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

Abstract

1.	**Survey area**	:	Lunglei district, Mizoram
2.	**Geographical Extent**	:	22 ^{0} 30′ to 23 ^{0}25′ N Latitudes and 92 ^{0} 21′ to 93 ^{0} 10′ E Longitudes
3.	**Total Area of the District**	:	4,53,800 ha
4.	**Kind of Survey**	:	Land Degradation Mapping
5.	**Level of Mapping**	:	Reconnaissance
6.	**Scale**	:	1:50,000
7.	**Period of Survey**	:	February 2003 to March 2003
8.	**Base Materials**	:	I) IRS-1D Geocoded Satellite Imagery (1:50, 000 scale) II) Survey of India Topographical Maps in 1:50,000 scale
9.	**Agroclimatic Zone**	:	Eastern Himalayan Region (II) as per Planning Commission

10. Nature and Extent of Degraded Land

Sl. No.	Mapping Symbol	Description	Area (ha)	%
Degradation due to Severe Water Erosion				
1.	We1d2	Forest, hilly	14598	3.22
Degradation due to Shifting Cultivation				
2.	Sc1d2	Forest, hilly, Current Jhumland	8086	1.78
3.	Sc2d2	Forest, hilly, Abandoned Jhumland	37229	8.20
		Total Degraded Land	**59913**	**13.20**

11. Nature and Extent of Normal Land

Sl. No.	Mapping Symbol	Description	Area (ha)	%
1.	1	Agriculture	997	0.22
2.	2	Forest	388522	85.62
3.	H	Habitation	2420	0.53
4.	R	River	1948	0.43
		Total Normal Land	**393887**	**86.80**
		Grand total	**453800**	**100.00**

12. Salient Feature:

- Shifting Cultivation is the main degradation type covering 9.98 % of the total district area.
- Current Jhum land is 8086 ha. (1.78%)
- Abandoned Jhum land is 37229 ha (8.20%). An integrated land use system i.e. Agro-Horti-Silvi-Pastural as an alternative to shifting cultivation canbe adopted
- Degradation due to severe water erosion covers 14598 ha. (1.78 %) of the total district area.