

USING LOGIT MODEL TO IDENTIFY THE DRIVERS OF LANDUSE LANDCOVER CHANGE IN THE LOWER GANGETIC BASIN, INDIA

I. Mondal ^a, V.K. Srivastava ^b, P.S. Roy ^c, G. Talukdar ^a

^a Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, India - (indro.gis, gautamtalukdar)@gmail.com

^b National Remote Sensing Centre, Hyderabad, India - vijayks52@gmail.com

^c Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Dehradun, India - psroy13@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT:

The Lower Gangetic Basin is one of the most highly populated areas of India, covering an area of 286,899 km² with a population density of 720 persons per km². 64% of the area is covered under agriculture which is supported by the highly fertile alluvial soil. Landuse and landcover (LULC) changes due to an ever increasing human population, natural disasters induced by climate change can alter agricultural productivity which in turn can affect the food security of the region. The current study found out the change in LULC over a span of 20 years (1985-2005), and identified the factors driving this change. LULC data was generated from geo-corrected satellite data of LANDSAT-MSS, IRS LISS-I and IRS LISS-III for pre monsoon and post monsoon seasons for the years 1985-86, 1994-95 and 2004-05 respectively, using onscreen visual interpretation at 1:250,000 scale. We used cross-tabulation matrix to investigate landuse and landcover transformation. The most significant transformation has been to built-up category, contributed by agricultural land (515 km²) and scrubland (53 km²). The other notable transformations are from agriculture to plantation (247 km²), fallow to scrubland (838 km²) and from water body to scrubland (407 km²). We generated change no-change matrix and analyzed it using logistic regression to investigate the drivers of LULC change. We identified availability of water for irrigation, literacy, sex-ratio and the availability of different sources of livelihoods, as the major drivers of LULC change in the Lower Gangetic Basin.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Landuse Landcover studies

Landuse Landcover (LULC) studies have become an important tool to study global environmental change (Liu et al., 2003) and (Giest and Lambin, 2001). LULC change is closely related to biogeochemical cycles and sustainable exploitation of resources (Lambin and Ehrlich, 1997), (Watson et al., 2000) and (Meyer and Turner, 1994)). Scientific research programs, initiated and promoted by the International Geosphere Biosphere Programme (IGBP) and the International Human Dimension Programme (IHDP) in 1995 has further made the study of LULC change a hot topic related to global environmental change (Turner, 1995). Comparisons between the processes, patterns and the dynamics of landuse change at regional scales are key components of LULC study (Turner, 1993).

LULC studies so far conducted in India have primarily catered towards base line data for regional planning and evaluation. There are very few national spatial databases enabling the monitoring of temporal dynamics of agricultural ecosystems, forest conversions, and surface water bodies etc. These kinds of databases are primarily important for national accounting of natural resources and planning at regular intervals. In this context the census of natural resources - land, water, soils, forests and other elements – conducted in a systematic manner and with a repeat cycle to depict changes and modifications as a “snap-shot” of the country’s status of natural resources. The above inventory studies have been carried on under various programmes by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) since 1983 (Ministry of Rural Development, 2010), (FSI, 2011), (Agrawal et al., 2003), (Stibig, 2007), (Roy et al., 2004), (Roy et al., 2000), (Rao, 1996), (Anonymous, 2005) and (Anonymous, 2010).

1.2 Drivers of LULC change

The analysis of Landuse change revolves around the questions; “what drives / causes Landuse change” and “what are the impacts

(environmental and socio-economic) of Landuse change”. The “drivers” or “determinants” or “driving forces” of Landuse change are in general belonging either to bio-physical or socio-economic categories (Figure 1).

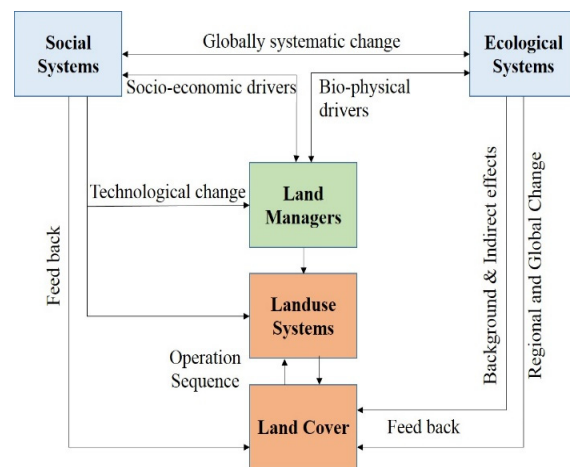


Figure 1: Relationship between bio-physical, socio-economic drivers and LULC system (after Briassoulis, 1988)

In addition to the above, certain human actions cause Landuse and environmental change. In this context, human driving forces, human mitigating forces and proximate driving forces are of much importance. Moser (1996) opined that human driving forces are macro-forces or fundamental societal forces that in a casual sense, link humans to nature which bring about global environmental change. Human mitigating forces are those forces that impede, alter or counteract human driving forces. Proximate driving sources are the aggregate final activities that result from the interplay of human driving and mitigating forces to directly cause environmental transformations either through the use of natural resources, through the use of space, through the output of waste or through the output of products that in them affect the

environment. Some of the examples of proximate sources of change are biomass burning, fertilizer applications, species transfer, ploughing, irrigation, drainage, livestock, pasture improvement etc.

1.3 Study area

The Lower Gangetic Basin (LGB) is one of the most highly populated areas of India. It extends over an area of 286,899 km² and cover the states of West Bengal, Bihar and parts of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. It has a high population density of 720 persons per km². LGB (Figure 2) is basin number 2A according to the All India Soil & Landuse Survey (AISLUS) Atlas.

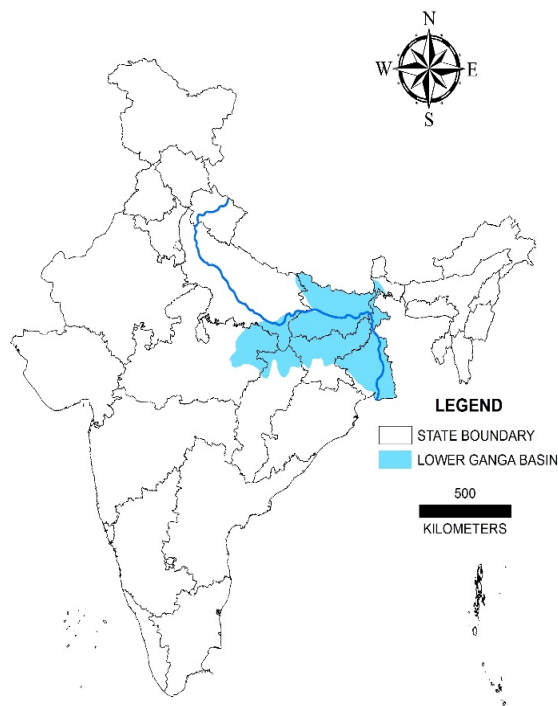


Figure 2: Location Map of the Lower Gangetic Basin (LGB)

India being a developing nation, with an ever increasing human population, the impacts of such a populous tract of land on the amount, rate and the intensity of LULC change is very high (Rao, 2001). Such intensified LULC changes has important implications on the sustainable livelihood of the local communities, crop production and environmental change in the region (Semwal et al., 2004).

Any drastic change in the LULC of LGB can alter agricultural productivity of the nation which in turn can affect the food security of the region. So, this study was conducted to investigate the major land transformations that has occurred in this region for the past 20 years and to identify the main drivers of change in the area.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1 Datasets

The geo-corrected satellite data of LANDSAT- Multi-Spectral Scanner (MSS), IRS-LISS-I and IRS LISS-III for pre monsoon and post monsoon seasons for the years 1985-86, 1994-95 and 2004-05 respectively was used to study the dynamics of Landuse/ Landcover change. The Landuse / Landcover maps

generated for the period 2004-05 at 1:50,000 scale was degraded to 1: 250, 000. The 1:250,000 scale map of 2004-05 was then used as a base to prepare maps of the previous years.

2.1.1 Data Used

- IRS LISS – III data of Kharif (August-November), Rabi (December-March) and Zaid (April-June) seasons of 2005-06
- IRS LISS- I data of 1995(October –December)
- LANDSAT MSS data of 1985 from January-April and October-November, and
- LULC maps at 1:50,000 scale prepared under “Natural Resources Census” (NRC) Project of the ‘National Resources Repository’ (NRR) programme of the Department of Space, Government of India.

2.2 Landuse/ Landcover Classification scheme

Landuse and Landcover are not equivalent although they may overlap. Landcover is the physical state of the earth’s surface and immediate subsurface. In other words, Landcover describes the physical state of the land surface: as cropland, mountain or forests. Moser (1996) noted that the term – Landcover originally referred to the type of vegetation that covered land surface, but has broadened subsequently to include human structures, such as buildings or pavement, and other aspects of the physical environment, such as soils, biodiversity, surfaces and ground water. Landuse involves both the manner in which the biophysical attributes of the land are manipulated and the intent underlying that manipulation – the purpose for which the land is used (Turner et al., 1995). Meyer (1996) stated that Landuse is the way in which, and the purpose for which human beings employ the land and its resources. Briefly, Landuse denotes the human employment of land. Skole (1994) expanded further and stated that Landuse itself is the human employment of a Landcover type, the means by which human activity appropriates the results of net primary productivity as determined by a complex of socio-economic factors. Turner (1995) described Landuse as a function or purpose for which the land is used by local human population and can be defined as the human activities which are directly related to land, making use of its resources or having an impact on them. The description of Landuse, at a given spatial level and for a given area, usually involves specifying the mix of Landuse types, the particular pattern of these types, the areal extent and intensity of use associated with each type, the land tenure status. IGBP has accordingly released a classification scheme for Landuse Landcover Change studies. The same classification scheme has been adopted at 1: 250,000 scale (Table 1).

LULC type (NRC L-I)	Landuse type (IGBP Classification)	Code
Built up	Built up (both urban and rural)	BU
Agriculture	Crop land	CL
	Fallow land	FL
	Plantations	PL
Forest	Deciduous broad leaf forest	DBF
	Mixed forest	MF
	Shrub land	SL
	Savanna	SV
	Grassland	GL
	Permanent wetland	PW
Barren / waste land	Barren land	BL
	Waste land	WL
Water bodies	Water bodies	WB

Table 1: LULC classes adopted by IGBP and their codes

2.3 Generation of Landuse and Landcover Map

The LULC map of 2005 at 1:250,000 scale is primarily derived from 1:50,000 scale NRC-LULC map by hierarchical aggregation of NRC-LULC level 3 and 4 classes to Level 2 classes as per the IGBP-LULC classification scheme. Since our mapping scale was 1:250,000, our minimum mapable unit (MMU) was 562,500 m². While preparing the NRC-LULC maps, comprehensive ground truth/ checks were already carried out. Further, the aggregation of NRC-LLULC classes to level 2 in the present study has theoretically resulted in a better accuracy as compared to NRC-LULC 1:50,000 scale maps. As the 1995 and 1985 LULC maps are successively prepared by modifying the 2005 and 1995 polygons, respectively, the accuracy of the derived maps of 1995 and 1985 remains close to the ground – verified LULC map of 2005. Nevertheless, areas where major changes have taken place were verified either by visiting the area and conducting local enquiries, or by referring to the government/ official records. The LULC map for the year 2004-05 was treated as the master vector map. A copy of this map was overlaid on the preceding year's (1994-95) satellite data. The two were registered having uniform projection parameters. The map's LULC class polygons fell over the same LULC class onto the satellite data. However, the area of the polygons of a LULC class varied. Depending upon the variability, the LULC polygon on the map was edited to generate a new set of polygons. This new edited layer was then considered as the LULC map of 1994-95. Subsequently, the LULC map for 1984-85 was generated using the same methodology.

2.4 Accuracy assessment of LULC data

2.4.1 Classification accuracy: Standard procedure for classification accuracy assessment by (Congalton, 1991) and (Lillesand et al., 2008), which is based on the preparation of error /confusion matrix was used for assessing accuracy. The LULC map of the study area for 2005 has 12 categories for which 50 random points were generated in each category (Congalton, 1988). Ground truthing was done at these locations on the ground. We tried our best to reach these generated location, but where the places were inaccessible, other points falling on the same cover type was taken. Places or LULC types that still could not be captured were done using Google earth. Google Earth imagery with a positional accuracy of 200m (Becek, 2011) served our purpose well as we had a MMU of 740m. Using this, user's accuracy, producer's accuracy and overall accuracy was computed.

2.4.2 Change detection accuracy: In order to apply accuracy assessment techniques to change detection, the standard single-date classification error matrix was adapted to a change detection error matrix as proposed by Congalton et al. (1994) and Macleod and Congalton (1998). This new matrix has the same characteristics of the single date classification error matrix, but also assesses errors in changes between two time periods (between time 1 and time 2) and not simply a single classification.

2.5 Change detection of LULC data

A union operation of the vector LULC data of years 1984-85, 1994-95 and 2004-05 was performed in GIS and we used cross-tabulation matrix to investigate landuse and landcover transformation. Major land transformations were then identified and investigated.

2.6 Compilation of driver data

2.6.1 Bio-physical driver data: The bio-physical drivers include characteristics and processes of the natural environment such as weather and climate variables, landform, topography, geomorphic processes, volcanic eruptions, plant succession, soil types and processes, drainage patterns, availability of natural resources. It is important to note that bio-physical drivers do not cause Landuse change directly. They do cause Landcover change which, in turn, may influence Landuse decisions. In addition, Landuse change may result in Landcover changes which, then, feedback on Landuse decisions causing new rounds of Landuse change. The following bio-physical drivers were identified to be used for the current project.

Mean annual rainfall: Rainfall layers at 1/2 degree grid scale for the years 1985, 1995 and 2005, at national level was obtained from IMD. The 1/2 degree grid file was converted into a point file with each point being placed at the centre of each tile, which was then be used in Inverse Distance Weighted (IDW) spatial interpolation technique, for rasterizing the rainfall data.

Mean annual temperature: Temperature layer at one degree grid scale for three years 1985, 1995 & 2005 at national level was obtained from Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) as a raster layer.

Distance from roads: Vector road layer was obtained from DCW database and then Euclidean distance was calculated in GIS.

Distance from drainage: The drainage vector layer was obtained from DCW at 1:250,000 scale including rivers and canals. Euclidean distance from drainage was calculated in GIS.

Elevation: SRTM data at 90m resolution at national level was used to derive elevation for Lower Ganga Basin. Since the SRTM data is already in raster format it was directly used.

Soil depth: The vector soil layer obtained from National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (NBSS&LUP), Nagpur, India, at a scale of 1:250,000, was rasterized using the soil depth values which were assigned according to Table 2.

Soil codes (INARIS)	Soil depth (cm)
1	5
2	10
3	25
4	50
5	75
6	100
7	150
100	2
102	1
105	62

Table 2: Soil depth codes according to Integrated National Agriculture Resources Information System (INARIS), NBSS&LUP

2.6.2 Socio-economic driver data: Data pertaining to health facility, Literacy rate, drinking water facility, sex ratio, number of establishments, working population and data on roads of each district located within the basin was obtained from Census of India records and organized in a spreadsheet environment. This compilation was done such that the unique identifier of each record in a table was matched with the district polygon in GIS domain. Finally, a join operation was performed in GIS to bring

this socio-economic driver data into GIS domain. Then raster layers for each socio-economic driver was generated.

2.7 Logistic regression to analyze the driver of LULC change

The interaction among the driver data and LULC change was analyzed using logistic regression analysis. Change was assumed to be a binary variable, where change or no-change per landuse category was considered. For each transformation, we generated 50 random points in areas of change and generated another 50 for areas of no-change. The change in value of the driver variable between two time period t_1 and t_2 was recorded at these points using GIS. This binary variable was logistically regressed with different socio-economic and bio-physical drivers, to investigate which drivers were most influential in affecting landuse change. Results of the same, for each investigated transformation, has been explained using the following statistic. “ β ” indicates the effect size of the explanatory variable on the response variable. The second table describes the model, with χ^2 indicating how informative the model was compared to the null model. R^2_N describes the proportion of information in the response variable explained in the model and the Correct Classification value gives prediction accuracy of the model in terms of predicted versus observed state.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Landuse landcover change

Using the classification scheme, the LULC map of LGB was generated for 1985, 1995 and 2005 using satellite data at 1:250,000 scale (Figure 3). The distribution of various LULC classes and their area statistics was calculated using maps generated for the three time frames (Table 3).

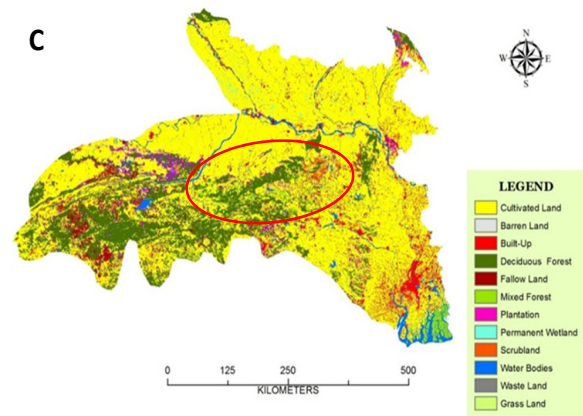
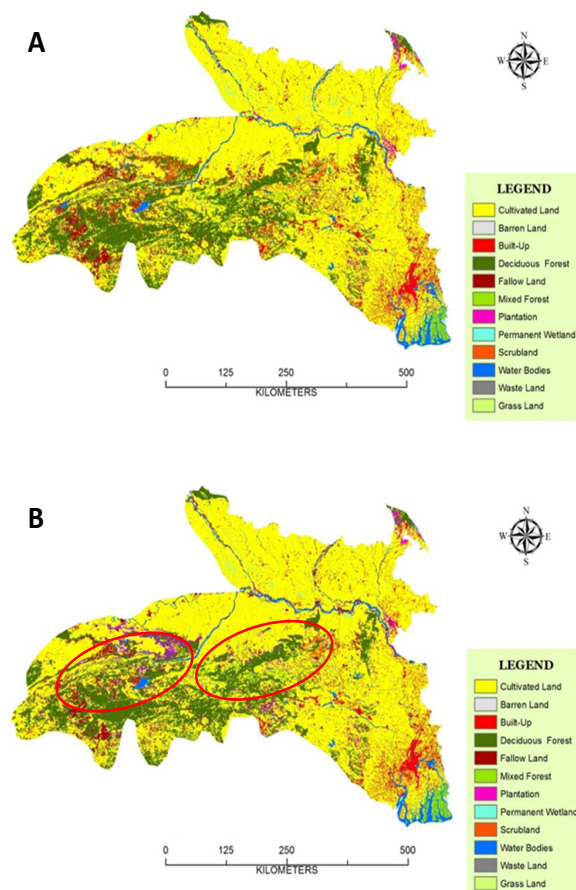


Figure 3: LULC map of 1984-85 (A), 1994-95 (B) and 2004-05 (C). Red circles indicate areas of maximum change.

Crop land is the most dominant LULC class in the lower Ganga basin. The total area under crop land was about 65.42% of the basin's total geographical area in 1985, which decreased to 64.83% in 1995 and to 64.23% in 2005. On the contrary, fallow land increased from 3.4% in 1985 to 3.68% in 1995 and to 3.88% in 2005. Improving educational and income status may have made people abandon agriculture and move on to other occupations. This shift may have promoted increase in Scrubland at the expense of fallow land. Barren land (BL), Deciduous broad-leaved forest (DBF), grass land (GL) and Mixed forest (MF) show very minute or no change at all.

DBF in the study, area mainly occur inside protected. So the change is negligible. Classes like Plantation (PL), Permanent Wetlands (PW) and Scrubland (SL) has shown a very gradual increase in area coverage from 1985 through 2005. Increase in Builtup is very obvious due to increase in size of population and the actual growth in acreage may have been underestimated by the mapping scale adopted. Thereby, it must be noted that although the percentage of built up area is small the increase on its own has been significant. Study area consists of banana, mango, litchi and guava plantation. This is a more profitable form of agriculture. This may account for an increase in area covered by plantation. Water bodies (WB) and waste land (WL) have shown a gradual decrease in area from 1985 to 2005. In the study area, wasteland category is mainly characterized by rocky outcrops. These places are rich in minerals, and are ideal places for setting up mineral mines. We have categorized mining under builtup category. So with increase in mining activity there has been a land transforming from Wasteland to Builtup. In order to understand the dynamics of LULC change during the period of study in the lower Ganga basin, the LULC change dynamic was analyzed (Table 4). The largest amount of transformation is seen from Cultivated Land (CL) to water body (WB) and vice versa (956 and 1111 km² respectively). This is because of a very dynamic drainage system in the study area with frequent floods and changes in river course. It is interesting to note that this change from CL to WB and back is balanced. Transition from CL to PL (98 km²) is also large due to agro-forestry practices. The next significant transformation is from Fallow Land (FL) to Scrub Land (SL), which is about 838 km². This is obvious through the natural phenomenon of secondary succession. A similar transformation is from WB to SL (407 km²) and from WL to SL (118 km²), but this will be due to the process of primary succession. Another important transformation is the increase in Builtup (BU), where BU category has acquired acreage from CL (401 km²), FL (114 km²) and SL (53 km²) etc.

LULC Classes	1985		1995		2005	
	Area (km ²)	% of TGA	Area (km ²)	% of TGA	Area (km ²)	% of TGA
Deciduous Forest	47861	16.68	47861	16.68	47861	16.68
Mixed Forest	5096	1.78	5096	1.78	5053	1.76
Scrub	9504	3.31	10075	3.51	10614	3.70
Grassland	400	0.14	434	0.15	447	0.16
Cultivated	187700	65.42	185989	64.83	184264	64.23
Fallow	9743	3.40	10553	3.68	11119	3.88
Plantation	1819	0.63	2001	0.70	2043	0.71
Wetland	1065	0.37	1174	0.41	1455	0.51
Water body	12268	4.28	12036	4.20	12061	4.20
Barren	926	0.32	883	0.31	919	0.32
Wasteland	608	0.21	532	0.19	526	0.18
Builtup	9909	3.45	10264	3.58	10537	3.67
TOTAL	286899	100.00	286899	100.00	286899	100.00

Table 3: Area and percentage area occupied by each LULC category in years 1985, 1995 and 2005. TGA = Total geographical area of the Lower Ganga Basin

LULC 2005															
LULC 1985	Classes	BL	BU	CL	DBF	FL	GL	MF	PL	PW	SL	WB	WL	Grand Total	
	BL	858	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	69	0	0	928
	BU	0	9906	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9906
	CL	0	401	181919	0	3972	0	0	98	73	257	956	0	0	187675
	DBF	0	0	0	47844	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	47844
	FL	0	114	1103	0	7044	39	0	149	133	838	320	12	0	9750
	GL	0	0	0	0	0	373	0	0	0	0	26	0	0	399
	MF	0	0	0	0	0	0	5059	0	0	0	42	0	0	5102
	PL	0	12	12	0	0	0	0	1802	0	0	0	0	0	1825
	PW	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	952	60	0	0	0	1062
	SL	53	64	59	0	0	0	0	0	236	8807	164	123	0	9506
	WB	8	18	1111	0	97	32	0	0	33	407	10577	11	0	12295
	WL	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	188	0	378	0	607
	Grand Total	920	10530	184253	47844	11113	444	5059	2048	1451	10626	12086	525	0	286899

Table 4: LULC Change dynamics between year 1985 and 2005. Figures represent area occupied by each LULC class, in km². BL= Barren Land, BU= Builtup, CL= Cultivated Land, DBF= Deciduous Broadleaf Forest, FL= Fallow Land, GL= Grassland, MF= Mixed Forest, PL= Plantation, PW= Permanent Wetland, SL= Scrubland, WB= Waterbody, WL= Waste Land.

3.2 Accuracy assessment

Accuracy assessment of LULC of Lower Ganga Basin for years 2005 was performed whose accuracy has been calculated through the preparation of error matrix. Overall accuracy of Landuse Landcover data for year 2005 was found to be 81%. User's accuracy and producer's accuracy was also calculated using this matrix (Table 5). The User's accuracy of "Waste Land" category was found to be 50%. This is probably the result of confusion between the spectral signatures of wasteland, barren land and scrubland categories.

Category	User's accuracy %	Producer's accuracy %
Barren land	68	91
Built up	100	73
Cultivated land	90	62
Fallow land	86	53
Plantation	82	93
Wetland	86	97
Scrub land	76	74
Water body	100	93
Waste land	50	100
Deciduous Forest	90	98
Grass land	66	92

Table 5: User's and producer's accuracy for LULC categories.

Accuracy assessment for 1995 and 1985 was captured as they were used to calculate the amount of land transformations between 1985 and 2005. Since these images were historical only change detection accuracy assessment was performed. The overall accuracy for year 1995 calculated using this technique was 82.66%. The error matrix is shown in Table 6. Similarly, change detection accuracy assessment was done for year 1985, using the following table, and the overall accuracy was calculated to be 77.16% (Table 7).

		Reference Data	
		No change	Change
Map	No change	289	11
	Change	93	207

Table 6: Change/no change error matrix of Lower Gangetic Basin for 1995 and 2005

		Reference Data	
		No change	Change
Map	No change	291	9
	Change	128	172

Table 7: Change/no change error matrix of Lower Gangetic Basin for 1985 and 1995.

The trend of decrease in change detection accuracy was logical as the accuracy would keep decreasing with the increase in time difference.

3.3 Logistic regression to analyze the driver of LULC change

After investigating the major land transformation from table 4, we have analyzed the following using logistic regression, to identify the main driver of change.

3.3.1 Fallow to scrubland: The model selected ($\chi^2=119.6$, $df=3$, $p<0.001$, $R^2_N=0.46$) for investigating the drivers influencing this change shows an accuracy of 79%. It indicates rainfall, literacy and elevation as the main drivers. Negative relationship with rainfall ($\beta=-0.442\pm 0.173$) indicates that scarce rainfall promotes such land transformation as people are unable to irrigate fallow lands and reuse them for agriculture. It remains fallow until they are colonized by different scrub species. Elevation shows a negative relationship as well ($\beta=-0.854\pm 0.189$). In areas with high elevation choice of land for agriculture is limited. So chances are less of people abandoning whatsoever land they have got for agriculture. Literacy has a positive relationship ($\beta=0.764\pm 0.165$) i.e., literacy promotes such transformation. It may possible that with increase in literacy people have shifted from a primary occupation like agriculture to tertiary jobs.

3.3.2 Water Body to Scrubland: A 76% accurate logistic regression model ($\chi^2=105.9$, $df=1$, $p<0.001$, $R^2_N=0.41$) shows that rainfall if the main driver for this change and that it has a negative relationship ($\beta=-1.794\pm 0.239$). When rainfall decreases, water level in rivers go down exposing sandbars and riverbanks which are fertile alluvial deposits. These areas are quickly colonized by different shrub and grass species.

3.3.3 Fallow to Plantation: The logistic regression model used ($\chi^2=281.9$, $df=6$, $p<0.001$, $R^2_N=0.85$) to investigate this landuse change was 93.7% accurate and it indicated rainfall, literacy and number of establishments as the main drivers. Study area consists of banana, mango, litchi and guava plantation. This is a more profitable form of agriculture. With increase in literacy ($\beta=1.393\pm 0.446$) people would want to spend less time in labour intensive agricultural practices and may have invested in plantation crops which are more profitable and require less manual labour the year round. Similar was the effect if people had access to more jobs from commercial establishments ($\beta=2.082\pm 0.583$). More rainfall ($\beta=-1.250\pm 0.405$) means more available water for irrigation. In that case people may have better chances of growing crops like paddy and wheat which are more irrigation intensive.

4. CONCLUSION

LULC provides a very valuable method for determining the extents of various Landuses and cover types, such as urban, forested, shrubland, agriculture, etc. Such a database enables temporal monitoring of LULC systems like crops, forests, water spread, and waste land reclamation. It can be and has been integrated with climate, socioeconomics, terrain and other variables for the purpose of LULC change modelling. These can further serve as inputs for climate, productivity and biodiversity change models. The LULC database generated here is at a scale of 1:250,000. It serves the purpose of capturing broad changes in Landuse and can be used to locate areas where a finer database needs to be prepared for more detailed investigation and modelling.

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