



Methodological Evaluation of Regional Monitoring Networks in South Africa: Panel Data Estimation for System Reliability Assessment

Sipho Mthethwa¹, Gugulethu Dlamini^{1,2}, Nokuthula Ngubane³

¹ North-West University

² Council for Geoscience

³ Department of Crop Sciences, North-West University

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Correspondence: smthethwa@yahoo.com

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Author notes

Sipho Mthethwa is affiliated with North-West University and focuses on Agriculture research in Africa.

Gugulethu Dlamini is affiliated with North-West University and focuses on Agriculture research in Africa.

Nokuthula Ngubane is affiliated with Department of Crop Sciences, North-West University and focuses on Agriculture research in Africa.

Abstract

Regional monitoring networks play a crucial role in assessing agricultural productivity and sustainability across South Africa. A mixed-method approach combining quantitative analysis with qualitative insights was employed. Panel data on network efficiency and environmental indicators were collected over five years. The estimated model suggests that climate variability significantly impacts monitoring accuracy (*coefficient* = -0.56 , $p < 0.01$), while investment in infrastructure has a positive effect (*coefficient* = $+0.34$, robust SE). The system's reliability is enhanced by increased investment and improved data collection methods. Further research should focus on developing adaptive strategies to mitigate climate-induced data inaccuracies. Panel Data, System Reliability, Monitoring Networks, Agricultural Productivity, South Africa

Keywords: *Panel data, Agriculture systems, Regional monitoring, Reliability assessment, Spatial analysis, Econometrics, Geographic Information Systems*

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