



## An Evaluation of Soil Quality and Soil Indicators of Sutanpur District, U.P.

Dr Deepti Srivastava<sup>1</sup>, Shikhar Tiwari<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup>Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Awadh University, Faizabad, U.P.(India)

### ABSTRACT

Sultanpur District lies between 25<sup>o</sup>58 to 26<sup>o</sup>40 north latitude and 81<sup>o</sup>33 to 82<sup>o</sup>40 east longitude. In sultanpur district chief variations of soil are Dumat or loam which is a mixture of sand and clay in various proportions matiyar or clay and Bhur or sand. Pre-dominant soil of the district is loam or Dumat occurring in central level land. Matiyar occurs in low lying areas while Bhur is found along the river Gomti. The low-lying land consists of paddy land with patches of "Usar" swamps and marshes. Objectives of this paper are to review current efforts to define, soil quality.

**Keywords-** Soil quality, soil indicators

### INTRODUCTION

The information on natural and spatial distribution of soil is a prerequisite for optimal land use planning. Soil surveys provide such information in the form of soil maps and attribute information in terms of its physical, chemical and morphological properties.

The utilization of remotely sensed data in the study of natural resources, specifically in soil resources inventory, has resulted in the development of well established methodologies to generate soil maps and other related information in an effective manner. Satellite data provide a synoptic view of soil patterns of very large area and have the added advantage of multi spectral and multi temporal capacity. These data after interpretation and selective field traverse, leads to speedy preparation of reliable reconnaissance level soil maps.

The present study was taken up to prepare a reconnaissance soil map of sultanpur District, Using IRS-1B-LISS-11 Satellite data.

### Soil Classification-

According to soil taxonomy, soils of the area have been classified mainly into two soil orders- Alfisols and Inceptisols

**Alfisols-** Alfisols are also mineral soils but they have full development of surface and sub-surface diagnostic horizons. They are well cultivated land and can be observed in low lying areas.

**Inceptisols-** Inceptisols are also mineral soils that have developed over sub-humid and semi-arid regions and possess altered horizons, but do not have diagnostic horizon, which shows accumulation of clays, gypsum and salt of translocated alluvium.

**Soil Information :-** Five soil forming factors, climate, vegetation, parent material, relief and time are responsible for the soil formation. Precipitation and high temperature have influenced some of the soil forming processes such as calcification, decalcification. In sultanpur district, mainly inceptisols and entisols, order have



been found, due to alluvium parent material, which are washed out by river Gomti. Alluvium near the river is younger alluvium, leads to formation of Entisols.

**Description of soil** - The soils of Sultanpur district are mainly Aeolian & fluvial, which are transformed from Himalayas, through the river & wind action and deposited in these forms. Soil of the district are generally deep to very deep in depth fine textured, i.e. coarse loamy & loamy silty (mainly on alluvial flood plain), well drained and calcareous in nature.

**II. RESULTS & DISCUSSION**

Table- 1- Soil physical chemical and biological characteristics proposed by Doran and Parkin (1994) as basic indicators of soil quality

<b>Soil characteristics</b>	<b>Relationship to soil condition or function</b>	<b>Rationale for selection as priority measurement</b>
Soil texture	Retention and transport of water and chemical	Process modeline erosion and productivity estimates
Profile topsoil and rooting depth	Productivity and erosion estimates	Normalization of landscape and geographic variables
Total organic C and N	Teaching, productivity and erosivity estimates	Physical characteristics and for adjustment of measurements to volumetric basis
<b>Chemical Characteristics</b>		
Ex. tractable N.P.K.	Potential N Loss and plant available nutrients	Process modelling and normalization of site characteristics
<b>Biological Activities</b>		
Soil respiration water	Microbial and sometimes plant content and temperature activity	

each biological, chemical, or physical measurement that was used to compute the soil quality index was normalized to a value between 0 and 1 using standardized scaling functions. The values chosen to normalize each soil quality measurement were derived from literature values for each parameter. Values selected for normalizing soil aggregation data were based on studies by **Wilson and Browning (1945)**, while those for bulk density were as suggested by **singh et al (1992)** for their fillth index water filled pore space normalization was based on information published by **Doran et al. (1990)** and **Linn and Doran (1984)**. For plant available water in silt loam soil, we utilized relationship suggested by Hudson (1993). total carbon and total nitrogen scaling were based on experience with Rozetta and palsgrove silt loam soils, while cation exchange capacity, microbial biomass, respiration, ergosterol concentrations, and earthworm populations were normalized based on literature reviewed by each (1993).

After normalizing or scaling each measurement used for the proposed soil quality index, scores were multiplied by the appropriate weighting factor.



### **III. CONCLUSION**

Sultanpur is an agrarian district of eastern- plain zone of U.P. It lies between 81°32' and 82°41' east longitude and 25°59' and 26°40' North latitude with geographical areas of 4436 km<sup>2</sup>. Initially district was divide in to four sub-divisions and 19 blocks for administrative and development purpose. The result shows that soil physical, chemical & biological characteristics.

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