

RAINFALL INTENSITY STUDIES FOR SRI LANKA

S.M. Premasiri, G.T. Dharmasena
Irrigation Dept., Colombo 07.

Rainfall intensity studies are important to engineers who are engaged on the design of hydraulic structures, for researchers who deals with soil erosion and earth slips and to many others. Due to global heating, the total amount of annual rainfall is expected to decline in tropical countries, but rainfall intensity is expected to increase, producing unfavourable results. Therefore close monitoring of rainfall intensity can indicate any weather modifications and provide room to take remedial measures.

This paper makes an attempt to update the analysis done by Mr. Baghirathan and E.M. Shaw in 1978. The methodology adopted in this paper differs mainly in two ways. Regionalization technique and linear interpolation of intensities for short durations adopted by the previous researchers are not adopted in the new study.

This study depends on most recent rainfall observations during last 25 years and therefore results are more relevant to future design and research. In addition, adoption of these results will lead to more economical designs and eliminate some inherent drawbacks in the previous study.