

Statistics: an essential tool for climate change assessment

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Appropriate statistical methods reduce biases and provide sound basis for decision-making. When the issue of climate change is concerned there have been a lot of criticism by researchers and institutions on the use of incorrect statistical applications in climate change studies. As a result, in the ivth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC 2007) on Summary for Policy Makers (SPM) has given much more emphasis on the statistical methods. It is interesting to note that the importance of statistics is presently being given high priority in global climate change programs. Many best practice guidelines on appropriate statistical methods for climate change studies have come up recently to cater to this need. The objective of this presentation is to draw together some latest findings on statistical methods used in assessment of climate change in prediction and projection of climate, analysis of temperature trends and statistical downscaling methods used in numerical simulation models.