STRENTH OF ASSOCIATION BETWEEN CLIMATIC VARIABLES AND CEREAL CROPS IN PARTS OF NORTH CENTRAL STATES, NIGERIA

MUSA, M[1]., BELLO, A. S[2]., USMAN, A. A[2].,
AND YISA, M. K[2].,
[1]Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria [2] Department of Geography, Federal University of Technology, Minna, Nigeria

ABSTRACT
The study examined the strength of relationship between climatic variables and yield of three major cereal crops (Rice, Maize and Guinea corn) cultivated in North Central States of Nigeria. Thirty (30) years climatic data of rainfall, minimum temperature, maximum temperature and relative humidity from Climatic Prediction Center Merged Analysis of Precipitation

Introduction

The impact of climatic variability, its related vulnerabilities is an emergent global concern. Climate variability and extreme events are projected to be on the rise in several regions and thus having substantial effects on food productions beyond the effects of changes in climatic means. This reliance is mostly critical for both food and cash crops (Akinseye et al., 2012).

In recent time the issue of climate variability and change have been considered to be one of the most prominent universal environmental issues. For the period 1885 to 2013, the mean temperature of the globe increased by 0.84 °C and it is projected to increase further by 1.5 – 5.9 °C by the end of the twenty-first (21st) century (IPCC, 2014). Developing nations are more susceptible to such changes as they have inadequate means of adaptation to the disasters and agriculture plays central role in their national economy (Majumder et al., 2016).