

Evaluation of Evapotranspiration Estimation Models for Junagadh City of Gujarat

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ABSTRACT

Estimation of Evapotranspiration is important for determining the agro-climatic potential of a particular region, water requirement of field crops, irrigation scheduling and suitability of crops or varieties, which can be grown successfully with the best economic returns and therefore numerous models have been developed for determining evapotranspiration. The performance evaluation of commonly used reference evapotranspiration (ET_0) estimation methods like FAO 56 Penman-Monteith, Samani and Hargreaves, Makkink, Blaney Criddle, Jensen-Haise, Priestly-Taylor, FAO 24 radiation and Modified Penman Monteith method based on their accuracy of estimation has been undertaken in this study. The inter-relationship between FAO-56 Penman-Monteith method and other reference evapotranspiration (ET_0) estimation method is also determined in this study. The results showed that Blaney Criddle method, Modified Penman method, Jensen-Haise method and Priestly-Taylor method are the alternative methods to Penman-Monteith method for better estimate of ET_0 for the Junagadh city of Gujarat, India.

Keywords: Evapotranspiration, agro-climatic potential, estimation methods, Penman-Monteith Method, Junagadh.

INTRODUCTION

Evapotranspiration is one of the important phases of hydrologic cycle and its accurate estimation is of paramount importance for water balance studies, irrigation system design, crop yield simulation and water resources planning and management. The Penman-Monteith method recommended by UN - FAO has received widespread acceptance internationally for estimating ET_0 . However, the major limitation of the method is that it requires data for a large number of weather parameters, which may not be available for many locations.

Evapotranspiration process is the combination of two separate processes commonly known as Evaporation and Transpiration. In this process water is lost on the one hand from the top soil or water surface by evaporation and on

the other hand from the crop plant tissues through transpiration by stomatal dynamics.

Evaporation and transpiration occur simultaneously therefore there is no easy way of distinguishing between the two processes. Instead of water quantity in the topsoil, the evaporation from a cropped soil is mainly determined by the fraction of the solar radiation reaching the soil surface. When the crop is small, water is predominately lost by evaporation from the soil surface, but once the crop is well developed and completely covers the soil, transpiration becomes the main process

Estimates of evapotranspiration provide an outlook of soil water balance in association with the amount of precipitation. Such estimates are of immense importance for calculation of water demand of the field crops and irrigation scheduling. It also determines the nature of agro-climate a region has,

agro-climatic potential of that region and suitability of crops or varieties, which can be grown successfully with the best economic returns.

Many scientists developed mathematical equations to estimate evapotranspiration in different parts of the world but no one can be universally recommended and adopted. To allow for greater understanding, sharing, and comparison of evapotranspiration information worldwide, under varying climatic and agronomic conditions, a standardized method of estimating ET_0 was developed referred to as the *FAO-56 Penman-Monteith method*.

The concept of a reference evapotranspiration (ET_0) can be used to estimate the climatic effect on evapotranspiration and represents the evapotranspiration from a hypothetical, reference surface. Many equations are used to estimate ET_0 which be divided into two main groups, i) those that are empirical and have lower data requirements, and ii) those that are physically-based and require proportionately more data. The present study focused to the performance evaluation of commonly used ET_0 estimation methods based on their accuracy of estimation and development of inter-relationships between the Penman-Monteith and the other climatological methods.

Objectives

1. To evaluate the various evapotranspiration estimation method
2. To develop inter-relationship between *FAO-56 Penman-Monteith method* and other ET_0 estimation method.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The daily records of meteorological parameters i.e. Maximum temperature (T_{max}), minimum temperature (T_{min}), relative humidity morning (RH_1), relative humidity evening (RH_2), wind speed (WV), bright sunshine hours (BSS) and Pan evaporation (EP) recorded for the period of 10 years (year 2005 to year 2015) were collected from Meteorological department, Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh. The daily data was further converted into the monthly data. Standard methods

as mentioned below were used to estimate ET_0 .

Evapotranspiration Estimation Methods

There are eight ET estimation methods were used to estimate the evapotranspiration i.e. *FAO 56 Penman-Monteith*, *Samani and Hargreaves*, *Makkink method*, *Blaney Criddle method*, *Jensen-haise method*, *Priestly-Taylor method*, *FAO 24 radiation method* and *Modified Penman Monteith method*. Description of each method is provided in the following sections.

FAO 56 Penman-Monteith Method (PMM)

The *FAO Penman-Monteith method* is a physically-based analytical approach derived from the *Penman-Monteith equation* [5], a combination of the energy balance and mass transfer method, specifying the resistance factors of the reference surface. It defines the reference surface as a hypothetical surface of green grass with an assumed uniform height of 0.12 m, a surface resistance of 70 s m⁻¹ and an albedo of 0.23 under actively growing and adequately watered conditions [1]. The *FAO Penman-Monteith method* to estimate ET_0 is derived as:

$$ET_0 = \frac{0.408 \Delta^1 (R_n^1 - G^1) + \gamma^1 \frac{900}{T_{mean} + 273} u_2 (e_s^1 - e_a^1)}{\Delta^1 + \gamma^1 (1 + 0.34 u_2)}$$

Where

ET_0 = reference evapotranspiration [mm day⁻¹],
 R_n = net radiation at the surface [MJ m⁻² day⁻¹],
 G = soil heat flux density [MJ m⁻² day⁻¹],
 T = air temperature at 2 m height [°C],
 u_2 = wind speed at 2 m height [m s⁻¹],
 e_s = saturation vapour pressure [kPa],
 e_a = actual vapour pressure [kPa],
 Δ = slope of vapour pressure curve [kPa °C⁻¹],
 γ = psychrometric constant [kPa °C⁻¹].
 = 0.000665 * p (kpa)

$$E_a = (e_{min}) * (rh_{max}/100) + e_{max} * (rh_{min}/100) / 2$$

$$U_2 = ws * 4.87 * 1000 / (3600 * e_{min} (67.8 * 3 - 5.42))$$

$$J = 1, 2, 3, \dots, G = 0$$

Site location information of altitude and latitude and standard climatological records of solar radiation, air temperature, relative humidity and wind

Table 1: Percent Deviations Of Average Monthly Et0 Values Estimated By Various Methods With Penman Monteith Method

Method Month	BCM	JHM	HRM	PTM	RAM	MKM	MPM
1-J	20.34	220.49	220.21	353.21	254.89	113.53	228.18
2	25.44	238.21	231.77	367.58	268.93	122.02	241.82
3	26.04	252.81	267.95	389.49	284.82	131.50	257.73
4	35.00	229.44	225.13	366.45	266.46	122.42	234.82
5	26.53	239.57	217.95	383.41	284.39	132.30	254.07
6-F	44.38	220.76	191.17	354.06	261.66	118.50	230.01
7	40.88	226.41	198.72	345.43	255.25	114.87	222.82
8	53.52	224.55	203.88	337.64	248.45	112.12	215.75
9	56.28	219.51	183.48	327.21	242.15	108.34	210.04
10-M	63.81	213.98	170.35	322.50	239.13	106.12	207.77
11	46.96	209.61	150.34	307.01	228.00	100.44	191.79
12	56.26	222.56	166.36	296.46	220.69	94.59	191.10
13	46.35	233.30	174.48	296.63	221.01	95.23	187.45
14-A	65.66	209.16	173.11	263.28	193.60	78.47	162.04
15	56.79	221.11	181.37	277.48	206.43	85.38	177.21
16	51.09	212.58	156.51	263.56	197.16	79.09	165.93
17	56.90	218.94	159.88	266.88	201.91	81.65	173.14
18	57.88	203.59	121.56	259.34	197.19	77.28	168.24
19-M	50.81	207.68	133.44	256.39	196.22	75.47	165.84
20	45.29	225.40	133.59	260.18	201.94	77.80	168.82
21	39.27	184.18	121.58	221.67	168.10	57.70	137.79
22	38.74	194.35	133.14	227.03	172.14	60.45	139.51
23-J	12.05	174.75	140.59	209.26	156.18	50.15	124.33
24	-19.72	207.53	193.42	253.64	198.39	71.17	158.01
25	8.79	164.06	180.19	200.04	148.31	42.89	115.09
26	-12.45	165.57	219.85	206.26	152.67	42.41	115.50
27-J	-0.79	216.92	290.81	261.46	201.68	67.39	153.35
28	4.96	203.85	307.11	245.89	188.39	59.60	142.24
29	5.01	220.14	324.00	261.86	202.80	68.70	154.44
30	-0.36	241.67	308.75	286.64	230.82	81.86	174.03
31	13.44	255.14	409.20	321.27	262.05	95.96	196.63
32-A	15.41	220.36	379.96	281.92	225.43	76.93	166.29
33	11.63	253.83	369.85	310.36	254.29	94.49	190.35
34	18.68	258.97	348.37	314.12	260.57	100.92	198.13
35	35.45	287.01	374.51	327.44	277.41	107.95	206.70
36-S	46.05	295.42	297.77	334.88	287.60	117.47	218.01
37	40.33	304.80	271.05	339.73	295.37	123.84	224.45
38	24.92	312.18	249.80	351.01	311.40	132.92	234.95
39	-14.04	327.66	243.78	362.74	324.67	141.38	243.68
40-O	10.36	323.20	232.54	351.41	311.78	139.04	232.93
41	3.46	316.34	227.77	345.72	306.88	137.50	227.93
42	36.57	310.96	257.14	357.19	315.31	145.11	234.59
43	56.77	311.13	265.11	371.55	323.95	155.69	237.09

44	53.56	284.40	257.63	344.49	297.63	140.24	213.61
45-N	41.23	293.36	257.00	352.28	307.25	145.07	219.53
46	35.00	292.20	273.20	345.26	302.73	141.75	214.19
47	39.76	306.57	296.89	370.02	328.90	157.95	234.44
48	22.74	261.39	246.57	325.38	287.57	133.83	198.83
49-D	18.02	257.47	256.14	322.24	287.54	132.31	199.69
50	14.85	241.16	239.78	317.63	284.50	131.87	194.81
51	12.02	250.95	274.06	316.28	284.87	130.95	194.34
52	-1.07	226.82	261.17	306.77	277.13	126.39	184.50

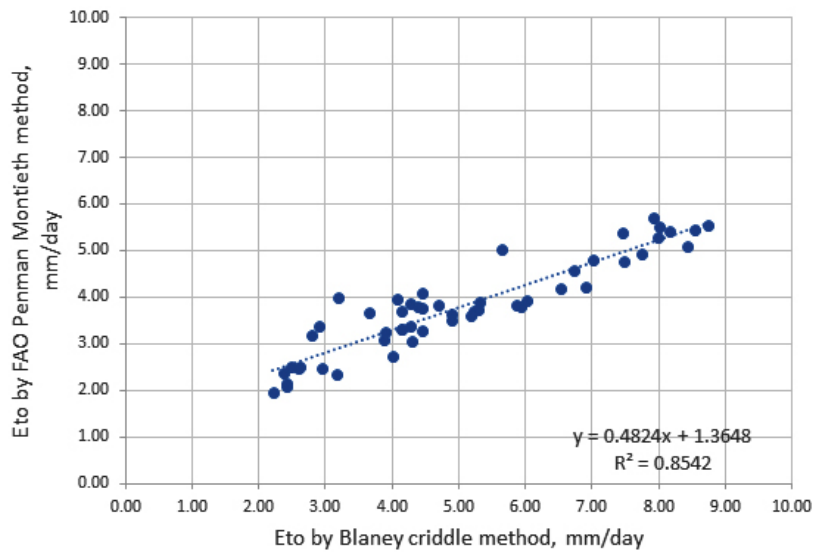


Fig.1: Comparison of Monthly ET₀ estimated by Blaney Criddle method with FAO Penman Monteith Method

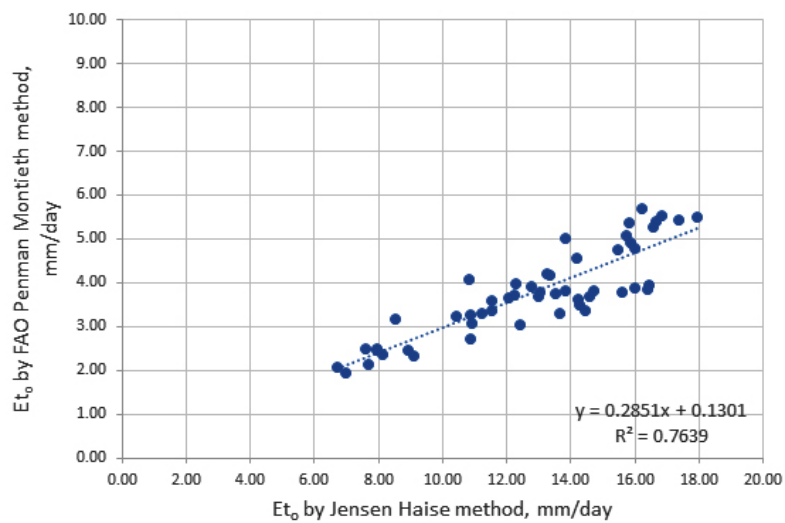


Fig. 2: Comparison of Monthly ET₀ estimated by Jensen method with FAO Penman Monteith Method

speed are required. Altitude and latitude of the site location are needed to adjust the local psychrometric constant (\bar{a}) and latitude is also involved in extra-terrestrial radiation (R_a) computation. Solar radiation is required to calculate R_n based on a radiation balance model in combination with R_a . T is used to develop \bar{A} and calculate vapour pressure deficit (VPD). To ensure the integrity of ETo estimation, all the climatological parameters should be measured at 2 m or converted to this height¹.

FAO 56 Hargreaves Method (HRM)

The Samani and Hargreaves method is a temperature-based empirical approach¹¹. It was developed from the Christiansen equation⁷, which uses a multiplicative method to relate ET to solar radiation, temperature, relative humidity and wind speed, respectively. In an experiment conducted by Hargreaves⁹ on a cool season grass region at Davis, Calif., regressions were made using ET measurements as a function of various combinations of weather factors and showed that the multiplication of temperature by solar radiation explains 94% of variability of ET measurements and that of wind speed by relative humidity only explains about 10%. Based on these results, coefficients for wind speed and relative humidity were left out of the equation to foster simplicity and reduce data requirements. Currently the Hargreaves and Samani method is generally described as:

$$ET_0 = 0.0023 R_a (T_{mean} + 17.8) (T D)^{0.5}$$

Where

- ET_0 = reference evapotranspiration [mm day⁻¹],
- T_{mean} = mean daily air temperature at 2 m height [°C],
- T_{max} = daily maximum temperature at 2 m height [°C],
- T_{min} = daily minimum temperature at 2 m height [°C],
- R_a = extraterrestrial radiation [MJ m⁻² day⁻¹].
- $TD = T_{max} - T_{min}$

$$R_a = (24 \cdot 60 / 3.14) \cdot 0.82 \cdot dr \cdot (ws \cdot \sin(\text{lati. (rad)}) \cdot \sin(\text{del}) + \cos(\text{lati. (rad)}) \cdot \cos(\text{lati. (rad)}) \cdot \sin(ws))$$

Due to the low data requirement, it is often applied under conditions where less data is available, and especially, when only air temperatures are

available¹⁰. It is also used to estimate historical series of ET in irrigation and water resources systems, using historical air temperature records [20],

FAO 24 Radiation Method (RAM)

The FAO 24 Radiation method was first introduced by Doorenbos and Pruitt (1977) as a modification of the Makkink (1957) method^{5,13}. It was originally suggested that this model be used over a Penman method when measured air temperature and solar radiation were available but wind and humidity data were unavailable or were of questionable quality^{5,15}. However, the 24RD model performs much better with measured data¹³. The form of 24RD given by Jensen et al. (1990) is described in equation:

$$ET_0 = c(W \cdot R_s)$$

Where,

$$c = 1.066 - 0.00128 RH_{mean} + 0.045 u_d - 0.0002 RH_{mean} u_d + 0.0000315 (RH_{mean})^2 - 0.00103 (u_d)^2$$

$$\Delta = (4098 \cdot (0.6108 \cdot \exp((17.27 \cdot t_{mean}) / (t_{mean} + 237.3)))) / ((t_{mean} + 237.3))$$

$$x = 0.000665 \cdot p(\text{kpa})$$

$G = 0$

$R_n = R_{ns} - R_{nl}$

where ETo is grass-reference evapotranspiration (mm day⁻¹), and are the same variables defined for Equation 3.1, R_s is solar radiation (mm day⁻¹) (see [2] for conversion factors), and $a = -0.3$ mm day⁻¹ where RH_{mean} is the daily mean relative humidity (percent) and U_d is the mean daytime wind speed (m s⁻¹) [13].

FAO 24 Blaney-Criddle Method (BCM)

Blaney and Criddle (1950) developed their model for use in arid farmlands of the western U.S. while working as engineers for the Soil Conservation Service (SCS)¹². The model's relationships were derived from experimental data for a variety of crops over the western U.S.⁶. The original model is similar to the classic Thornthwaite model, requiring only temperature and a function of sunlight hours as data input. The original model as described by Blaney and Criddle (1950) is:

$$ET_0 = a + b[p(0.46T + 8.13)]$$

Where,

$$a = 0.0043(RH_{min}) - n/N - 1.41$$

$$b = 0.82 - 0.0041(RH_{min}) + 1.07(n/N) + 0.066(u_d) - 0.006(RH_{min})(n/N) - 0.0006(RH_{min})(u_d)$$

$$lati(rad) = lati.^*3.14/180$$

$$del = 0.409 * \sin((2 * 3.14 * j / 365) - 1.39)$$

$$ws = \cos(-\tan(lati.(rad)) * \tan(del))$$

with T being the mean monthly temperature (°F) and P the monthly percentage of the annual daytime hours⁶.

where ETo is reference evapotranspiration (mm day⁻¹), p is the mean percentage of annual daytime hours (defined as the percentage of the total annual daylight hours that occur in the time period being examined, such as daily or monthly⁸, T is the mean air temperature (°C), RHmin is the minimum relative humidity (percent), n/N is the ratio of possible to actual sunshine hours, and U_d is the daytime wind speed at 2 m (m s⁻¹). The original Blaney- Criddle model was designed to use monthly values only and was known to produce erroneous results for any period shorter than one month¹². This limitation was due to the use of temperature as the sole climatic variable¹². The 24BC version of the model, however, uses humidity and wind speed, thus minimizing this limitation.

Priestley-Taylor Method (PTM)

The original intent of the model was for use in large-scale numerical modeling where it is assumed that advection is small, thus allowing the aerodynamic component of the original Penman equation to be reduced to a coefficient that modifies the remaining equation (Priestley and Taylor 1972, Jensen et al. 1990). The P/T model was designed to be used in humid areas where surfaces were usually wet^{19,13}. The form of the P/T used in this study was described by Jensen et al. (1990) as:

$$ET_0 = 1.26 \frac{\Delta}{\Delta + \gamma} (R_n - G)$$

$$= (4098 * (0.6108 * \exp((17.27 * tmean) / (tmean + 237.3)))) / ((tmean + 237.3) * 0.000665 * p(kpa))$$

$$G = 0$$

$$R_n = R_{ns} - R_{nl}$$

where ET is evapotranspiration (mm day⁻¹) and all other terms are identical to those defined previously. The coefficient term may be modified for different wind and humidity regimes, but it has been found that the current value of 1.26 is reasonable across most climates¹⁷.

Makkink Method (MKM)

The Makkink model was designed in 1957 in the Netherlands as a modification of Penman after comparing the Penman model to lysimetric data^{10,16}. Currently, Makkink is popular in western Europe¹⁰ and has been used successfully in the U.S⁴. Allen gave the operational form of the Makkink model as:

$$ET_0 = 0.65 \frac{\Delta}{\Delta + \gamma} R_s$$

$$\Delta = (4098 * (0.6108 * \exp((17.27 * tmean) / (tmean + 237.3)))) / ((tmean + 237.3))$$

$$R_s = (0.25 + 0.5 * (n(\text{hrs})/n)) * ra^2$$

$$v = 0.000665 * p(kpa)$$

Where ETo is evapotranspiration (mm day⁻¹), R_s is solar radiation (MJ m⁻² day⁻¹), and are the same variables defined for Equation.

Modified Penman Method (MPM)

The equation formed as a result of combination of radiation term and aerodynamic term which is given as:

$$ET_0 = C \left[\frac{\Delta}{\Delta + \gamma} R_n + \frac{\gamma}{\Delta + \gamma} (0.27)(1.0 + 0.01U_2)(e_s - e_a) \right]$$

Where,

$$C = 0.68 + 0.0028(RH_{max}) + 0.018(R_s) -$$

$$0.068(u_d) + 0.013(u_d/u_n) + 0.0097(u_d)(u_d/u_n) + 0.000043(RH_{max})(R_s)(u_d)$$

Where

ETo = Reference crop evapotranspiration in mm/day

W = Temperature related weighing factor.

R_n = Net radiation equivalent evaporation in mm/day.

f(u) = Wind related function

$$\Delta = (4098 * (0.6108 * \exp((17.27 * t_{mean}) / (t_{mean} + 237.3)))) / ((t_{mean} + 237.3))$$

C = Adjustment factor to compensate for the effect of day and night

$$R_s = (0.25 + 0.5 * (n(\text{hrs})/n)) * r_a^2$$

$$E_s = (T_{max} + T_{min}) / 2$$

$(e_s - e_a)$ = Difference between saturated vapor pressure at mean air temperature and the actual vapor pressure of the air, in mille-bar.

Jensen-Haise Method (JHM)

The Jensen-Haise model is essentially a shortened version of the original Penman combination equation. The original intent of the model was for use in large-scale numerical modelling. The equation is given as:

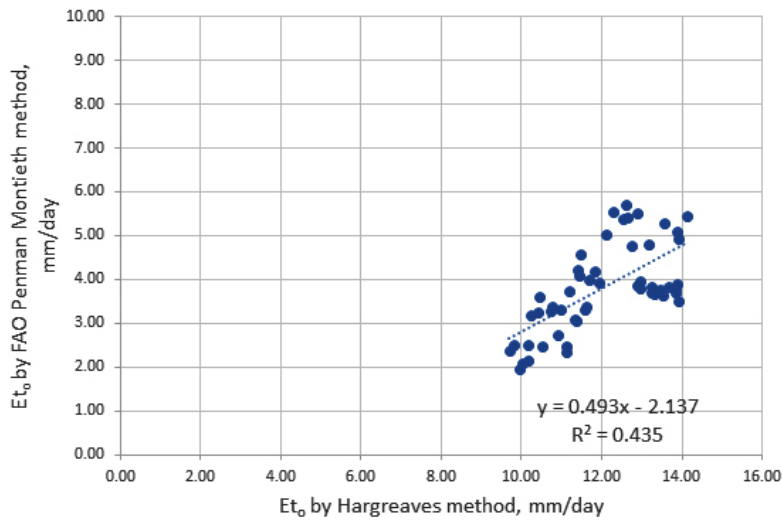


Fig. 3: Comparison of Monthly ET₀ estimated by Hargreaves method with FAO Penman Monteith Method

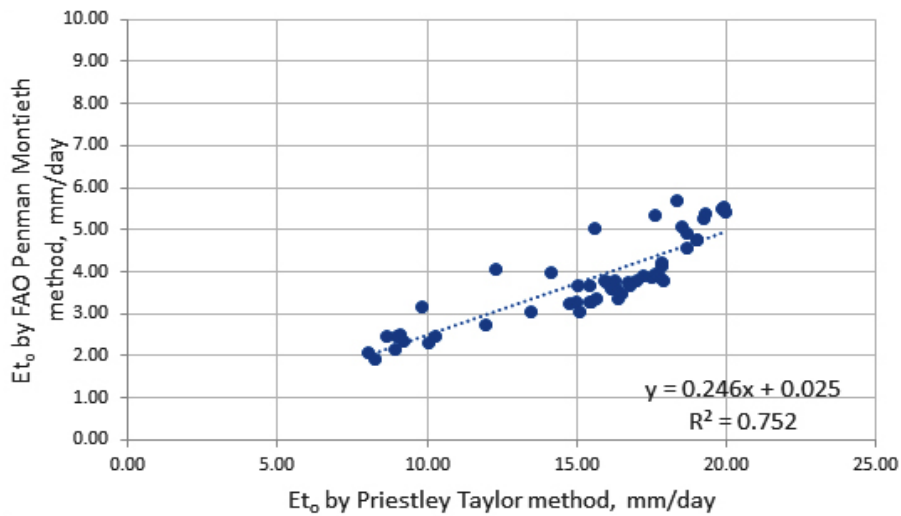


Fig. 4: Comparison of Monthly ET₀ estimated by Priestly Taylor method with FAO Penman Monteith Method

$$ET_0^1 = R_s(0.025T_{mean} + 0.08)$$

Where,

T_{mean} = mean daily temperature,

R_s = global solar radiation, mm/day

$$R_s = (0.25 + 0.5 * (n(\text{hrs})/n)) * ra^2$$

estimated by FAO 56 PMM as shown in Fig.1 to Fig.7. Good agreement was observed between Blaney-Criddle method, MPM, JHM, PTM and with FAO 56 Penman-Monteith Method. Results indicated that poor relationship was observed with HRM with FAO 56 Penman-Monteith Method.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Evapotranspiration Estimation Methods

The mean monthly ET_0 values estimated by various methods are compared with those

The percent deviations of mean monthly ET_0 values with respect to PMM are presented in Table 1. The positive deviation represents overestimation and negative deviation represents underestimation of ET_0 . All the ET_0 estimation methods overestimated

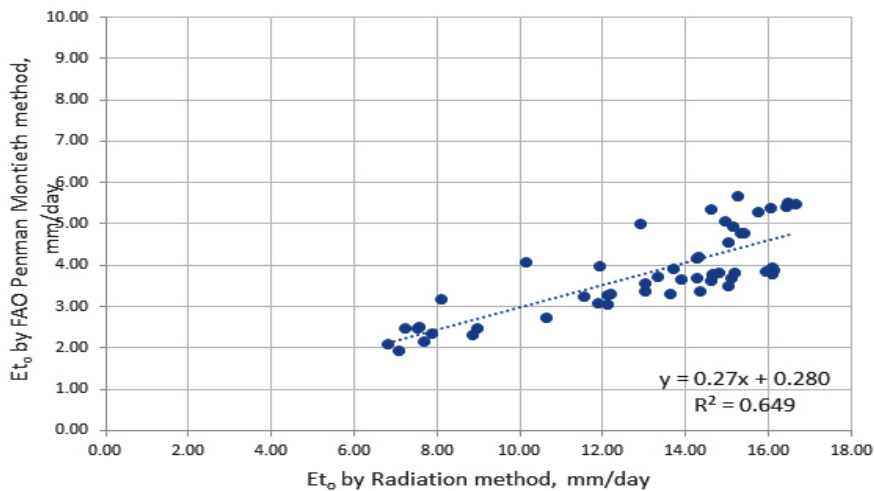


Fig. 5: Comparison of Monthly ET_0 estimated by Radiation method with FAO Penman Monteith Method

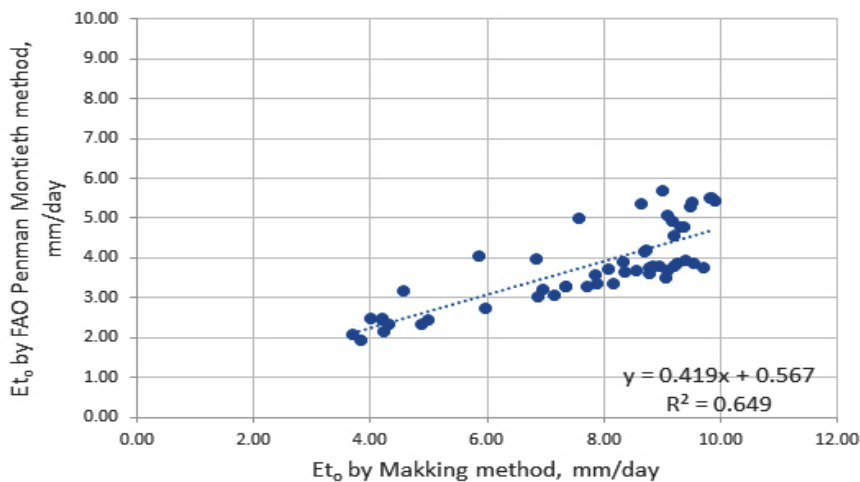


Fig. 6: Comparison of Monthly ET_0 estimated by Makking method with FAO Penman Monteith Method

average monthly ET_0 during monsoon period in the study area except Blaney criddle method. The percent deviation has increased as the monsoon progresses.

The comparison of monthly ET_0 values estimated by various methods with those of PMM is presented in Fig 1. to Fig 7. Linear regression analysis has been carried out to derive inter relationships between PMM and other methods are

presented in Table 2. These relationships, therefore, may be adopted to estimate ET_0 by the methods for which meteorological data are available to get reasonable estimation in terms of the desired method.

Fig.1 shows the comparison of monthly ET_0 estimated by Blaney Criddle method with FAO Penman Monteith method. The value of coefficient of determination was found to be 0.8542 which is

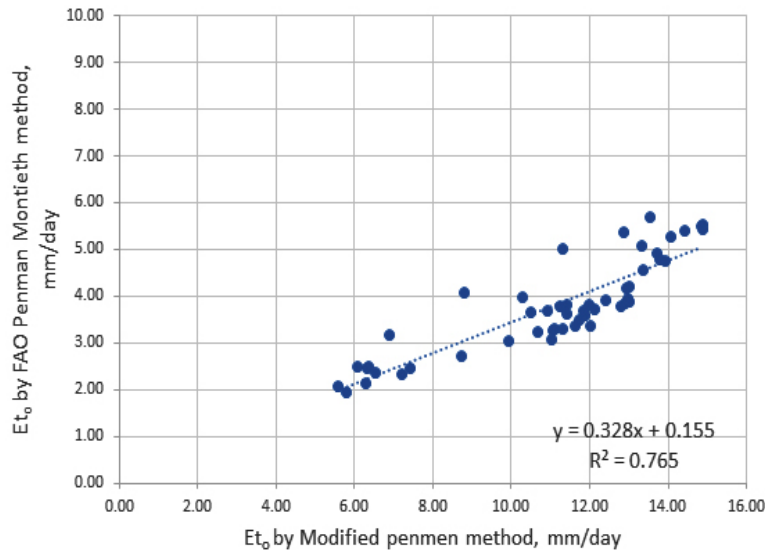


Fig. 7: Comparison of Monthly ET₀ estimated by Modified Penman Monteith method with FAO Penman Monteith Method

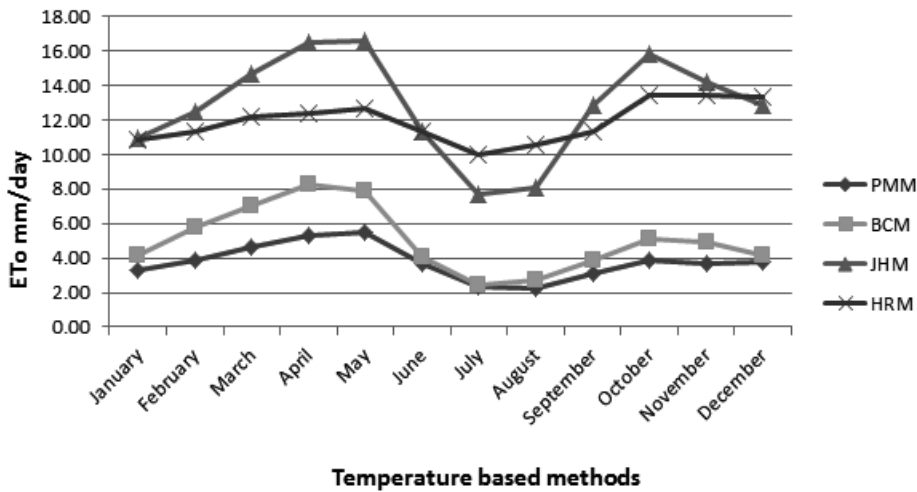


Fig. 8: Comparison of average monthly ET₀ values estimated by Temperature based methods with Penman Monteith Method

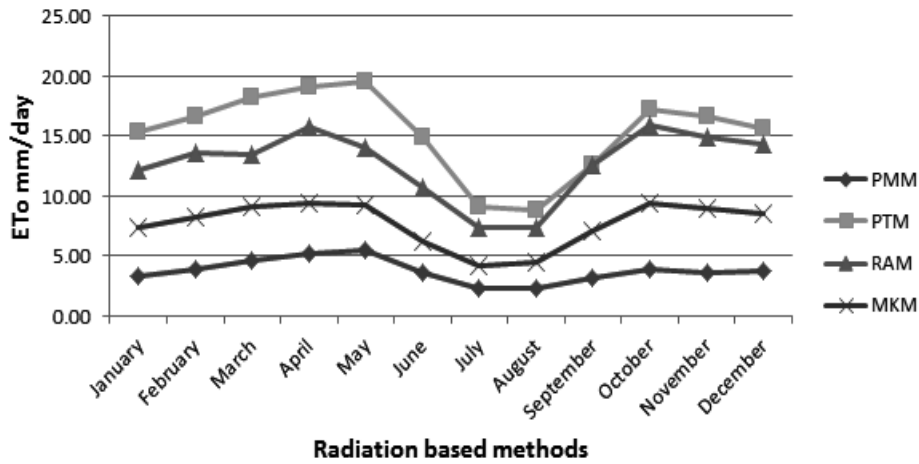


Fig. 9: Comparison of average monthly ETo values estimated by Radiation based methods with Penman Monteith Method

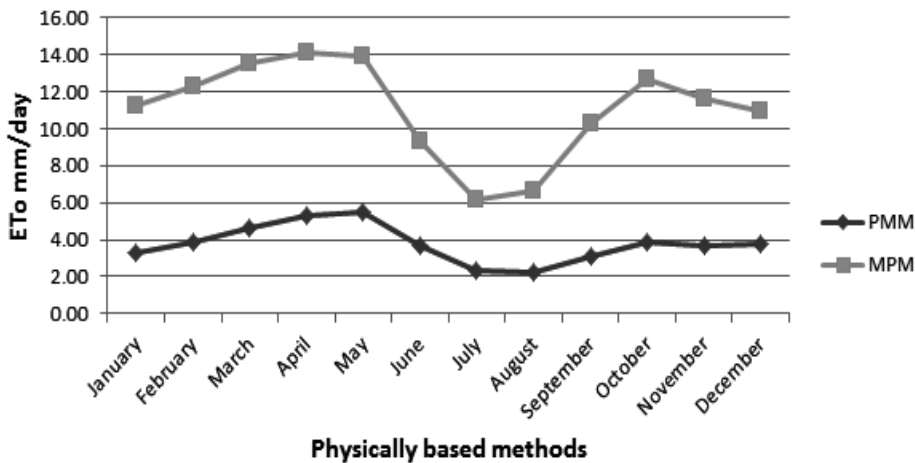


Fig. 10: Comparison of average monthly ETo values estimated by Physically based methods with Penman Monteith Method

Table 2: Interrelationships Between Various Empirical Methods And Pmm

Sr. No.	Conversion equation	R ²
1	PMM=0.482BCM+1.364	0.854
2	PMM=0.285JHM+0.130	0.763
3	PMM=0.493HRM-2.137	0.435
4	PMM=0.246PTM+0.025	0.752
5	PMM=0.27RAM+0.280	0.649
6	PMM=0.419MKM+0.567	0.649
7	PMM=0.328MPM+0.155	0.765

higher than that obtained by other methods used in this study as shown in fig.2, fig.3, fig.4, fig.5, fig. 6 and fig.7 suggesting a strong correlation between Blaney Criddle and Penman Monteith method. The comparison of monthly ET_o estimated by Hargreaves method with FAO Penman Monteith Method as shown in fig.3 indicates that it has least value of coefficient of determination compared to other methods. As indicated in fig.1, fig.2, fig. 4 and fig.7, the value of coefficient of determination is greater than 0.7 suggesting that there is a stronger correlation of Blaney Criddle Method, Jensen-Haise Method, Priestly-Taylor Method, Modified Penman

Monteith Method compared to Hargreaves Radiation Method, FAO 24 Radiation Method and Makkink Method.

CONCLUSION

Many methods have been proposed for estimating ET_0 based on weather data, and range from locally developed, empirical relationships to physically based energy- and mass-transfer models. To allow for greater understanding, sharing, and inter comparison of evapotranspiration information worldwide, under varying climatic and agronomic conditions, a standardized method of estimating ET_0 was developed, referred to as the FAO-56 Penman-Monteith method. It is a complex method requiring several weather parameters, including air temperature, humidity, solar radiation, and wind speed, to be measured under strict conditions. Other methods were later on given by various scientists to estimate the evapotranspiration and considering this, the study was under taken to

1. To evaluate the various evapotranspiration estimation method
2. To develop inter-relationship between Penman-monteith and other ET_0 estimation method.

The data was collected from the Metrological department, Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh. There are eight ET estimation methods were used to estimate the evapotranspiration i.e. FAO 56 Penman-Monteith, Samani and Hargreaves, Makkink, Blaney criddle, Jensen-haise, Priestly-Taylor, FAO 24 radiation and Modified Penman Monteith method. After evaluation following conclusions were drawn out of it

1. The BCM, MPM, JHM and PTM are the alternative methods to PMM for better estimate of ET_0 for the Junagadh region of Gujarat, India.
2. The following inter-relationships were developed between Penman-Monteith and other ET_0 estimation method.

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