

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

Abstract

1. **Area of Survey:** Lawngtlai district of Mizoram
2. **Geographical Extent:** 21^o 59' to 22^o 45' N Latitudes and 92^o 31' to 92^o 58' E Longitudes
3. **Total Area of the District:** 1, 99, 119.00 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	27723	13.92
Degradation due to Shifting Cultivation				
2.	Sc1d2	Forest, hilly, Current Jhumland	27964	14.04
3.	Sc2d2	Forest, hilly, Abandoned Jhumland	40278	20.23
Total Degraded Land			95965	48.19

11. Nature and Extent of Normal Land

Sl. No.	Mapping Symbol	Description	Area (ha)	%
1.	1	Agriculture	3947	1.98
2.	2	Forest	96723	48.57
3.	H	Habitation	1017	0.52
4.	R	River	1467	.74
Total Normal Land			103154	51.81
Grand Total			199119	100.00

12. Salient Feature:

- ❖ Shifting Cultivation is the main degradation type covering 34.27% of the total district area. The area covered by current Jhumland is 27964 ha (14.04 %) while that of abandoned Jhumland is 40278 ha. (20.23 %).
- ❖ Degradation due to severe water erosion covers 27723 ha. (13.92 %) of the total district area.
- ❖ Total degraded land of the Lawngtlai district is 95965 ha. (48.19 %) which needs immediate attention to effective soil-water conservation measures vis-à-vis location specific land developmental programme.