

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

Abstract

- 1. Area of Survey** Sahia District, Mizoram
- 2. Geographical Extent:** $21^{\circ} 57'$ to $22^{\circ} 48'$ N Latitudes and $92^{\circ} 49'$ to $93^{\circ} 12'$ E Longitudes
- 3. Total Area of the District:** 1,96,581 ha
- 4. Kind of Survey:** Land Degradation Mapping
- 5. Level of Mapping:** Reconnaissance
- 6. Base Materials:**
 - I) IRS-1D Geocoded Satellite Imagery (1:50,000 scale)
 - II) Survey of India Topographical Maps in 1:50,000 scale
- 7. Scale:** 1:50,000
- 8. Period of Survey:** February, 2003 to March, 2003
- 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	7296	3.71
Degradation due to Shifting Cultivation				
2.	Sc1d2	Forest, hilly, Current Jhumland	3207	1.63
3.	Sc2d2	Forest, hilly, Abandoned Jhumland	18913	9.62
Total Degraded Land			29416	14.96

11. Nature and Extent of Normal Land

Sl. No.	Mapping Symbol	Description	Area(ha)	%
1.	1	Agriculture	706	0.36
2.	2	Forest	164336	83.60
3.	H	Habitation	676	0.34
4.	R	River	1447	0.74
Total Normal Land			167165	85.04
Grand Total			196581	100.00

12. Salient Feature:

- ❖ Shifting Cultivation is the main degradation type covering 11.25% of the total district area. The area covered by current Jhumland is 3207 ha (1.63%) while that of abandoned Jhumland is 18913ha. (9.62%).
- ❖ Degradation due to severe water erosion covers 7296 ha. (3.71%) of the total district area.
- ❖ Total degraded land of the Sahia district is 29,416 ha.(14.96%) which needs immediate attention to effective soil-water conservation measures vis-a-vis location- specific land developmental programme.