

ECO-DEGRADATION OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS

MIRULAZ HUSSAIN¹

ABSTRACT

The land is an abode and a source of sustenance for the human as well as other living species. The soil is not an abstract entity but a resource throbbing with biotic and abiotic processes. The phenomenon of eco-degradation is older than recorded history. With ever-depleting productivity of soil, the human civilizations have suffered untoward setbacks. The soil deterioration occurs due to natural catastrophes as well as man-made activities. Significant contributory factors are soil erosion and sodicity, flooding, depleted organic content, irrational use of agricultural chemicals, mis-managed watersheds and application of untreated solid and liquid wastes. The effluents and wastes generated from industries, commercial centres and residential areas contain myriad of hazardous chemicals, harmful substances, toxic metals, pathogens, microbes and plant nutrients. In the present study the land deterioration caused by the wastes and effluents is considered. Redressal measures and techniques are proposed for use of treated wastes and effluents with the ultimate aim of improvement of the soil environment and fertility.