Cosmos Multidisciplinary Research E-Journal
Online Available at www.cmrj.in
Recognized International Peer Review Journal
ISSN No. 2456-1665

Landuse Pattern: A Case Study of Nashik Division (MS)

Dr. Khan A. I.
Dept. of Geography,
Government College, Aurangabad.

Introduction:

Landuse is the surface utilization of all developed and vacant land on a specific point at a given time and space. Landuse change occurs to meet the diverse demands by the society in its new ways and conditions of life. The demand for new uses of land may be inspired by a technological change or by a change in size, composition and requirements of a community. Some changes are short-lived whereas others represent a more constant demand. Researcher has tried to assess the landuse pattern of Nashik Division in this paper.

Study Region:

The division is located in the north-west of Maharashtra State. The division lies between 18°2' to 22°03' North Latitude and 73°16' to 76°28' East Longitude. The region has major portion under flat topography, hence it supports high concentration of population. Nashik division comprises of 5 districts and 54 tahsils. The geographical area of the region is 56,577 Sq.KM. According to 2011 census, the total population of the Nashik Division was 1,85,79,420. Out of total population, male population was 95,84,577 and female population was 89,94,843.

Analysis:

The Division has area of 5657713 hectares. Out of total geographical area, area under forest was 777113 hectares (13.74%), area not available for agriculture - 535016 hectares (9.46%), fallow land - 350627 hectares (6.20%), uncultivable land - 276022 hectares (4.88%) and net sown area is 3718935 hectares (65.73%).

Asst. Prof.
M.E.S.Class -I
Govt.College of Art's
College A'bad.

PRINCIPAL
Govt. College of Arts & Science
Aurangabad

1) **Area Under Forest:**

For healthy environment, at least 33% area should be under forest area. But unfortunately, Nashik Division has 13.74% area under forest which is very less than required.

Table 1

General Landuse in Nashik Division (Year 2011)

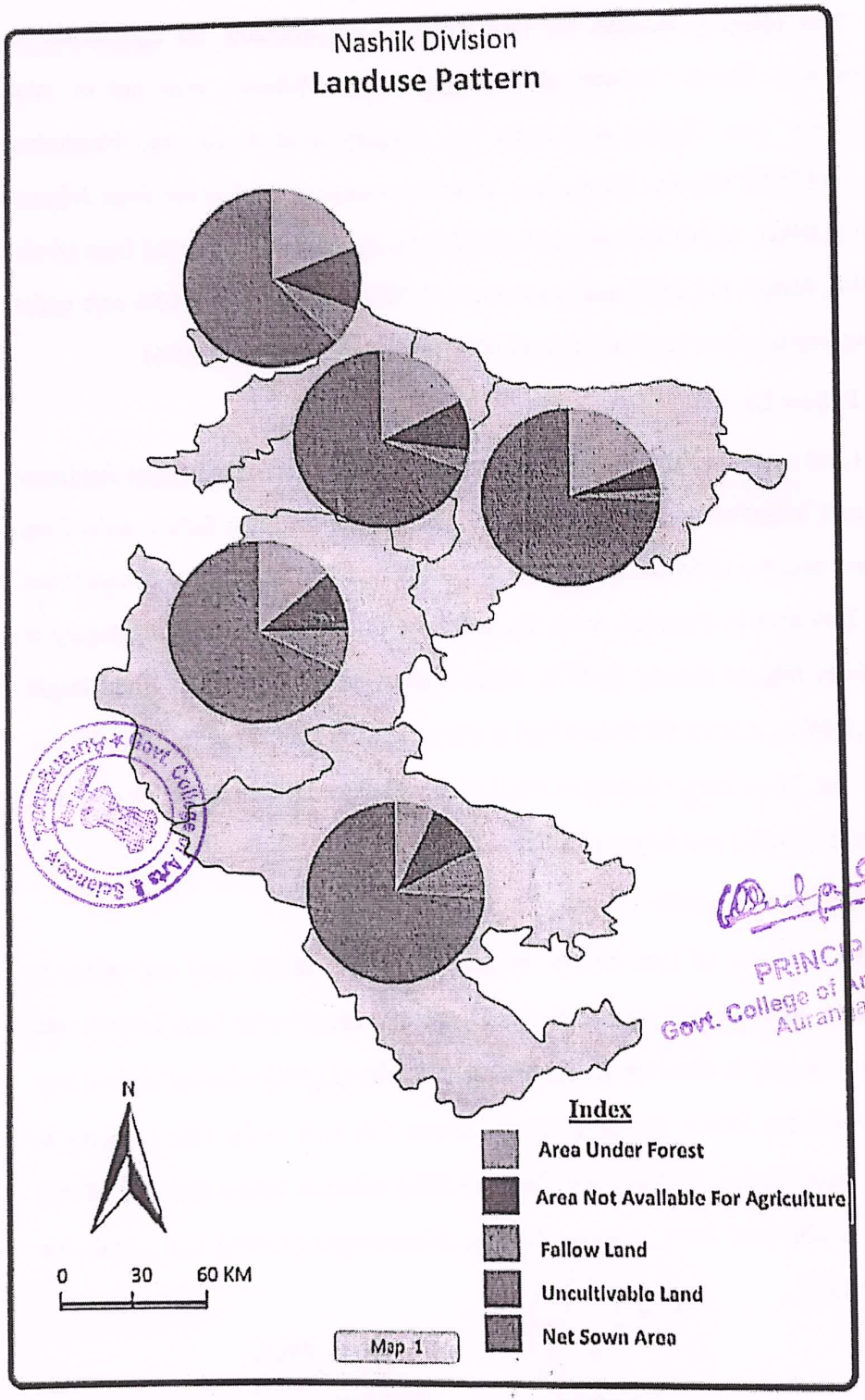
(Area in Hectares)

Tahsil	Area Under Forest	Area Not Available for Agriculture	Fallow Land	Uncultivable Land	Net Sown Area	Total Geographical Area
Ahmednagar	127575	173912	145467	55099	1217522	127575
	(7.42)	(10.11)	(8.46)	(3.20)	(70.80)	(100)
Dhule	143255	75809	29835	74192	483445	806536
	(17.76)	(9.40)	(3.70)	(9.20)	(59.94)	(100.00)
Jalgaon	206196	53658	22031	46469	758198	1086553
	(18.98)	(4.94)	(2.03)	(4.28)	(69.78)	(100.00)
Nandurbar	94191	57335	32791	11408	294484	490209
	(19.21)	(11.70)	(6.69)	(2.33)	(60.07)	(100.00)
Nashik	217392	172302	113315	97080	954751	1554840
	(13.98)	(11.08)	(7.29)	(6.24)	(61.41)	(100.00)
Nashik Division	777113	535016	350627	276022	3718935	5657713
	(13.74)	(9.46)	(6.20)	(4.88)	(65.73)	(100.00)

Source: Nashik Division - District Socio-Economic Abstract-2011

Figures in the bracket indicate percentage to total.

In all district, Nandurbar district recorded highest forest area i.e. 19.21%, whereas lowest area under forest is observed from Ahmednagar district, i.e.7.42%. Above 15% area under forest is observed from Dhule (17.76%), Jalgaon (18.98%) and Nandurbar (19.21%) whereas below 15% area is observed from Nashik (13.98%) and Ahmednagar district (7.42%).



2) **Area Not Available for Agriculture:**

This category includes the land which is not available for agriculture. In concern with Nashik division, this category covers 9.46% area out of total geographical area. Highest area under this category is observed from Nandurbar district (11.79%) whereas lowest area under this category is observed from Jalgaon district (4.94%). Above 10% area not available for agriculture is observed from Dhule (10.11%), Nashik (11.08%) and Nandurbar (11.70%) whereas below 10% area under this category is observed from Dhule (9.40%) and Jalgaon district (4.94%).

3) **Fallow Land:**

Land becomes fallow due to many reasons. Heavy dose of chemical fertilizers and excess irrigation are the prime cause for converting land into fallow. Soils from such land become unfertile. In concern to Nashik division, out of total geographical area, 6.20% area is observed under this category. Lowest are under this category is found from Jalgaon district (2.03%) where highest area is seen from Ahmednagar district (8.46%). Above 5% fallow land is observed from Nandurbar (6.69%), Nashik (7.29%) and Ahmednagar district (8.46%) whereas below 5% fallow land is observed from Dhule (3.70%) and Jalgaon district (2.03%).

4) **Uncultivable Land:**

This category of land covers the area other than fallow land and which is uncultivable. About 4.88% area of Nashik Division is uncultivable land. Lowest area under this category is observed from Nandurbar district (2.33%) whereas highest area is observed from Dhule district (9.20%). Above 5% area under this category is observed from Nashik (6.24%) and Dhule (9.20%) whereas below 5% area of this category is observed from Jalgaon (4.28%), Ahmednagar (3.20%) and Nandurbar district (2.33%).

5) **Net Sown Area:**

Net sown area includes the area under various crops. The net sown area is directly related with production of crops. About 65.73% area is net sown area in the division. Out of this, highest net sown area is observed from Ahmednagar district (70.80%) whereas lowest net sown area is observed from Dhule district (59.94%). Above 65% net sown area is observed from Jalgaon (69.78%) and Ahmednagar district (70.80%) whereas below 65% net sown area is observed from Nashik (61.41%), Nandurbar (60.07%) and Dhule district (59.94%).

The analysis of landuse pattern clearly indicates that, there is great districtwise variation. It also shows variation from standard values of the landuse category. Efforts should be made to restore the standard values.

References:

1) Chandna, R. C. (2003): Geography of Population, Kalyani Publishers, New Delhi.
2) Chauhan, T. S. (1987): Agricultural Geography, 'A Case Study of Rajasthan State', Academic Publishers, Jaipur.
3) Gazetteer of India, Maharashtra State Nashik, Ahmednagar, Dhule, Nandurbar and Jalgaon District, 1977
4) Socio-Economic Review and Division Statistical Abstract of Nashik, Ahmednagar, Dhule, Nandurbar and Jalgaon District, 2013.

PRINCIPAL
Govt. College of Arts & Science
Aurangabad

Govt. College of Arts & Science Aurangabad

Asst. Prof.
M.E.S.Class -I
Govt.College of Art's
Science A'bad.