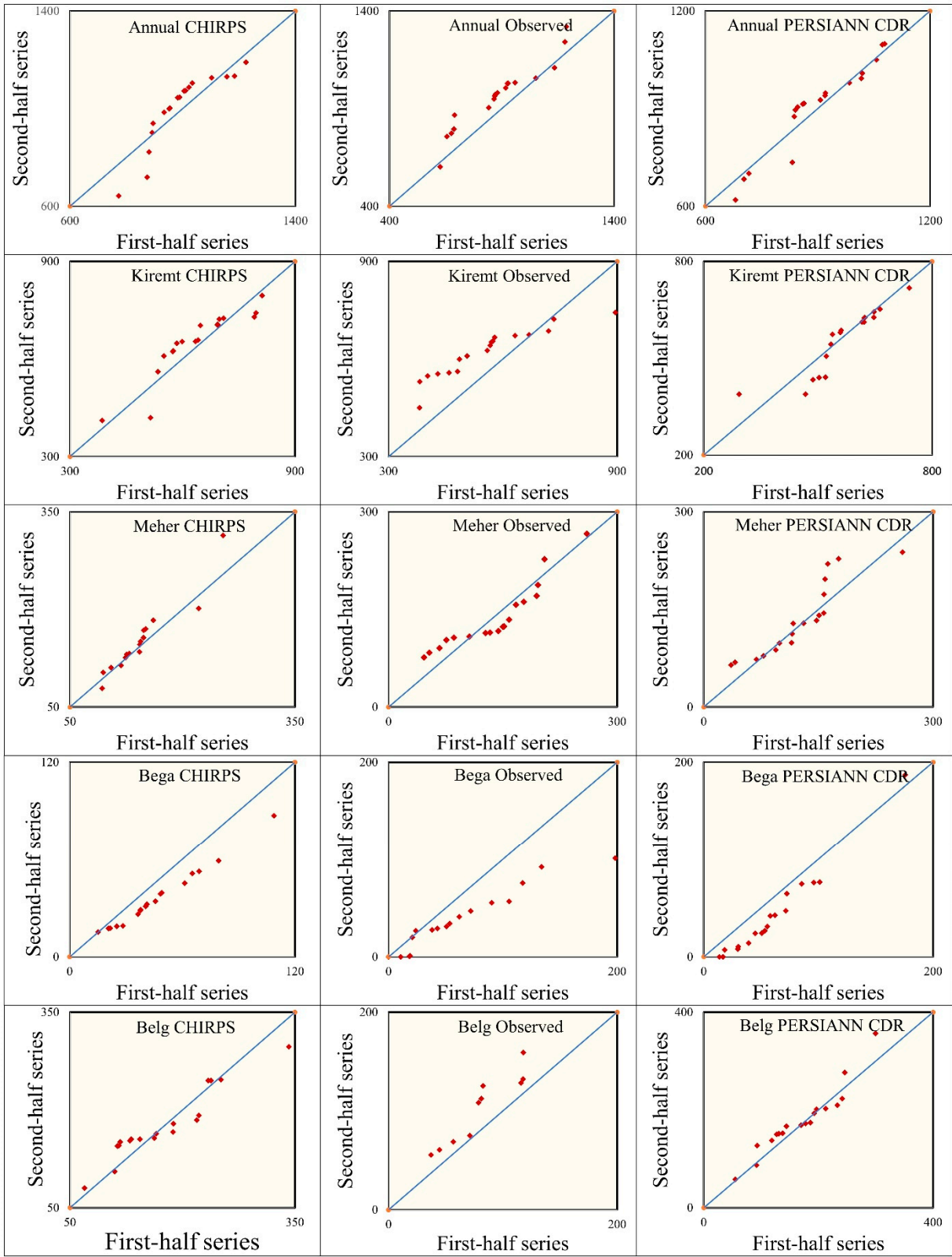


Figure 5. Annual and seasonal trend of rainfall at Chefe Donsa station.

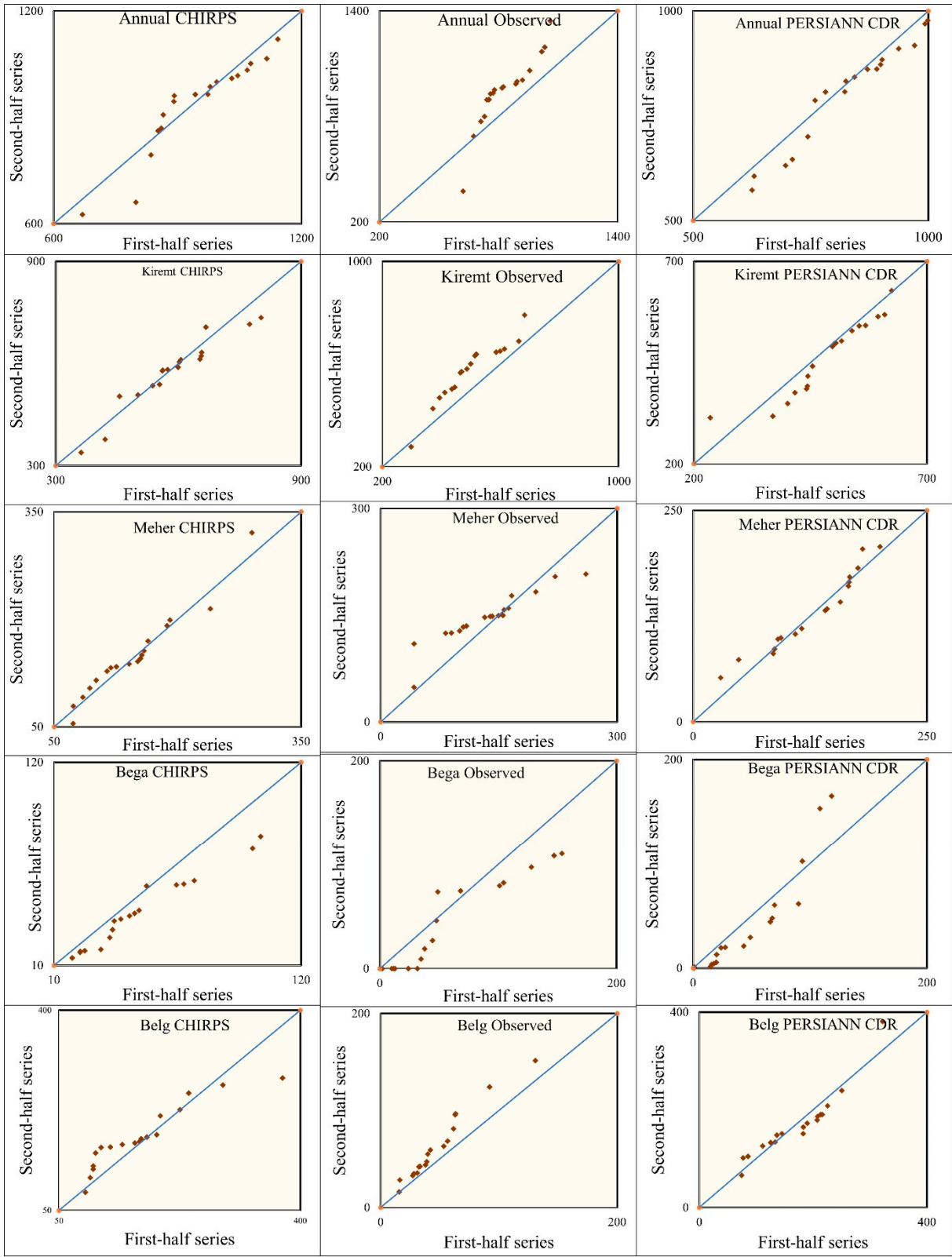


Figure 6. Annual and seasonal trend of rainfall at Ejere station.

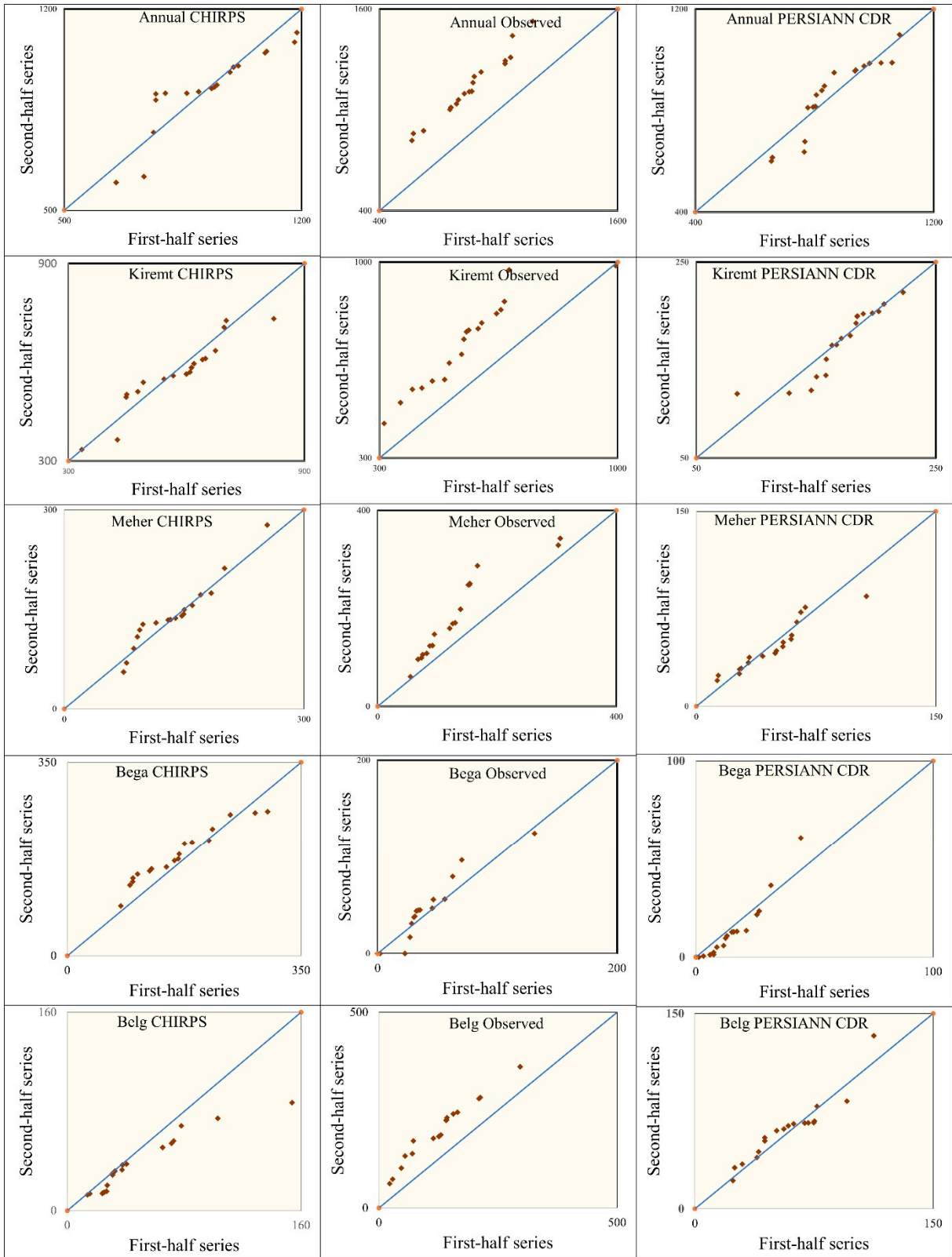


Figure 7. Annual and seasonal precipitation trend at Modjo station.

3.4. Comparison with other studies

The findings of a study should be compared with other studies, especially those conducted within the same basins and under similar geo-environmental conditions. In the present study, the assessment of distribution and variability revealed that the annual and Kiremt rainfall data series

exhibited low variability and moderate precipitation concentration, while the other seasons displayed high variability and strong monthly concentration. This finding aligns closely with the results of various other studies (Abebe et al., 2022; Abegaz, 2020; Dawit et al., 2019; Leta & Author, 2023). The study reveals that the majority of trends observed during the Bega season exhibited a significant decreasing trend. This finding is further supported by various studies conducted across Ethiopia (Birara et al., 2018; Hailu et al., 2024). One of the other significant findings of the study is the increasing trend in the Meher season (September, October, and November) observed across all stations. This finding is further supported by various studies conducted in different regions of Ethiopia, including the Awash River basin (Kerebo et al., 2024; Mulugeta et al., 2019; Shigute et al., 2023; Temam et al., 2019). The study indicates that the trends observed during the Kiremt and annual seasons are largely similar, a finding that is evident across each dataset. This similarity may be attributed to the fact that the Kiremt rainy season is the primary contributor to the annual rainfall totals. These results also align well with other similar studies (Moshe & Beza, 2024)(Belay et al., 2021). Despite some discrepancies, the results from the datasets utilizing gridded precipitation products generally demonstrate a degree of agreement with the observed precipitation data in trend prediction (Ahmad et al., 2023; Okirya & Du Plessis, 2024; Perera et al., 2022). These findings are consistent with studies that have conducted trend analyses using both satellite and ground observation data. From all datasets, the PERSIANN-CDR data series demonstrated a decreasing trend across all periods, except at the Bega station. This observation is consistent with findings from other studies (Sobral et al., 2020). This consistent finding of the study, which aligns with research conducted in other catchments regarding rainfall variability and trends, suggests that similar patterns of rainfall behavior may be prevalent across different regions. This reinforces the importance of understanding local climatic conditions and their implications for water resource management and agricultural practices.

### *3.5. Implications for climate change adaptation*

Assessing rainfall trends and variability is crucial for understanding the impacts of climate change and developing effective adaptation strategies. Based on the three data series, the Modjo catchment has experienced substantial irregularity in concentration and dynamics, with the exception of the annual and Kiremt seasons. Additionally, there are varied trend phenomena observed across the catchment, excluding the trends in the Bega and Meher seasons. The findings indicate that the catchment experiences significant variability and irregular monthly precipitation distribution during the Meher, Bega, and Belg seasons, contrasting with the more stable patterns observed in the Annual and Kiremt seasons. This variability poses challenges for water resource management and agricultural planning, as it can lead to unpredictable water availability, affecting crop yields and ecosystem health. Varied trends across the Modjo catchment highlight the diverse impacts of climate change, creating uneven vulnerabilities among regions. Some areas may face increased flood risks due to rising rainfall, while others could struggle with drought and water scarcity. The study consistently reveals that the majority of trends observed during the Bega (dry) season exhibited a significant decreasing trend, which has unique implications for agricultural sustainability and water resource management in affected regions. This decline in rainfall during a typically dry period could exacerbate water scarcity, leading to increased stress on crops and livestock that rely on limited moisture availability. As farmers face the challenges of reduced precipitation, there may be a heightened risk of crop failure and food insecurity, necessitating urgent adaptations in farming practices and water conservation strategies. Additionally, this trend may indicate broader climatic shifts, prompting policymakers to prioritize resilience-building measures to mitigate the adverse effects of prolonged dry spells on both the environment and local economies. The observed increasing trend in the Meher season across all stations has a unique implication for regional water resource management and ecosystem health in the context of climate change. This increase in rainfall during the Meher season could lead to enhanced water availability for various uses, such as domestic consumption, industry, and ecosystem maintenance. However, it also necessitates a reevaluation of water management strategies to ensure that the increased runoff does



not lead to flooding or erosion, which could disrupt local habitats and infrastructure. Therefore, it is essential to consider these implications, as they are crucial for developing effective climate change adaptation strategies.

#### 4. Conclusion and recommendation for future works

This research aimed to evaluate the long-term patterns of yearly and seasonal precipitation in the Modjo catchment area of central Ethiopia by employing both observed data and satellite-derived precipitation products, namely CHIRPS and PERSIANN-CDR. The study employed the coefficient of variation (CV) and Precipitation Concentration Index (PCI) to evaluate the variability and monthly rainfall concentration within the catchment. The Sen Slope Estimator, Mann-Kendall test, and Innovative Trend Analysis were employed to evaluate the trends present in the dataset. The findings reveal that both annual and Kiremt (June to August) rainfall exhibited low to moderate variability across all monitoring stations. In contrast, the Meher (September to November), Bega (December to February), and Belg (March to May) seasons demonstrated high variability, with Coefficient of Variation (CV) values surpassing 30%. The Precipitation Concentration Index (PCI) values suggested that the annual rainfall data series had a moderate and irregular distribution, while the seasonal rainfall distribution was characterized by a highly irregular pattern, with all values exceeding 20. The trend analysis indicated no significant trends (at  $\alpha = 0.05$ ) in annual rainfall across all stations; however, notable trend changes were detected in the seasonal rainfall datasets. The PERSIANN-CDR rainfall data generally exhibited a decreasing trend across the stations, except during the Meher season, which showed an increasing trend (significant at the Modjo and Ejere stations). The CHIRPS data indicated a consistent and significant decreasing trend during the Bega season across all stations. The trends for annual and Kiremt rainfall were mixed and not statistically significant. The Meher and Belg seasons displayed increasing trends, though without statistical significance across the stations. Furthermore, the trend analysis highlighted a significant decrease in most Bega season trends (at  $\alpha = 0.05$ ,  $\alpha = 0.01$ ), while the Kiremt and annual seasons exhibited similar patterns. Conversely, the Meher season demonstrated an increasing trend. The ITA trend test uses a 1:1 bisector line to identify data trends. Most ITA findings align with MK and SSE results, though some seasonal discrepancies exist. Most analyses are significant at the 95% confidence level, except for many PERSIANN-CDR results, which show no significant trends. Overall, ITA identified several significant trends, while MK and SSE mostly indicated insignificant trends. The findings of this study demonstrate a moderate variability and concentration in annual rainfall, coupled with high and very high variability in seasonal rainfall patterns. Furthermore, a significant trend of both increases and decreases was observed, which carries profound implications for climate change adaptation. It is imperative for relevant stakeholders to consider the results of this study, conduct further investigations, and implement effective adaptation strategies to address the potential adverse implications.

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