

During 1980s to early 1990s, the only lobster variety exported was spiny lobsters: but with the absence of enough spiny lobster stock, marketers and buyers tend to demand slipper lobster also. Therefore, the catch also declined up to mid 1990s and slightly increased in a decreasing manner where the catch drop from 375 mt in 1996 to 247 mt in 2004 with slight variation during the period. So as the Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) also decreased from 0.33 percent to 0.09 percent during the period of 1986 – 1998. The decreasing is mainly due to the over exploitation. Therefore, new remedies, rules and regulations should be implemented.

Habitat enhancement, minimize near shore pollution, usage of appropriate gears, conduct larval settlement and lobster fattening programmes, and facilitate training, extension work cum awareness programmes are some suggestions that could be implemented. Also the primary regulations on lobster fishery should be implemented with restrictions on the fishing efforts (traps) and a quota system. The calculated yield levels permit to harvest only within the range of 359 mt – 388 mt annually.

032

Sustainable management of land resources

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Since the dawn of civilization, land and water have been the basic elements of the life support system on our planet. The civilizations flourished well where these natural resources were available in plenty and they declined or perished with their depletion. Civilizations, therefore, learned to respect these resources and found the best ways of using them. In recent times the land resources have been subjected to a variety of pressures. Despite this is surviving and sustaining mankind. What is alarming is the way we use land – our tendency to over-exploit it for a number of reasons, which has led to this pristine resource being robbed of its legendary resilience. Man is the main culprit for degradation of our natural resources like land and water as he views these in terms of their utility and capability to meet his immediate needs and wants. Preserving, protecting and defending land resources have been part of our age- old culture. There are innumerable examples of the traditional practices and systems of conservation, which still survive and are effective. But, with the advent of new forces of consumerism, a predominantly materialistic value system, short-term profit-driven motives and the greed of the users, the tradition of conservation is deteriorating. As a result land has degraded, soil fertility depleted, the rivers polluted and the forests destroyed. The ultimate sufferer is the common man, especially in the third world countries. On the global scale, degradation is equally striking. The world's population has doubled in the last forty years and is now more than five billion at this rate it will cross ten billion in the coming fifty years. The current growth rate of the global economy is a mere 3 percent. Even if this rate expands five times over there will be a critical demand for food, energy, and services.

Keeping in view the scope of degraded and salt affected lands in food security of India and numerous socio economic benefits, it is worth while to examine the pattern, practices policies implications relating to rehabilitation of these problematic lands. The main concern of this paper is to review the reclamation trend of salt affected land, technology available for reclamation economic feasibility and socio-economic benefit and socio-economy and policy constraints in reclaiming these lands.

033

Towards systematic compilation of environmental information: Review of sources of data on environment with special reference to Land Resource

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Lack of reliable and up-to-date information on environment limits the effective policy and management decisions on natural resources sector. Eventhough the organizations responsible for supplying environmental information are well established, there is no effective mechanism to provide professional service in dissemination and maintenance of systematic date bases on regular basis. The level of accuracy of data is always variable and most collected data and information are stored in paperarchives lacking integration within the sub sector. The objective of this study was to review the sources available