

Land Use Pattern of Soni Village in Miraj Tahsil: A Geographical Analysis

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Abstract:

Land is the most important as a natural resource. It is gifted by the nature to human. Land Use means, the use of land for the various purposes according to the topography, soil and climate as well as human factors such as the density of population, duration of occupation of the area, land tenure and technical levels of the people. There are spatial differences in land utilization due to the continued interplay of physical and human factors (Coppock, J. T. 1968). Land is an important natural resource which supports evolution and development of all type of life on the earth surface. Economic and Social development of human is also depending on it. Land use pattern refers to the arrangement of deferent type of land uses within a specific area. The land use pattern shows us a real picture of how land resources are allocated and managed in given area.

In this research paper an attempt has been made to study the land use pattern of Soni Village in Miraj tahsil of Sangli district. The study is based on primary and secondary data.

Keywords: Land Use, Land Use Pattern, Wine yards, Net Sown Area etc.

Introduction:

The natural resource plays a vital role in the economic development of the country. Land is an important natural resource which supports evolution and development of all type of life on the earth surface. Economic and Social development of human is also depending on it. Land use patterns refer to the way of arrangement type of land uses within a specific area. It has been defined as "The purposes and activities through which people interact with land and terrestrial ecosystems." The land use pattern shows us a real picture of how land resources are allocated and managed in given area. It is utilized or developed for various purposes, such as residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, recreational, or conservation purposes. The land use pattern in the Village Directory conforms to the pattern of classification of land use as recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India. The Ministry has recommended the maintenance of records of land use pattern under the following nine categories viz. forests, area under non-agricultural use, barren and un-cultivable land, permanent pastures and other grazing lands, land under miscellaneous tree crops, cultivable waste land, fallow lands other than current fallows, current fallows, net area sown etc. The total area of Soni Village is 1911.9 hectare.

Study Area:

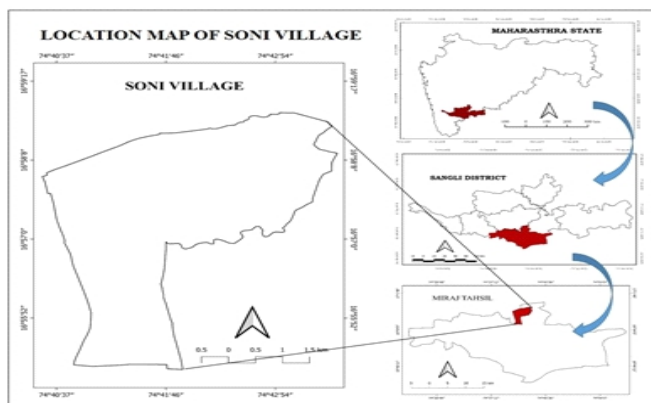


Fig. 1: Location Map of Study Area

Soni is a village in Miraj tahsil of Sangli district in Maharashtra. It is 18 km northeast of Sangli district headquarters and 19 km northeast of Miraj tahsil. The latitudinal extension of Soni village is 160 55' 7" North to 160 58' 49.538" North and the longitudinal extension is 74° 40' 28.402" East to 74° 43' 32.857" East. The total area of the village is 1911.9 hectares. The average elevation of the village is 642.5 meters above sea level. The highest point is 690 m to the east of the village and the lowest point is to the west at 595m. The east-west distance of this village is 5.424 km and the south-north distance is 6.791km.

Soni Village has a total population 6255, out of which male population is 3202 while female population is 3053. Literacy rate of Soni Village is 76.02 per cent out of which 83.32 per cent male and 68.72 per cent of female are literate. There are about 1362 houses in Soni Village. Padmale, Bamnoli, Kakadwadi, Sambarwadi, Kharkatwadi, Karoli, Bhoose, Patgaon, Manmodi, Rasulwadi, Kavalapur are the nearby villages of Soni Village.

Objective:

1. To study the Land Use Pattern of Soni Village in Miraj tahsil.

Database and Methodology:

The present research paper is based on the primary and secondary data. The primary data is collected by visiting the village and field work. Secondary data is collected from the Grampanchayat Records, Socio -Economic review of Sangli district, Topographical Maps and Sangli District Census Handbook, published and unpublished materials, journals, newspapers, thesis etc. The collected information is classified, tabulated and by applying various cartographic and statistical techniques and presented in the form of tables, graphs and diagrams.

Result and Discussion:

Land Use Pattern of Soni Village:

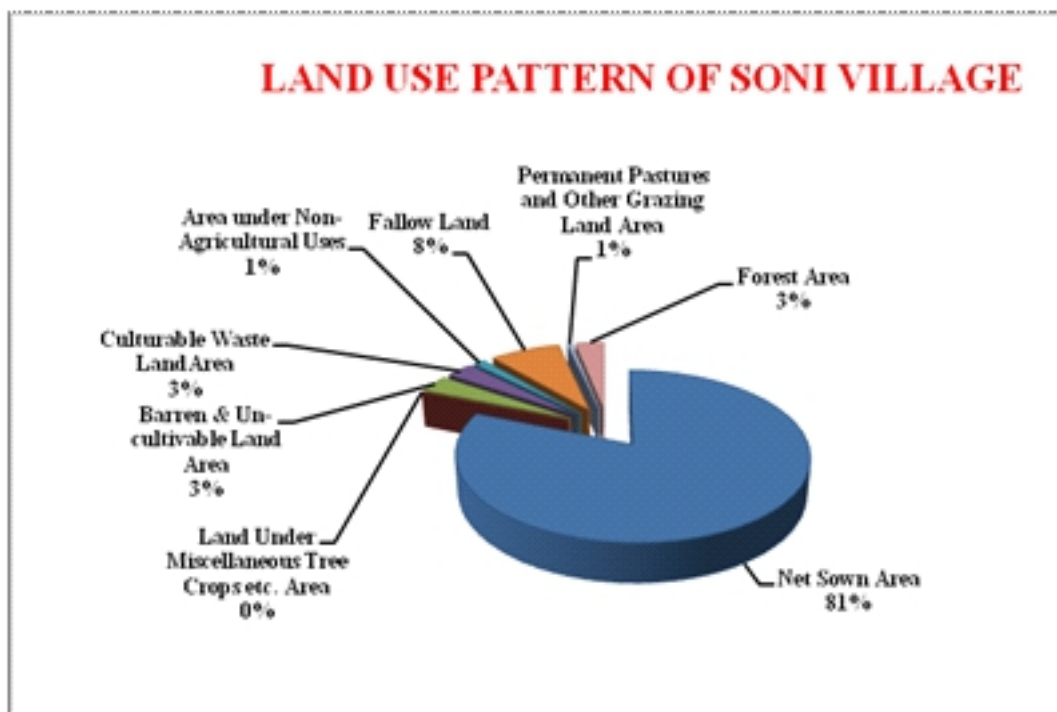
Agriculture is the main occupation of the people of selected village in Miraj tahsil, where more than 70 per cent of the population directly depends upon the agriculture. The maximum land in the study area is occupied by agriculture purpose. We have studied the general land use pattern in the study area. According to that, the eight groups have been classified regarding general land use in the study area. Such as, Net sown area, Land under miscellaneous, Barren & uncultivable land, Culturable waste land, Non agricultural uses land, Fallow land, Land under permanent pastures & other grazing & area under forest.

In the study area the total area according to political boundaries is 1911.9 hectare. Table No 1 and Figure No 2 showing the layout of land use pattern under various categories of the Soni Village.

Table no 1: Land Use Pattern of Soni Village: 2011 (Area in Hectare)

Sr. No.	Land Use Pattern	Area in Hectare
1	Net Sown Area	1551.3
2	Land Under Miscellaneous Tree Crops etc. Area	0
3	Barren & Un-cultivable Land Area	63.7
4	Culturable Waste Land Area	57.1
5	Area under Non-Agricultural Uses	24.5
6	Fallow Land	146.7
7	Permanent Pastures and Other Grazing Land Area	8.1
8	Forest Area	60.5
Total Geographical Area		1911.9

Source: District Census handbook of Sangli District 2011



1. Net Sown Area: The total cropped area in the year under consideration is called net sown area. This type of land use is significant because agricultural production largely depend upon this type of land. Out of the total geographical area of Soni village about 1551.3 hectare is found under net sown area category which is 81 per cent. The Soni village situated in the east part of Miraj Tehsil and it is comes under the drought prone region. Although, the net sown area found in Soni Village is high.

2. Land under Miscellaneous Tree Crops etc.: The land is used for some agricultural purposes but it is not included in Net Sown Area which called Land under Miscellaneous tree crop. This type of land is not available in Soni Village.

3. Barren & Un-cultivable Land: This type of land is available in the every village but the area is different from one another. In Soni Village Barren & Un-cultivable Land Area is having 63.7 hectare area which is near about 3 per cent of total geographical area.

4. Culturable Waste Land: Land is available for cultivation but has not been harvesting for more than five year in a row including current year called as Culturable Waste Land. This type of land is 57.1 hectare of available land which is near about 3 per cent of total geographical area.

5. Area under Non-Agricultural Uses: In Soni Village, area under Non-agricultural uses is too much less. It is only 1 percent of the total geographical area. It clearly defines that the farmers in the Soni Village are trust in intensive farming.

6. Fallow Land: Agricultural land that has been plowed and tilled but left unseeded during the growing season. Many farmers are using this technique in their farm to increase the quality of the soil naturally. This type of land is 146.7 hectare which is near about 8 per cent.

7. Permanent Pastures and Other Grazing Land Area: The area under grazing or permanent pastures is reserved or protected by the government. It also refers to the land within a specific area that is dedicated to grazing livestock. It includes open field, grassy area where animal have access to natural vegetation for feeding. The total area occupied by this type of land use parameter is 8.1 hectare which is having 1 per cent of the total geographical area.

8. Forest Area: Forest plays vital role in regulating water cycle. Forest absorbs rainfall, reduce soil erosion and help to maintain ground water level. Out of the total geographical area under forest is only 60.5 hectare which is only 3 per cent.

Conclusion:

As per the land use pattern, the majority of geographical area is covered by the agricultural activities with a significant portion of land is being actively cultivated for growing crops. This indicates the agriculture is crucial economic activity in the study area. Land use pattern reflects areas natural endowment, such as climate, soil quality and topography. It also reflects the economic structure, culture and aspirations of people living in the area. Land use change has impact on air and water quality, watershed function, waste generation, wildlife habitat, wildlife habitat, climate and human health. It helps with environmental protection, avoiding urban sprawl and promoting compatible uses.

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