



Characteristics of the Main Meteorological Disasters in China During 1951-2008

S. Zhao (1) and G Gao ()

(1) China (zhaoss@cma.gov.cn), (2) China(gaoge@cma.gov.cn)

Agricultural areas impacted by meteorological disasters in China during 1951- 2008 were studied to identify the characteristics and long-term trend of the disasters. The results showed that, drought was the main meteorological disaster in northern China, flood was the prominent hazard in the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River and South China, the distributions of gust and hail disasters were widespread, and frost hazards impacted the Inner Mongolia region greatly. Under the background of global warming, the impact of meteorological disasters on China is increasing, especially in the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River. Drought was a prominent disaster in China. The agriculture area and rate affected by drought had the steepest increasing trend. The impact of droughts was obviously increased in northeast China and Inner Mongolia. The influence of floods was strengthened in southeast and South China while it was alleviated in North China. The damages caused by frost, gust and hail were increased in most part of China. Overall, the pattern of flood in the south and drought in the north persisted in last 60 years in China and the strength of the hazards was increasing. At the same time, the influence of frost, gust and hail was strengthened over China.