

IMPACT OF LAND DEGRADATION ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

CASE STUDY AFGOE –SOMALIA

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SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

1. To examine causes of land degradation on rural development in Afgoe
2. To determine the impacts of land degradation on source of income in the community in Afgoe
3. To suggest possible solutions to manage land degradation so as to approve rural development in Afgoe

Introduction

Land is one of the most essential natural resources for the survival and prosperity of humankind, and it is the platform on which human activities take place includes food, fodder, fiber, fuel, timber, raw materials, purification and water storage. It is also the source of materials needed for these activities.



The function of the land

1. Productive
2. Biotic environmental
3. Climate regulation
4. Hydrologic
5. Storage
6. Waste and pollution control
7. Living space
8. Archive or heritage
9. Connective space

Land degradation

Definition “reduction or loss of the biological or economic productivity resulting combination of processes, including:

- (i) soil erosion caused by wind and/or water;
- (ii) deterioration of the physical, chemical and biological or economic properties of soil
- (iii) long-term loss of natural vegetation.

(UN, 1997).



Causes of Land Degradation

The causes of land degradation can be divided into natural hazards, direct causes, and underlying causes:

A. Natural degradation hazards

1. water erosion
2. wind erosion
3. soil fertility decline
4. Waterlogging
5. salinization
6. lowering of the water table



B. Direct causes of degradation

1. Deforestation of unsuitable land
2. Overcutting of vegetation
3. Improper cultural practice
4. Overgrazing
8. Unbalanced fertilizer use
9. Unsuitable water irrigation (salt)
10. Overpumping of groundwater
11. Urbanization
12. Waste-plastic pollution





C. Underlying causes of degradation

1. Land shortage
2. Land tenure
3. Economic pressures and attitudes
4. Poverty
5. Population increase

Environmental consequences

1. Decline Soil Quality
2. Shortages of water
3. Decline Water Quality
4. Loss Biodiversity
5. Drought
6. Climate change



Economic consequences

1. Reduced crop yields
2. Increased inputs and greater costs
3. Reduced responses to inputs
4. Reduced productivity on irrigated land
5. Loss of flexibility in land management
6. Greater risk



Social Consequences

1. Increased landlessness
2. Lower and less reliable food supplies
3. Increased labour requirements
4. Lower incomes
5. Household poverty
6. Outbreak of waterborne diseases
7. Mental health effects
8. Hunger, anemia, malnutrition, and deaths
9. Migration of people and anxiety



CONCLUSIONS

1. The small farmers need innovative approaches to reduce the process of land degradation.
3. The farmer should avoid irrigation water from river during the first three weeks of river flow after long period of drought
4. The farmer should minimums or avoid the uses of chemical fertility and pesticides while herbicides should be avoided
5. The community needs to create social awareness to decline deforestation and other human activities such as plastic waste which contributing land degradation.
6. The government should provide land Management practices at farm level and policy formulation at national level.

4. Use storage water such as small pool

5. Uses container for drip irrigation

