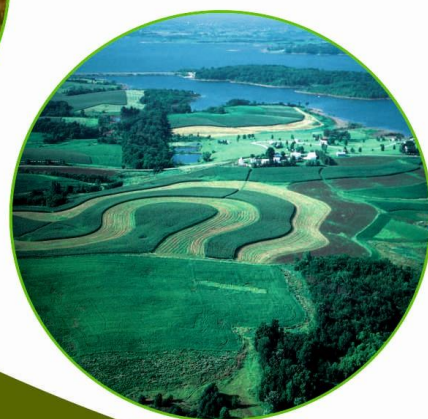


LAND RESOURCE: METHODS & MANAGEMENT

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PREFACE

The drought prone area of Maharashtra is defined by the fact finding committee (1973) along with The Review Committee (1987) headed by V. Subramaniam. There are 09 drought-prone tahsils in Jalgaon district identified by V. Subramaniam in the study region. These tahsils are Amalner, Dharangaon, Parola, Erandol, Chalisgaon, Bhadgaon, Pachora, Jamner and Muktainagar. There are 47 circles included in these 09 drought prone tahsils. Land resources management for drought mitigation and upliftment of the present study is important because of their influence on the society and the economy of any nation. Reducing long term vulnerability to drought remains possible but requires a fundamental shift in the approaches to deal with water resources management. The word 'drought' indicates scarcity of water for ecosystems, land and human use, resulting in failing crops, livestock, livelihoods and human health. During the last century, this region experienced many episodes of drought whose frequency has increased during the last decades. This climatic phenomenon has negatively affected agriculture and livestock production and involved natural resources degradation. From this study, we can conclude that although drought phenomenon is complex and remains a little understood, many indicators of early warning and drought mitigation and strategies have been developed and tested by scientists worldwide. Most commonly, there are three components in a drought plan: monitoring and early warning; risk assessment; and mitigation and response.

Arable land covers a total area of 554843 hectares which is 79 % of total area of the study region. The per capita availability of land in the study area has declined from 0.49 hectare in 1981 to 0.33 hectare in 2011 and is projected to slide down to 0.12 hectare in 2041. As far as agricultural land is concerned the per capita availability of land has declined from 0.25 hectares in 1981 to 0.15 in 2001 and is projected to slide down to 0.9 hectares in 2041. This decline in per capita land availability in the study region is mostly on account of rising population. The area under irrigation is constant but slightly increased from 3.3% in 1978-80 to 5.5 % in 2008-2010, due to new water conservation and management schemes.

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I extend my special thanks to NASA for Landsat5-TM and TRMM Satellite data providing for our research work. I am also thankful to Air bus defense, Germany to provide AMSR-E satellite data for our research. I am thanking to HDUG, Nasik for climate data. I am very grateful to Talathi & Circle revenue offices in Jalgaon district, Water resource & irrigation offices, Jalgaon for their real time help to provide me relevant data and information. Sincere thanks to certain libraries which provided me relevant information i.e. NRC Solapur, MPGRA Pune, IMD, Pune, VWS, College Dhule, Jaikar libraries Pune. I express my sincere thanks to the remaining known and unknown persons and institutes for their kind help and support.

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