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Erodibility status of soils under different land uses in West Khasi hills of Meghalaya

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Summary

The effect of land use on soil erodibility parameters were studied in four villages, *viz.*, Nongstoin, Kynshi, Umyiap and Maweit in West Khasi Hills district, Meghalaya, under four land uses, *viz.*, lowland paddy, potato, forest and Jhum land, in each village. The textural class of the soils varied from silt loam to clay with dominance of clay loam texture. Dispersion ratio and erosion index were recorded to be usually higher than the threshold limits. A highly significant and negative relationship of erosion index with clay, silt + clay and highly significant and positive relationship with sand and dispersion ratio were observed. The increase in erosion index with increase in dispersion ratio indicated the susceptibility of these soils to water erosion. Proper soil and water conservation measures need to be adopted to protect the soils from further degradation.

Key words : Land uses, Dispersion ratio, Erosion index

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