

Recent climatic changes in micro climatic area of Monaragala

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Within the dry zone of Sri Lanka, Monaragala shows the significant microclimatic state. The study has been conducted to identify the recent climatic changes.

The area that belongs to 'Monaragala Complex' shows the characteristics of the intermediate and wet climate. According to the agro ecological classification of Sri Lanka, more than 70 percent of the district belongs to the dry zone. Topography of this area has caused to build up the significant micro climate.

Monaragala complex covered in three divisional secretariat areas (Madulla, Siyambalanduwa and Monaragala) and twelve GN divisions. Out of twelve, six GN divisions selected. Primary data acquired by questionnaire survey using random sampling method. Climate data obtained from the Department of Meteorology. Obtained data analyzed, tabulated, grouped, graphed and charted. Thematic maps obtained from several government departments.

Precipitation amount and its pattern have changed in the study area. Inter monsoonal rain have decreased, while the Monsoon rain increased. First inter monsoon rain have dropped significantly, when the South West monsoon doubled its amount. Average months of dry season have decreased significantly.

Global climate have changed rapidly since last few decades. This global climate changes effects the macro level climatic changes around the world. As a result of global and macro climatic changes, the climate of the study area also have been changed. Information obtained from present study would be useful for better understanding of the climatic changes.

Key words: Climate, Microclimate, Macro climate, Climate change, Agro ecology, Primary data, Perception, Inter monsoon, Monsoon