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Geospatial Applications in Land Use/Land Cover Change Detection for Sustainable Regional Development: The Case of Central Haryana, India

- Abstract: Timely and accurate detection of land use/land cover (LULC) change is important for the macro and micro level sustainable development of any region. For this purpose, geospatial techniques are the best tool for change analysis as they supply timely, cheaper, precise and up to date information. This paper examines the spatial temporal change trend in LULC in the case of Central Haryana. Landsat 2, 3, 5, 7 and 8 images for the years 1975–2020 for pre- and post-monsoon periods were analyzed for the study. Radiometric correction was performed to derive better information. ArcGIS 10.2 and ENVI 5.3 are used for thematic layout and thematic change preparation. An unsupervised classification using ERDAS IMAGINE 2015 has also been done to classify study area in eight classes. The year 1975 is considered as the base year for change detection analysis. Results showed an increasing trend for the land use classes of built-up, water body, and agricultural land without waterlogging in the preand post-monsoon periods between 1975 and 2020. Remaining land use classes of agriculture with waterlogging, open waterlogged area, vegetation and fallow land/sand dunes decreased during the same period. Increased human activities have changed the LULC in the region and have had a great impact on its sustainable regional development.
- Keywords: geospatial, India, land use/land cover, RS-GIS, sustainable regional development, thematic change

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1. Introduction

In the era of mechanization, alterable land use and land cover is very important for environment and development purposes. Land use is defined as the land, which is used for cultural activities while land cover refers to land covered by natural components [1–3]. Land use and land cover are continuously altered by humans, who are the most exterminatory agents on earth. Historically, human beings changed the landscape through industrialization, urban planning, settlements, agriculture development and for wellbeing and their survival [4]. Land use and land cover change as modified structure, position and number of landscapes increasing or decreasing in forms, can be studied through remote sensing data over spatio-temporal aspects [5]. In this regard, geospatial application is the best tool for land use and land cover analysis [6].

Worldwide, considerable research has been undertaken to monitor land use and land cover change. The best understanding of change detection is necessary to understand the interaction between human activities, natural resources and environment [7, 8]. During the nineteenth century, land use and land cover changes were monitored by traditional methods. However, with the emergence of remote sensing and advancements in geospatial technology, monitoring of land use/land cover change have become more economical, time saving, reliable and up to date [9–11]. Satellite images provide valuable information about land use and land cover, and change can be ascertained from temporal geospatial data [12, 13]. Various techniques and methods have been applied for land use and land cover mapping and change detection after 1990 [14, 15]. Extensive previous research has observed the rapid change in land use/land cover globally [16].

Amongst developing countries, numerous studies have been conducted to study land use and land cover in India and its numerous regions [17], including a number of studies on land use and land cover change detection in Haryana. LULC change has been monitored in the northern part of Gurgaon adjoining Delhi and it was found that settlements and closed forest areas have increased while cropped and wasteland areas have declined [18]. Land cover in the Fatehabad district in Haryana was mapped with geospatial techniques [19]. For Faridabad district, the land use and land cover change from 2002–2021 was studied, which showed a decline in the agricultural area but increased urban land use [20].

In the modern period of fast growth, anthropogenic activities, mainly urbanization, growing population levels and industrialization generate imbalances in natural ecosystem. LULC is changing in both positive and negative aspects. Positive change means unusable land is changing into usable land by modern techniques while the negative aspect means that usable land is degrading. LC change analysis is considered as an important factor for micro level development and environmental change [21, 22]. Various studies have been undertaken already to analyze land use and land cover change utilizing different methodologies and satellite data [23–25]. Another study analyzed land use and land cover change with remote sensing application for sustainable development, and found that the built-up area has been increasing significantly in the greater Dhaka region of Bangladesh, while water bodies, vegetation cover, wetland and crop land have been continuously decreasing over time. Land use and land cover mapping has been found to be useful for sustainable urban expansion decisions in this respect [26].

Land use and land cover change affected by human interference in Central Haryana has been a prominent concern in the last few decades. Keeping all such facts in mind, the land use and land cover change detection from spatial and temporal perspectives has been undertaken to analyze the LULC in Central Haryana. The main objective of this study is to assess the land use and land cover change in the Central Haryana region from 1975 to 2020 for pre- and post-monsoon periods to analyze its impact on regional sustainable development. The year 1975 is determined as the baseline for assessing the change detection. Landsat 2, 3, 5, 7 and 8 data have been used for the LULC change analysis. The study highlights the thematic change of Central Haryana vis a vis the impact of land use and land cover change on its sustainable development.

2. Study Area

The Central Haryana region comprises of 23 blocks of the Rohtak, Jhajjar, Sonipat, Jind, Hisar, Bhiwani and Charkhi Dadri districts. The extent of the study area is 28°21' to 29°27' N and 75°55' to 77°00' E. It is bounded by Delhi, the remaining areas of Sonipat, and Gurugram districts in the east; Karnal and Jind districts in the North; the remaining parts of Hisar, Charkhi Dadri and Bhiwani districts in the west and Rewari district in the south (Fig. 1). The total area of the study region is 7715.57 km². It is covered by the Ghaggar-Yamuna plain, which is formed by alluvial and aeolian depositions of Pleistocene to Holocene age. Mostly the area has an elevation of 201–250 m, while the southern part of the study area has an elevation of 251–300 m. Aeolian plain, older alluvial plain, dune complex and sand dunes are the major geomorphological landforms of the region. It enjoys 30–110 cm average annual rainfall and 24.6–25.00°C mean annual temperature. Sahibi Nadi, Western Yamuna canal and Jui canal are the major sources of irrigation in the Central Haryana. Sierozem and Solemnized types of soil are found here, while sub-tropical dry deciduous forest trees are the vegetation in the study area. Groundwater falls in the categories of safe, critical, semi critical and over exploited [27]. Central Haryana is the agrarian dominated part of Haryana, where the total population of the study area was 3,999,019 in the 2011 census. Figure 1 shows the location of the study area.



Fig. 1. Location map of study area

3. Material and Methods

The study is based on primary as well as secondary sources of data. Landsat series data (MSS to OLI) for the year of 1975, 1979–1980, 1989–1990, 2000, 2010 and 2019–2020 of pre- and post-monsoon were used for LULC change detection (Tab. 1). All these satellite images were downloaded from the USGS EarthExplorer [28]. Image correction (radiometric correction) is done for Landsat 7 data for the year of 2010 by Landsat Toolbox.tbx [29].

Series number	Satellite and sensor	e and sensor Year (pre- and post-monsoon)		Resolution
1	Landsat 2 (MSS)	1975	158/40 and 185	60
2	Landsat 3 (MSS)	1979–1980	158/40 and 185	30
3	Landsat 5 (TM)	1989–1990	147/40 and 185	30
4	Landsat 7 (ETM+)	2000–2010	147/40 and 185	30, 15_Pan
5	Landsat 8 (OLI)	2019–2020	147/40 and 185	30, 15_Pan

Table 1. Metadata of Landsat series

Source: https://www.usgs.gov/core-science-systems/nli/landsat/bulk-metadata-service

Pre-field and post-field visits were carried out to identify and verify the various classes of land use and analyzing the LULC change during the study period. The area under reference is categorized into eight classes such as:

- 1) built-up area;
- 2) water body;
- 3) agriculture land without waterlogging;
- 4) agriculture land with waterlogging;
- 5) open waterlogged area;
- 6) salinity affected area;
- 7) vegetation;
- 8) fallow land/sand dunes.

ERDAS IMAGINE 2015 was used for unsupervised classification and ArcGIS 10.2 for map creation. Thematic change was done in ENVI 5.3 software. Detailed methodology used for the study is depicted in Figure 2.



Fig. 2. Flow chart of methodology

4. Discussions and Analysis

4.1. Land Use and Land Cover Classification

The Central Haryana region is classified into eight classes from Landsat series data of pre- and post-monsoon periods. Land use and land cover shows changing patterns in the study area. Built-up area, agriculture land and salinity show an increasing trend, whereas a decreasing trend is found in vegetation cover, while others classes are best described as fluctuating trends. Figures 3 and 4 show the LULC classification of the study area, and Table 2 shows the area of each and every class, which presents the LULC spatial-temporal distribution for pre- and post-monsoon period of the Central Haryana. A look at the data indicates that in the pre-monsoon classes 1, 2, 3 showing an increasing trend and 7 showing a decreasing trend, while remaining classes show a fluctuating trend. In the post-monsoon periods, area of classes 1, 2 are increasing, for 7 decreasing, while others classes having fluctuating trends. A major change can be observed in vegetation class, where about 85% area of vegetation is transferred to other classes from 1975 to 2020. Built up areas recorded a 65% increase for the same period. Meanwhile, agricultural land without waterlogging increased 72% and 79% in pre- to pre-monsoon and post- to post-monsoon periods from 1975 to 2020. Fallow land/sand dune areas declined by 70% from 1975 (pre-monsoon) to 2020 (pre-monsoon), while a major decline was detected from 2000 onwards.

Year		Class									
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
1055	pre	94436	8071	320432	56218	43515	33309	55208	160311		
1975	post	94858	8080	272019	85112	47930	32380	53076	178045		
1979–1980	pre	95145	8460	327410	39722	43041	34890	52408	170424		
	post	95404	8510	191493	47127	47837	34681	47433	299015		
1989–1990	pre	100452	8789	332311	47012	42039	35941	43991	160965		
	post	100510	8805	292192	50672	50331	33484	40433	195073		
2000	pre	112427	8882	383068	85400	43665	37133	35429	65496		
	post	113071	8912	324311	94209	48890	35208	33954	112945		
2010	pre	124347	9078	412390	83579	40825	38979	21414	40888		
	post	125904	9120	332324	113520	84975	35526	19899	50232		
2019–2020	pre	144164	9470	439555	54408	38029	39256	8490	38128		
	post	145910	9510	344030	28790	41277	37188	7986	156809		

Table 2. LULC classification of pre- and post-monsoon seasons [ha]

Explanations: 1 – built-up, 2 – water body, 3 – agriculture land without waterlogging, 4 – agriculture land with waterlogging, 5 – open waterlogged area, 6 – salinity affected area, 7 – vegetation cover, 8 – fallow land/sand dune.

Source: ArcGIS software calculations from derived spatial data from satellite images



Central Haryana



Fig. 4. Unsupervised image classification LULC post-monsoon period (1975–2020), Central Haryana

4.2. Change Detection and Analysis of Its Impact on Regional Sustainable Development

LULC Change Detection

Table 3 depicts the change of pre- to pre-monsoon and post- to post-monsoon periods for the years 1975–1980, 1980–1990, 1990–2000, 2000–2010, 2010–2020 and 1975–2020.

Year		Class								
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1055 1000	P to P	709	389	6978	-16496	-414	1581	-2800	10113	
1975-1980	Pt to Pt	546	430	-80256	-37985	-93	2301	-5743	120970	
1980–1990	P to P	5307	279	4901	7290	-1002	1051	-8417	9459	
	Pt to Pt	5106	295	100699	3545	2494	-1197	-6900	-103942	
1000 0000	P to P	11975	93	50757	38388	1626	1192	-8562	-95469	
1990–2000	Pt to Pt	12561	107	32119	43537	-1441	1724	-6479	-82128	
2000 2010	P to P	11920	196	29322	1821	-2840	1846	-14015	-24608	
2000–2010	Pt to Pt	12833	208	8013	19311	36085	318	-14055	-62713	
2010 2020	P to P	19817	392	27165	-29171	-2796	277	-12924	-2760	
2010–2020	Pt to Pt	20006	390	11706	-84730	-43698	1662	-11913	106577	
1975–2020	P to P	49728	1399	119123	-1810	-5486	5947	-46718	-122183	
	Pt to Pt	51052	1430	72011	-56322	-6653	4808	-45090	-21236	

Table 3. Temporal pre- to pre-monsoon and post- to post-monsoon change detection

Explanations: 1 – built-up, 2 – water body, 3 – agriculture land without waterlogging, 4 – agriculture land with waterlogging, 5 – open waterlogged area, 6 – salinity affected area, 7 – vegetation cover, 8 – fallow land/ sand dune; P – pre-monsoon, Pt – post-monsoon.

Source: derived from Table 2

Figures 5, 6 on the interleaf and 7 show the thematic change of classified area. Tables 3–5 show the thematic area which is transformed into another class during pre- and post-monsoon periods. Based on classified map of 1975, 1979–1980, 1989–1990, 2000, 2010 and 2019–2020 of pre- and post-monsoon periods, land use and land cover changes were detected in Central Haryana.



Fig. 7. LULC change detection, pre- to pre-monsoon and post- to post-monsoon periods, Central Haryana

Impacts of LULC on Regional Sustainable Development

LULC change impacts the cultural and physical factors of any region. These dynamic changes must be analyzed when taking any decision for development. Regular and time to time monitoring of LULC change is helpful in providing detailed analysis of LULC impacts. Landsat series data were used to analyze the impact of land use and land cover change on regional sustainable development in the Central Haryana.

Built-up Area Change

The population has increased continuously in the study area between 1975 and 2020, as has the amount of built-up areas. Built-up land area was 94,436 and 94,858 ha in 1975 and increased 144,164 and 145,910 ha in 2020 in the pre- and post-monsoon periods. The increasing trend shows that built up areas have increased rapidly, with the concomitant rise in population in the area being the main cause of this. As a result, attention should be focused on this fast-growing class in order to prevent stress on the environment.

Waterbody Area Change

Water is most essential part of life and plays an important role in various human activities such as agricultural, industrial, fishing, energy sources, transportation, forestry and drinking etc. [19]. An increasing population pressurizes the available water sources. In the study area, the water body increased from 1975 to 2020. Water bodies covered an area of 8071 and 8080 ha in 1975, which increased to 9470 and 9510 ha in 2020 in pre- and post-monsoon periods respectively. The water body area changed from 1399 ha in 1975 to 1430 ha in 2020 in the pre- and post-monsoon periods. While the area under water has been increasing, it is noticeable for regional sustainable development that increasing population has adversely affected the quantity and quality of water sources in the region. Over exploitation of water resources creates difficulties for the population of the area.

Change in Agriculture Land without Waterlogging and with Waterlogging

Central Haryana is the agriculture dominated part of Haryana. Agriculture is the main occupation of the people of the study area. Agricultural area without waterlogging was 320,432 and 272,019 ha in 1975 which increased to 439,555 and 344,030 ha in 2020 in both pre- and post-monsoon periods. The area changed as 119,123 and 72,011 ha from 1975 to 2020 for both monsoon periods. The agriculture area with waterlogging was 56,218 and 85,112 ha in pre- and post-monsoon periods in 1975 which decreased to 54,408 and 28,790 ha in 2020. The agricultural area with waterlogging was changed from –1810 to –56,322 ha between 1975 and 2020 in both periods. With the increasing population stress on agricultural land, degradation problems have arisen and, in such situations, regional development declines. So regular LULC change monitoring is essential towards regional sustainable development to control land degradation.

Change in Open Waterlogged Area

The waterlogging problem has been fluctuating in the study area, where unwanted irrigation practices, canal seepage and depressed basin area are the major causes of this problem. The trend in waterlogged areas fluctuated from 1975 to 2020 in the pre- and post-monsoon periods. Open waterlogged area covered 43,515 and 47,930 ha in the pre- and post-monsoon periods in 1975 while the area decreased to 38,029 and 41,277 ha in 2020. Waterlogging area changed from -5486 to -6653 ha between 1975 and 2020 in both periods. The waterlogging problem is therefore decreasing year on year [27]. Detailed information about degraded land helps providing accurate decision-making policies for sustainable regional development.

Salinity Affected Area Change

The salinity affected area has increased continuously. In 1975, 33,309 and 32,380 ha were classified as such areas in the pre- and post-monsoon periods, which increased to 39,256 and 37,188 ha in 2020 in pre- and post-monsoon periods. Poor quality groundwater was used for over irrigation, which makes the soil saline. The increasing trend of salinity requires urgent attention to address the problem. For regional sustainable development, this type of land degradation problem should be minimized and regularly monitored to prevent its spread.

Vegetation Area Change

Vegetation is a valuable resource for regional sustainable development. The vegetation area was 55,208 and 53,076 ha in 1975 but decreased to 8490 and 7986 ha in 2020 in pre- and post-monsoon periods. Increasing population and industrial development are responsible for decreased vegetation cover in the study area. Strong

decisions are required for vegetation protection. If the vegetation cover decreases continuously, then an emerging deforestation situation will occur which will directly and indirectly impact the human activities and regional development.

Fallow Land/Sand Dunes Area Change

Waste land in the study area is transformed into other classes and this transformed area is used for development activities. In 1975, 160,311 and 178,045 ha were in this category, which decreased to 38,128 and 156,809 ha in pre- and post-monsoon periods in 2020. The area under fallow land/sand dunes was changed from -122,183 to -21,236 ha between 1975 and 2020 in both monsoon periods. With many developmental activities often related to housing, and the expansion of built-up areas, the amount of land in this class decreased. Detailed information about these types of areas helps in town and country planning, rehabilitation and land conservation in order to achieve sustainable regional development.

Table 3 analyzed the LULC change of pre- to pre-monsoon and post- to post-monsoon periods of the study area. From 1975 to 2020, built-up, water body, agricultural land without waterlogging and salinity affected areas increased as 49,728; 1399; 119,123 and 5947 ha in pre-monsoon and 51,052; 1430; 72,011 and 4808 ha in post-monsoon periods respectively. Remaining classes, such as agriculture with waterlogging, open waterlogged area, vegetation and fallow land/sand dunes have decreased from 1975 to 2020 as -1810; -5486; -46,718 and -122,183 ha in pre-monsoon and -56322; -6653; -45,090 and 21,236 ha in post-monsoon periods respectively.

Thematic change is depicted in Tables 4 and 5, which describe class to class transformation in the study area.

Class	BP	WB	ALWOW	ALWW	OW	SL	Veg.	FL/SD
BP	49728	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00
WB	2.00	1399	0.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.13	3.00
ALWOW	21397	179.7	119123	1103	1508	2785	99.2	49902
ALWW	1955	302.2	57028	-1810	3442	1231	114.2	39476
OW	3096	294	7968	100.4	-5486	1012	80	9609
SL	9179	23	715.82	91.5	49.79	5947	112.9	21721
Veg.	7283	14.1	357.1	206.6	9.71	18	-46718	1472
FL/SD	6816	586	53053.2	308.5	476.5	901	65.8	-22183

Table 4. Class to class change from 1975 to 2020 (pre-monsoon)

Explanations: BP – built-up, WB – water body, ALWOW – agriculture land without waterlogging, ALWW – agriculture land with waterlogging, OW – open waterlogged area, SL – salinity affected area, Veg. – vegetation cover, FL/SD – fallow land/sand dune.

Source: derived from Table 2

Class	BP	WB	ALWOW	ALWW	OW	SL	Veg.	FL/SD
BP	51052	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
WB	0.2	1430	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.06
ALWOW	8719	179.27	72011	18304	3204.4	2285	99.2	12847
ALWW	1955	265.2	9028	-56322	944.2	933	114.2	3476
OW	2496	729.48	8193.6	24938	-6653	143	80	1860
SL	8118	23.25	715.8	191.5	49.7	4808	112.9	2946
Veg.	1283.8	14.2	9357.1	2009.5	9.6	18.0	-45090	107
FL/SD	28480	218.6	44716.5	10879	2445.1	1429	65.8	-21236

Table 5. Class to class change from 1975 to 2020 (post-monsoon)

Explanations: BP – built-up, WB – waterbody, ALWOW – agricultural land without waterlogging, ALWW – agriculture land with waterlogging, OW – open waterlogged area, SL – salinity affected area, Veg. – vegetation cover, FL/SD – fallow land/sand dune.

Source: derived from Table 2

It designates pre- to pre-monsoon and post- to post-monsoon spatial temporal change in particular class. These data explain how much area of a class has been increased or decreased during the time periods. Apart from this, other data in the tables show one class to another class transformation from 1975 to 2020 (pre-monsoon and post-monsoon) periods. Analysis shows that vegetation area, fallow land/ sand dunes, open waterlogged area and agriculture with waterlogging area are continuously transforming into the built-up, water body, agriculture without waterlogging and salinity classes. Major changes are seen in vegetation and fallow land/sand dunes class to agriculture and built-up classes. It is pertinent that fallow land/sand dunes, open waterlogged area and agriculture land with waterlogging decreased in pre-monsoon periods than post-monsoon periods.

Agricultural and Population Growth Analysis

Central Haryana is an agriculture dominated region of Haryana state. The agricultural area and population of the study area have been analyzed and are depicted in Figure 8.

The agricultural area has decreased by -9.5% from 1975 to 1980, but after that fluctuating trend is reflected as 13.68, 10.73, 4.83 and 5.03 percent increase in 1980–1990, 1990–2000, 2000–2010 and 2010–2020 respectively. The decadal growth of the population of Central Haryana was 28.75, 27.41, 28.43, 29.9 and 30.2% in 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010 and 2020 respectively. It shows that the decadal growth of the population has been much higher than the decadal growth of agriculture. If the current growth rates remain the same in the future as well, food crises will be imminent.

Increasing built up areas, combined with decreased agriculture land and growing food demands by an expanding population will certainly cause problems in food security and sustainable regional development in the future. It has also been shown that the significant loss of agricultural land among various developing countries (like those in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa), destabilizes biodiversity, unbalances ecosystems and increases food insecurity [31, 32].



Fig. 8. Agriculture area and population, decadal growth analysis (1975–2020), Central Haryana Source: [30]

5. Conclusions

LULC change impacts the environment, ecosystem and sustainable development of a region. Therefore, it is necessary to get detailed and reasonable information about LULC to achieve regional sustainable development at all levels. Geospatial technique-based results become more reliable and precise after ground truth verification. LULC transformation in Central Haryana is mainly caused by human induced activities. The transformation of LULC has been effectively captured by geospatial data. The study area has witnessed extensive changes in the pattern of LULC over the last five decades. Out of eight classes, built-up, water body, agriculture land without waterlogging and salinity have registered increasing trends, while agriculture with waterlogging, open water-logged area and fallow land/sand dunes have witnessed fluctuating trends. Vegetation cover has been showing a continuous decline. Such studies depicting LULC transformation may be useful in decision and policy making and may help policy makers and administrations towards achieving sustainable development goals. Furthermore, it will also be helpful in assessing the cause and consequences of land use and land cover transformation in an agriculturally developed region like Central Haryana.

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