Inventory of Degraded Lands of Mamit District of Mizoram, Using Remote Sensing Techniques

Abstract

1.	**Kind of Survey:**	Land Degradation Mapping
2.	**Level of Mapping:**	Reconnaissance
3.	**Scale:**	1:50,000
4.	**Period of Survey:**	November 2000 to March 2001
5.	**Base Materials:**	I) IRS-1D Geocoded Satellite Imagery (1:50, 000 scale) II) Survey of India Topographical Maps in 1:50,000 scale
6.	**Total Area of the District:**	3,02,575ha
7.	**Agroclimatic Zone:**	Eastern Himalayan Region (II) as per Planning Commission
8.	**Geographical Extent:**	$23^{O}15'$ to $24^{O}15'$ N Latitude and $92^{O}15'$ to $92^{O}31'$ E Longitude

9. Nature, Extent and Percentage of Degraded Land

Sl. No.	Mapping Symbol	Description	Area (ha)	%
Degradation due to Severe Water Erosion				
1.	i) We1d2	Forest, hilly	8,871	2.93
Degradation due to Shifting Cultivation				
2.	i) Sc1d2	Forest, hilly, Current Jhumland	12,293	4.06
3.	ii) Sc2d2	Forest, hilly, Abandoned Jhumland	29,822	9.86
		Total Degraded Land	**50,986**	**16.85**

10. Nature, Extent and Percentage of Non- degraded (Normal) Land

Sl. No.	Mapping Symbol	Description	Area(ha)	%
1.	1	Agriculture, Non-degraded	1,506	0.50
2.	2	Forest, Non-degraded	2,47,556	81.82
3.	H	Habitation	984	0.32
4.	R	River	1,543	0.51
		Total Non-Degraded Land	**2,51,589**	**83.15**

11. Salient Feature:

- Shifting Cultivation is the main degradation type covering 13.92% of the total district area. The area covered by current Jhumland is 12,293 ha. (4.06%) while that of abandoned Jhumland is 29,822 ha. (9.86%).

- Degradation due to severe water erosion is the next major degradation type covering 8,871ha. (2.93%) of the total district area.