

ASSESSMENT AND MAPPING OF RAINFALL EROSIVITY INDEX (R) FOR MAJHA REGION, PUNJAB IS A STATE IN NORTHERN, INDIA

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Abstract

Purpose: This study gives a critical assessment of the rainfall erosivity factor (R) for selected sites in the Majha region, representing different locations use of mean monthly rainfall data.

Methodology: By applying empirical methods, the rainfall intensity for all the locations were obtained and was further determined at three different intervals of 30-minutes, 45-minutes and 60-minutes, respectively. The rainfall erosivity factor (R) was calculated by the revised universal soil loss equation (RUSLE).

Main Findings: Using RUSLE, the rainfall erosivity factor (R) for each of the locations was measured as follows; EI = 3878.49 (MJmmha-1hr-1), EI = 4013.71 (MJmmha-1hr-1), EI = 4302.24 (MJmmha-1hr-1) for Majha region of Amritsar, Tarntaran and Pathankot respectively. A close observation of the data obtained revealed that as rainfall intensity increased with the duration, the rainfall erosivity index reduced or decreased.

Implications of study: Nevertheless, it is expected that if proper cover crop and management practices are applied despite the region, the study area falls within, rainfall erosivity can be cushioned, thus reducing further erosion tendencies and enhancing food production chances from productive lands within the area.

The novelty of study: The rainfall erosivity factor (R) was calculated by the revised universal soil loss equation (RUSLE).

Keywords: Soil Erosion, Rainfall, Erosivity Index, Rainfall Intensity, RUSLE, Punjab.

INTRODUCTION

Rainfall is a key contributing factor to land degradation, such as soil erosion. This is a result of the ability of rainfall to dissolve, loosen or worn away soil by the force of raindrops, runoffs, and river flooding and deposit in other places (Balogun et al. 2012; World Meteorological Organization 2005). Rainfall erosivity concerns the ability of rainfall to precipitate soil loss Nearing, M.A.; Yin, S.; Borrelli, P.; Polyakov, V.O. (2017) as it supplies energy to the mechanical processes of soil erosion. Agricultural soils are the richest materials of minerals, nutrients, moisture, air, organic substances and microbial sports that guide plant increase and manufacturing. They provide the pathways via which water and vitamins move to the roots of plants, and they are the matrix of nutrient transformation with the resultant surroundings for micro-organisms and fauna Powlson et al., (2011). Suresh (2012) stated equally that erosion occurs in three phenomena detachment, transportation and deposition, and rainfall creates the medium through which all of them take area. Rainfall is one of the main causes of soil erosion because it separates and displaces soil particles. Raindrop distribution, duration, and terminal velocity in relation to soil detachment and displacement are difficult to measure precisely Talchabhadel, R., Nakagawa, H., Kawaike, K. et al. (, 2020). The capacity of rainfall to motive soil disturbance, detachment, transport and eventual deposition, which ends up in soil erosion, is thought of as rainfall erosivity (R). According to Michael and Ojha (2003), the power for erosion depends on certain factors, which encompass soil nature/traits, slope/topography, presence of vegetative cowl and classy climatic situations. The important contributing element to soil loss and movement is rainfall and its characteristics (depth, duration, frequency, energy, distribution etc.) Okorafor et al., (2017). Rainfall is the primary water-driven force that causes soil erosion, and rainfall erosivity, which is proportional to raindrop kinetic energy, reflects its potential impact on soil erosion (Dai, Q., Zhu, J., Zhang, S., Zhu, S., Han, D., and Lv, G. (2020). The erosive ability of rainfall to initiate soil detachment, movement/transportation and eventual deposition in one-of-a-kind places is regarded because of the erosivity of rainfall. Rainfall erosivity aspect (R) is one of the six factors of the commonplace Universal Soil Loss Equation (Wischmeier and Smith, 1978) and revised customary Soil Loss Equation (Renard et al., 1997) that is stated hence;

$A = R \times K \times L \times S \times C \times P$

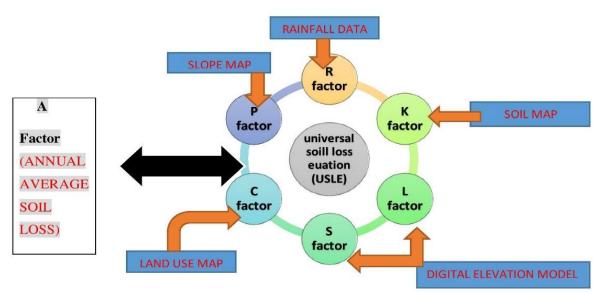
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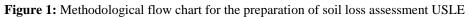
Where A= Annual soil Loss, R= Rainfall Erosivity Factor, K= Soil Erodibility Factor S= Slope Length factor, S= Steepness Factor, C= Cover Crop Management Factor P= Conservation/Management Practices Factor.

Rainfall erosivity issue is reckoning on the amount, length, intensity, driblet length, distribution, frequency and kinetic strength of a rainfall/storm event (Okorafor et al., 2017). downfall erosivity is of dominant significance amongst natural factors poignant erosion, and in contrast to other natural parts, together with relief or soil traits, isn't amenable to human change (Angelo-Martinez and Beguaria, 2009). The target of this study is to create the use of mean monthly rainfall data



to an assessment and mapping of rainfall erosivity index/factor (R) for the Majha region; Punjab is a state in northern India.





MATERIALS AND METHODS

Description of Study Area

The presented study area is the Majha is a region of the state of Punjab; India Majha is a region located in the central parts of the historical Punjab region split between India and Pakistan. It extends north from the right bank of the river Beas and reaches as far north as the river Jhelum. The Majha region of Indian State of Punjab covers the area between Beas and Ravi rivers, including the area on the north of Sutlej, after the confluence of Beas and Sutlej in tarn taran district, extending up to the Ravi River, which is all part of the Majha region in India. This region contains districts of the Indian state of Punjab Amritsar, Tarn Taran, and Pathankot. The study area is the Majha region of the district located within respectively Latitudes 31.6340° N and longitude 74.8723° E, latitude 32.2733° N and longitude 75.6522° E and latitude 31.4539° N, longitude 74.9268° E and an average elevation of respectively 234 meters, 226 meters and 332 meters. The annual average rainfall is concerning, respectively 703.4 (mm), 812 (mm) and 1335 (mm). Wheat and paddy are that the major crop of the Majha region Sugarcane, maize, pulses, oilseed crops, vegetables and fruits are full-grown within the region.

DATA AND COLLECTION AND COMPUTATION

In order to determine the rainfall erosivity factor (R) of the selected locations, rainfall data (Mean monthly rainfall amount and rainfall days) were obtained from Sri Guru Ram Dass Jee International Airport (regional Meteorological research Centre) Amritsar, Majha region, Punjab for a period of 30 years (1981-2010).

Determination of erosivity index

Rainfall erosivity (R factor) describes the soil loss potential caused by rainfall, and it is calculated as total kinetic energy (E) of the storm times its 30 minutes intensity (I30). Erosivity index is not simply an energy parameter, and it is not just a good indicator of erosive potential (Erasmus et al., 1970; <u>Satapathy, 2000</u>) but also indicates the volume of rainfall and runoff; however, rain of lower intensity occurring for a longer duration may have the same energy value as a short duration rain of much higher intensity. The I30 components specify the prolonged peak rates of detachment and runoff. Thus, the term erosivity index is a statistical interaction that shows how total energy and peak intensity are combined in each particular storm. Technically, it indicates how the detachment of soil particles is being combined with its transporting capacity (ARS, 1961; Jaiswal, 1982). According to <u>Sanchez-Moreno et al. (2013); Oliveira et al. (2012)</u>, rainfall erosivity factor (R) is computed thus;

$R{=}\,\varSigma\,(EI30)$

Where R= Rainfall Erosivity Factor

I30 = 30 minutes rainfall intensity

E = Total Storm Kinetic Energy

The kinetic energy of the storm or rainfall event is obtained from the following relationship according to Teh (2011);

E = 210.3 + 87 log 10I

(3)

(2)



Where E = total kinetic energy

I = Rainfall Intensity

The rainfall intensity (I), which is the rate of rainfall express as depth per time (Michael and Ojha, 2003), is given by Yin <u>et al. (2007)</u> as;

Where P = Precipitation

T = Duration of Rainfall

The resultant 30-minute interval rainfall (I30) is also obtained according to Yin et al. (2007) as;

$$I_{30} = \frac{P_{30}}{0.5h}$$
(5)

Where, $P_{30} =$ Maximum 30 minute rainfall

0.5h = 30 minutes duration

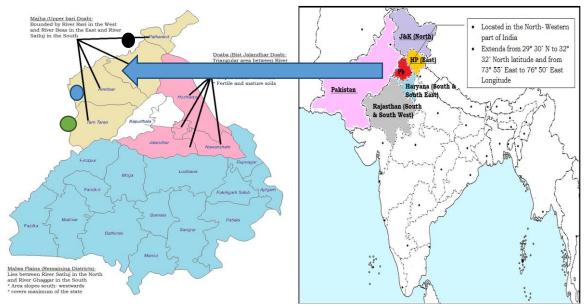


Figure 2: Location of the study area Majha region

RESULTS

From Tables 1-3. The rainfall data obtained for the specified period of the 30 years (1981-2010) were grouped according to mean rainfall amount and mean rainfall days. Figure 2-4 Show all locations within the mean rainfall amount (MRA) and mean rainfall day (MRD). The data were then subjected to statistical analysis and, therefore, the mean (X), variance (SD) and coefficient of variation where respectively district Amritsar is 58.61, 64.63 and 1.10, Tarn Taran is 67.67, 62.91 and 0.9297, and Pathankot is 111.25, 122.25, and 1.098. Based on the thirty-year rainfall data used rainfall intensity for different time intervals I30 minutes, I45 minutes and I60 minutes was obtained and based on the varying time intervals, the kinetic energy and rainfall erosivity factor (R) were also obtained for all the various locations representing Majha region as well. The results for rainfall intensity, kinetic energy and rainfall erosivity factor (R) for each location are as shown in Tables 4-6.

The summary of the mean rainfall erosivity factor (R), i.e. EI30 for all the locations Majha region, is also shown in Table 7. Table 8 contains classification information on the corresponding rainfall erosivity range values for various rainfall erosivity classes, and from the range of values obtained for each of the locations, it was observed that all the locations within the Majha region fall within the erosivity range values class of medium erosivity on a range of 3878.49 (MJmmha-1hr-1), 4013.71 (MJmmha-1hr-1), 4302.24 (MJmmha-1hr-1).

Table 1: Mean Rainfall Amount and Rainfall Days for the location Amritsar (1981-2	2010)
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MONTH	M.R.A (cm)	M.R.D (days)	$(X_1 - X)$	(X ₁ -X)	Mean monthly hour
JAN	26.2	2.1	-32.4167	1050.842439	181.7
FEB	38.6	3.3	-20.0167	400.6682789	192.7
MAR	38.4	3.2	-20.2167	408.7149589	219.4

(4)



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APR	21.4	2.0	-37.2167	1385.082759	265
MAY	26.7	2.4	-31.9167	1018.675739	294.7
JUNE	61.2	3.8	2.5833	6.67343889	269
JULY	210.1	8.9	151.4833	22947.19018	215.7
AUG	167.3	6.9	108.6833	11812.0597	227.7
SEP	77.5	3.5	18.8833	356.5790189	240.8
OCT	16.1	1.1	-42.5167	1807.669779	253.2
NOV	6.3	0.6	-52.3167	2737.037099	220.1
DEC	13.6	1.4	-45.0167	2026.503279	182.2
	$\sum = 703.4$			$\sum = 45957.69667$	∑=2762

Where; M.R.A = Mean Rainfall Amount (cm), M.R.D = Mean Rainfall Days (days)

Table 2: Mean Rainfall Amount and Rainfall Days for the location Tarn Taran (1981-2010)

MONTH	MRA (cm)	MRD (days)	(X1-X)	(X1-X)2
JAN	41	5	-26.6667	711.1111
FEB	68	7	0.333333	0.111111
MAR	56	8	-11.6667	136.1111
APR	31	5	-36.6667	1344.444
MAY	23	3	-44.6667	1995.111
JUNE	85	4	17.33333	300.4444
JULY	203	12	135.3333	18315.11
AUG	180	13	112.3333	12618.78
SEP	77	8	9.333333	87.11111
OCT	15	2	-52.6667	2773.778
NOV	13	1	-54.6667	2988.444
DEC	20	3	-47.6667	2272.111

M.R.D = Mean Rainfall Days (days)

 Table 3: Mean Rainfall Amount and Rainfall Days for the location Pathankot (1981-2010)

MONTH	MRA	MRD	(X1-X)	(X1-X)2
JAN	71	5	-40.25	1620.063
FEB	80	7	-31.25	976.5625
MAR	81	8	-30.25	915.0625
APR	46	5	-65.25	4257.563
MAY	34	3	-77.25	5967.563
JUNE	78	4	-33.25	1105.563
JULY	356	12	244.75	59902.56
AUG	370	13	258.75	66951.56
SEP	140	8	28.75	826.5625
OCT	25	2	-86.25	7439.063
NOV	16	1	-95.25	9072.563
DEC	38	3	-73.25	5365.563
	∑= 1335	$\sum = 71$		$\sum = 164400.3$

Where; M.R.A = Mean Rainfall Amount (cm), M.R.D = Mean Rainfall Days (days).

Table 4: Rainfall Intensity (I), Rainfall Energy (E) and Rainfall Erosivity Factor (R) for Amritsar

MONT H	I30 (cm/hr.)	I45 (cm/hr.)	I60 (cm/hr.)	E (Mjmmha- 1)	EI30 (Mjmmha- 1hr-1)	EI45 (Mjmmha- 1hr-1)	EI60 (Mjmmha- 1hr-1)
JAN	1.13	0.99	0.81	214.9178	242.8571	212.7686	174.0834
FEB	1.17	1.02	0.83	216.2322	252.9916	220.5568	179.4727
MAR	1.18	1.04	0.89	216.5537	255.5334	225.2159	192.7328
APR	1.21	1.08	0.92	217.5023	263.1778	234.9025	200.1021
MAY	1.22	1.06	0.93	217.8133	265.7322	230.8821	202.5664
JUNE	1.79	1.19	1.09	232.2982	415.8138	276.4349	253.2051
JULY	2.49	1.79	0.98	244.7693	609.4757	438.1371	239.874
AUG	2.27	1.49	0.96	241.2742	547.6925	359.4986	231.6233
SEP	1.33	1.19	0.97	221.0751	294.0299	263.0794	214.4428

18 |https://giapjournals.com/ijsrtm



OCT	1.12	1.05	0.87	214.582	240.3318	225.3111	186.6863
NOV	1.19	1.01	0.84	216.8726	258.0784	219.0413	182.173
DEC	1.09	0.99	0.82	213.5561	232.7762	211.4205	175.116
					$\Sigma = 3878.49$	$\Sigma = 3117.24$	$\Sigma = 2432.077$

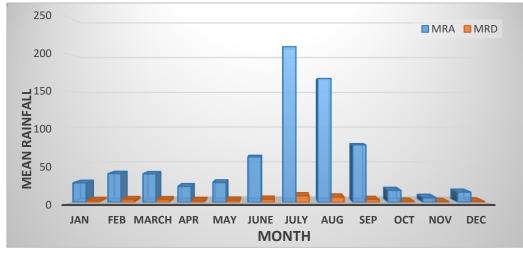


Figure 3: Show the mean rainfall amount (MRA) and mean rainfall day (MRD) in Amritsar

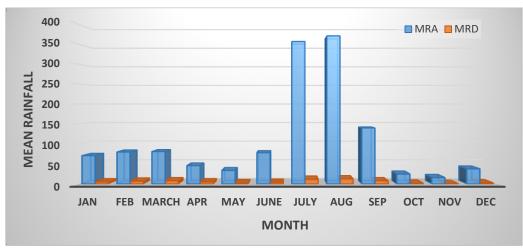


Figure 4: Show the mean rainfall amount (MRA) and mean rainfall day (MRD) in Tarn Taran

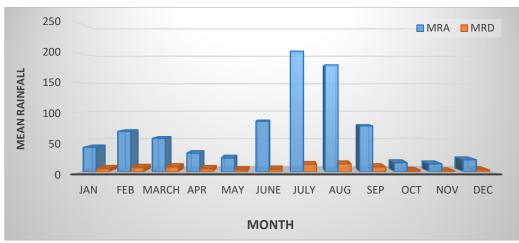


Figure 5: Show the mean rainfall amount (MRA) and mean rainfall day (MRD) in Pathankot **Table 5:** Rainfall Intensity (I), Rainfall Energy (E) and Rainfall Erosivity Factor (R) for Tarn Taran

MONT	I30	I45	I60	Ε	EI30	EI45	EI60		
Н	(cm/hr.)	(Cm/hr.	(Cm/hr.	(Mjmmha-	(Mjmmha-1hr-	(Mjmmha-1hr-	(Mjmmha-1hr-		
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JAN	1.23	1.11	0.99	218.1217	268.2897	242.1151	215.9405
FEB	1.31	1.13	1.01	220.5026	288.8584	249.1679	222.7076
MAR	1.39	1.12	0.97	222.7423	309.6118	249.4714	216.06
APR	1.51	1.16	0.98	225.871	341.0652	262.0104	221.3536
MAY	1.67	1.09	1.02	229.6763	383.5595	250.3472	234.2699
JUNE	1.75	1.19	0.99	231.4443	405.0275	275.4187	229.1299
JULY	1.92	1.83	1.08	234.9472	451.0986	429.9534	253.743
AUG	1.77	1.53	0.96	231.8737	410.4164	354.7667	222.5987
SEP	1.43	1.29	1.01	223.8142	320.0544	288.7204	226.0524
OCT	1.31	1.15	0.94	220.5026	288.8584	253.578	207.2724
NOV	1.29	1.17	0.95	219.9213	283.6985	257.3079	208.9252
DEC	1.21	1.08	0.93	217.5023	263.1778	234.9025	202.2772
					$\Sigma = 4013.716$	Σ =3347.76	$\Sigma = 2660.33$

Table 6: Rainfall Intensity (I), Rainfall Energy (E) and Rainfall Erosivity Factor (R) for Pathankot

MON TH	I30 (cm/hr.)	I45 (cm/hr.)	I60 (cm/hr.)	E (Mjmmha -1)	EI30 (Mjmmha- 1hr-1)	EI45 (Mjmmha- 1hr-1)	EI60 (Mjmmha- 1hr-1)
JAN	1.21	1.09	0.97	217.5023	263.1778	237.0775	210.9773
FEB	1.23	1.11	1.01	218.1217	268.2897	242.1151	220.303
MAR	1.29	1.12	0.91	219.9213	283.6985	246.3119	200.1284
APR	1.34	1.13	0.97	221.3581	296.6199	250.1347	214.7174
MAY	1.41	1.15	0.98	223.2821	314.8277	256.7744	218.8164
JUNE	2.11	1.21	0.99	238.5126	503.2615	288.6002	236.1274
JULY	2.61	1.81	1.09	246.5477	643.4896	446.2514	268.737
AUG	2.23	1.51	0.96	240.6025	536.5436	363.3098	230.9784
SEP	1.53	1.23	1.01	226.3682	346.3433	278.4328	228.6318
OCT	1.32	1.09	0.93	220.7899	291.4427	240.661	205.3346
NOV	1.29	1.07	0.96	219.9213	283.6985	235.3158	211.1245
DEC	1.24	1.08	0.94	218.4277	270.8503	235.9019	205.322
					$\Sigma = 4302.243$	$\Sigma = 3320.887$	$\Sigma = 2651.198$

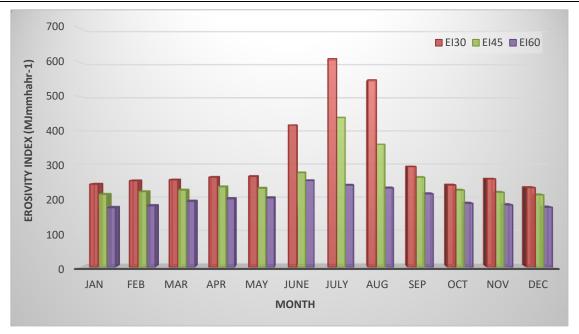
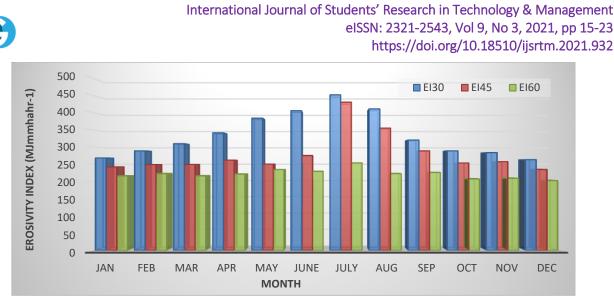


Figure 5: Show the Rainfall Intensity and Rainfall Erosivity Factor (R) for Amritsar





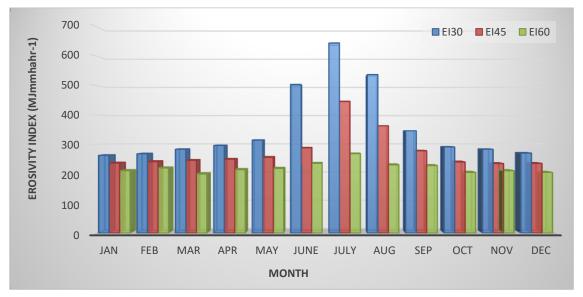


Figure 7: Show the Rainfall Intensity and Rainfall Erosivity Factor (R) for Pathankot

Table 7: Mean Rainfall Erosivity Factor (R) for all the Locations

Location of Majha region	Rainfall erosivity Factor (R)	
	(MJ mmha-1hr-1)	Erosivity class
Amritsar	3878.49	medium erosivity
Tarn taran	4013.71	medium erosivity
Pathankot	4302.24	medium erosivity

Table 8: Classification of Rainfall Erosivity

EROSIVITY (MJ mm $ha^{-1}hr^{-1}$)	EROSIVITY CLASS
R≤2452	Low erosivity
2452 <r≤4905< th=""><th>medium erosivity</th></r≤4905<>	medium erosivity
4905 <r≤7357< th=""><th>medium-strong erosivity</th></r≤7357<>	medium-strong erosivity
7357 <r≤9810< th=""><th>strong erosivity</th></r≤9810<>	strong erosivity
<9810	very strong erosivity

Source: Carvalho, (2008); Oliveira et al., 2012)

DISCUSSIONS

From the values displayed in Tables 3.1-3.10, it was observed that as rainfall duration increased, the ratio of rainfall amount to duration (rainfall intensity) decreased accordingly. Likewise, the rainfall erosivity factor (R) at different rainfall intensities also reduced with an increase in rainfall duration. This relationship is dependent on the fact that as rainfall duration increases, the soil undergoes saturation, and pore spaces are filled, thus exceeding infiltration capacity



at this point, the soil particles no longer undergo detachment or splash but movement so therefore as rainfall duration increases, rainfall intensity keeps decreasing on consistent distribution (Ojha and Michael, 2003).

According to <u>Salako (2010)</u> and <u>Salako (2006)</u>, rainfall erosivity factor (R) decreased with an increase in rainfall duration, and it further stated that rainfall erosivity (R) at 15minutes rainfall intensity gives a better and more precise range of values for erosion prediction and management when compared to higher intensities. For the Majha region, the locations of the rainfall erosivity factor (R) for each of the months varied between643.48 –232.7762 MJmmha-1hr-1, the highest rainfall erosivity values were observed in July (rainy season), and the lowest rainfall erosivity values were observed in December (winter season).

The annual rainfall erosivity (R) for the Majha region the all the locations were found to be between 3878.49 (MJmmha-1hr-1), 4013.71 (MJmmha-1hr-1), 4302.24 (MJmmha-1hr-1). It was observed that the location having the highest rainfall erosivity factor was Pathankot, and the least rainfall erosivity factor was observed in Amritsar. According to Carvalho (2008) and Oliveira *et al.* (2012), which states the various degrees or levels of different rainfall erosivity values, the study area fell within the range of medium rainfall erosivity with a value range of 3878.49 (MJmmha-1hr-1), 4013.71 (MJmmha-1hr-1), 4302.24 (MJmmha-1hr-1). At the same time, Balogun *et al.* (2012) concur that the area is considered a medium erosivity region.

CONCLUSION

Rainfall erosivity factor (R) for Majha region on each of the locations are as follows, EI = 3878.49 (MJmmha-1hr-1), EI = 4013.71 (MJmmha-1hr-1), EI = 4302.24 (MJmmha-1hr-1) for Majha region of Amritsar, tarn taran and Pathankot respectively. The results statistical analysis and therefore the mean (X), variance (SD), and coefficient of variation were respectively district Amritsar is 58.61, 64.63 and 1.10, Tarn Taran is 67.67, 62.91 and 0.9297 and Pathankot is 111.25, 122.25, and 1.098. The study area falls within the range of medium to high rainfall erosivity with a value range of 3878.49 (MJmmha-1hr-1), 4013.71 (MJmmha-1hr-1), 4302.24 (MJmmha-1hr-1). Also, the study area can be classified as an area with medium erosivity, predominantly because of the region in which the study area lies, i.e. subtropical climate zone.

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