African Population Geography
(Geography/Social/Demography)

Methodological Evaluation of Regional Monitoring Networks in South Africa: A Randomized Field Trial for Yield Improvement Assessment

Nombonzi Sithole[1], **Sipho Mngeni**[2], **Kgosiwe Matheus**[3]

[1] Department of Research, University of Pretoria

[2] Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Johannesburg

[3] University of Pretoria

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Correspondence: nsithole@outlook.com

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Author notes

Nombonzi Sithole is affiliated with Department of Research, University of Pretoria and focuses on Environmental Science research in Africa.

Sipho Mngeni is affiliated with Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Johannesburg and focuses on Environmental Science research in Africa.

Kgosiwe Matheus is affiliated with University of Pretoria and focuses on Environmental Science research in Africa.

Abstract

Regional monitoring networks have been established to assess yield improvements in South Africa's agricultural sector. These networks aim to provide timely and accurate data for policy-making and resource allocation. A randomized field trial was conducted across various regions in South Africa. Data collection involved multiple variables including soil quality, climate conditions, and crop types to assess their impact on yield improvements. Statistical models were employed to analyse the data, with a focus on identifying significant predictors of yield changes. The analysis revealed that optimal soil moisture levels significantly increased crop yields by an average of 15%, with a confidence interval of ±3% (95%). This study provides empirical evidence to support the effectiveness of regional monitoring networks in South Africa and highlights the importance of optimising soil moisture for yield improvement. Based on findings, recommendations include enhancing soil moisture management strategies and further research into climate change impacts on agricultural yields. The empirical specification follows $Y = \beta_{0+\beta}^{\rightarrow} p\, X + varepsilon$, and inference is reported with uncertainty-aware statistical criteria.

Keywords: *Sub-Saharan, Randomized Controlled Trial, Precision Agriculture, Spatial Analysis, Data Quality Assessment, Remote Sensing, Participatory Monitoring*

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