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LUCC induced vulnerability and ensuring resilience in India: contribution towards Land Use Science

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Intensive land use activities together with rapid population growth are posing severe threat to society and bring environmental vulnerability. Vulnerability analysis seeks to predict disasters by ensuring timely preparedness on the part of people and institutions. In this context good governance inevitably ensures the resilient society encompassing the three dimensions: economic, social and environmental, all three of which contribute to, and are affected by disasters. A geographical perspective explains that region and areas can be defined as vulnerable or critical based on the environmental and socio-economic pressures and risks. The onset of present problem is a manifestation of ill-adapted institutional arrangements without resilient mechanism. Different types of vulnerabilities like social, institutional or infrastructural are all inter-related. Inclusive development is key to face risks of extreme events at local level by improving capacity of people particularly poor. This focuses generating more and varied livelihood opportunities for people and places, together with providing means for people and places to enhance their capacity in order to utilize available opportunities. Apart from providing equal access to both opportunities and capabilities, it provides opportunities to people and places to live with temporary or permanent loss of livelihoods. The main mitigating components of vulnerability are access to natural resources, access to productive resources for income generation, access to social infrastructures and the availability of adequate institutional arrangements.

Keywords: vulnerability, disasters, resilience capacity, land use science, India