



Chapter 27 - Effects of Sonajhuri (*Acacia auriculiformis*) plantation on soil health in Purulia district, West Bengal, India

Manoj Kumar Mahato , Narayan Chandra Jana

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Abstract

Acacia auriculiformis is endemic plant species to Australia, Papua New Guinea, and Indonesia, which is accepted in India since the early 1940s. It was introduced to degraded and drought-prone Purulia for vegetation restoration and soil conservation. Due to increasing human and livestock population along with unsustainable use of natural resources, soil health is degrading day by day. In case of soil health, the physical, chemical, and biological properties of soil improved by tree species as they add high amount of leaf, root, twig, flowers, and fruits biomass to the soil. However, forestry of *A. auriculiformis* species becomes harmful for soil health and environment in the study area. Through detailed field survey and measurements of soil properties, the authors have detected this species is harmful for the soil health through reduction of soil moisture, soil fertility, atmospheric moisture, and undergrowth. This study highlights the impact of *A. auriculiformis* afforestation on the physical, chemical, and biological properties of the soil in Purulia district.

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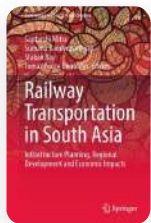
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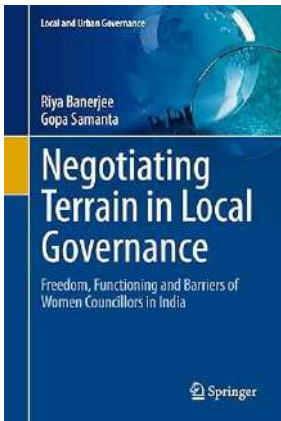
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About the Author

Gopa Samanta works as Professor at the Department of Geography, The University of Burdwan. Currently she is also in additional charge of Director, UGC-HRDC, The University of Burdwan. Her research interests cut across the fields of Urban, Gender, and Water. She has carried out research in Eastern India with interdisciplinary methodologies and collaborative research team under the financial assistance from different national and international institutions such as the ICSSR, Ford Foundation, World Bank, Australia India Institute and INR-France, IRD-France. As a geographer, she has passion for undertaking in-depth and field-based empirical research. She acted as the 'Gender Chair' of the Paris Sorbonne University, France in 2016. She was visiting fellow at Paris Diderot University, France (May-June 2018), Australian National University, Australia (May 2018 and October-November-December 2004) and French Institute of Pondicherry (October 2005 and October 2006), India. Her co-authored book *Dancing with the River: People and Life on the Chars of South Asia* has been published from Yale University Press. She has contributed immensely through publishing journal articles and book chapters. She acts as peer reviewer of articles in academically acclaimed journals such as Community Development Journal, Development in Practice, ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies, Economic and Political Weekly, Contemporary South Asia, Local Environment, Built Environment etc. Her detailed profile on teaching and

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research are available at the Burdwan University website. She is dedicated to disseminate the knowledge of Social science in general and Geography in particular beyond the classroom and academic community. To reach the wider audience, she contributes highly to popular writing in provincial language through news articles and other popular magazine articles in Bengali. She is passionate in mentoring PhD students coming from peripheral locations. Riya Banerjee was a Research Fellow in the Department of Geography, The University of Burdwan for five years ending in 2018. Presently, she is posted as a Sub-Inspector of Schools under School Education Department, Government of West Bengal, India. Her research interests are in the fields of Gender studies, Urban and Environmental studies. She has carried out her research on women in Local Governance for more than five years and recently has been awarded Ph.D. in 2019. She has presented research papers in different national and international seminars and conferences. She has publications in National and International Journals and in edited volumes as book chapters. Besides writing in English, she has also written in Bengali and in popular magazines to reach out common people outside academia.

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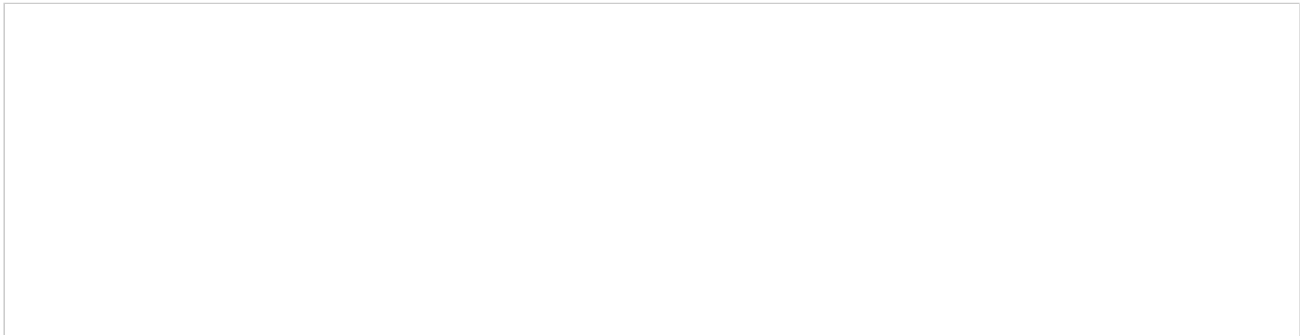
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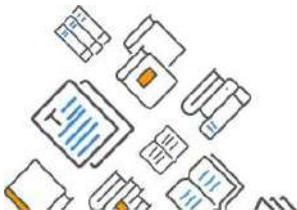
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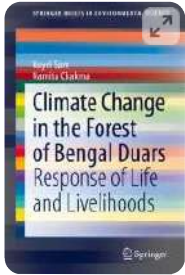
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Koyel Sam is a Young Geographer with Post Graduate and Ph.D. degrees in Geography from The University of Burdwan, West Bengal, India. She won the university “Gold Medal” for securing first position in first class at Post Graduate level (2013). She also did Post Graduate Diploma in Remote Sensing and GIS. Till now she has published nine international and national research papers in various renowned peer reviewed geoscience and geography journals and books. In addition, she has reviewed articles of many geoscience journals as like Physical Geography published by Taylor & Francis, Human Ecology, Environment, Development and Sustainability (EDS), and SN Applied Sciences published by Springer.

Her principle research fields include Climate Change and Variability, Impact of Climate Change, Adaptation of People, Landscape Ecology, Remote Sensing and GIS. Most recently, she worked on climate change and forest ecology of Bengal Duars- a foothill landscape of Eastern Himalaya, India. Currently, she is working as a teaching faculty in the Department of Geography, Dr. B.N.D.S. Mahavidyalaya, Purba Bardhaman, West Bengal.

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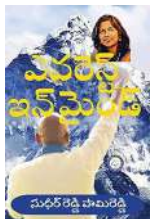
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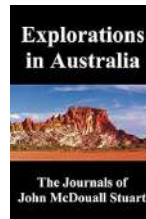
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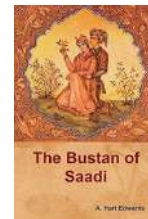
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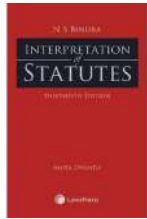
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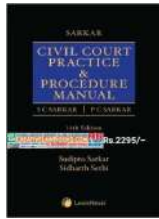
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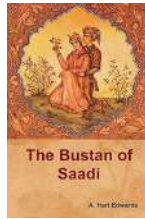
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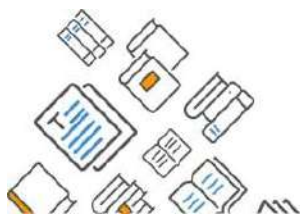


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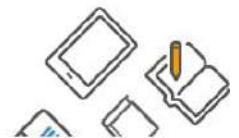
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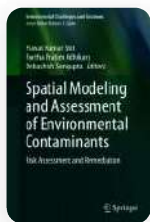
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Assessment on the Impact of Plastic-Contaminated Fertilizers on Agricultural Soil Health: A Case Study in Memari II C.D. Block, Purba Bardhaman, West Bengal, India

| Chapter | First Online: 06 February 2021

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From the last few decades, many studies have focused on plastic pollution in the marine or lake environment, but pollution in the terrestrial environment, especially in agricultural lands, has largely been overlooked. In Memari II Block, Purba Bradhaman, West Bengal, it has been observed that farmers have applied plastic-enriched

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Chapter 16 - Do the collection and uses of NTFPs affect household well-being? Evidence from forest villages in eastern Himalaya

Manoranjan Ghosh^a, Asish Saha^b, Subodh Chandra Pal^b , Somnath Ghosal^a

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Abstract

In today's world, the pattern of collection and uses of forest resources have changed. The household non-timber forest products (NTFPs) collection dynamics has been changing due to the accessibility of resources, technology, and condition of surrounding labor market. The diverse ranges of NTFPs have been helping to alleviate the household poverty among the forest-dependent people and playing a safety net during the lean seasons, when people are not getting enough earning opportunities and facing severe food insecurity. However, in the changing scenario of Himalayan forest resources, the present study has explored the overall livelihoods opportunities and household's well-being in the sub-Himalayan West Bengal. In addition, it has also examined that do the collection and uses of NTFPs reduce the household's poverty or increase well-being? The findings of the study show that households, which use some NTFPs as daily food, have lower level of well-being score. It has shown that daily uses of NTFPs do not improve the household quality of living or reduce poverty, whereas agricultural land has a positive relation with household well-being. Furthermore, the following strategies would be helpful for improving the well-being of forest villagers such as, there is a need for basic



Chapter 4 - Forest health assessment using advanced geospatial technology in Buxa reserve forest, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, India

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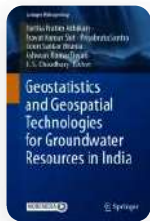
Forest health is a driving factor of an ecosystem, and the phenomenon of ongoing climate change is directly and indirectly dependent on it. Forest health is principally monitored by sustainable biodiversity on the earth surface along with socioeconomic development and better livelihood particularly in the rural areas. However, fragmentation of forest areas is a major problem in our terrestrial ecosystem, and it has been widely discussed among the several research groups of people. Forest areas are mainly distressed by deforestation, basically by a transformation of forestland into farmland and for other commercial purposes. Therefore in this perspective, assessment and regular monitoring of the forest health are necessary. Here, we have chosen Buxa reserve forest (BRF) as a study area to analyze the forest health in terms of its vegetation status (VS). This study applied geospatial technology as a tool to assess the past and the present VS using Landsat 7 and 8 multispectral satellite data. Thus to meet our research objective, here we have applied eight widely used vegetation indices to map the VS of BRF for 2001 and 2019 using the methods of analytical hierarchical process. Result shows that there have been significant changes in the forest health due to human interventions. The accuracy

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Identifying Suitable Sites for Rainwater Harvesting Structures Using Runoff Model (SCS–CN), Remote Sensing and GIS Techniques in Upper Kangsabati Watershed, West Bengal, India

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Abstract

The Upper Kangsabati Watershed (UKW) is a drought-prone region where the scarcity of water risk has been leading to the serious potential human problems. To mitigate this water scarcity threat, watershed management in the forms of construction of rainwater

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Abstract

Flood is a widespread destructive natural hazard which can bring unexpected threat to human life and property. Though a large number of mitigation measures have already been taken care of for controlling the flood, its intensity and spatial dimension is being increased year after year. Engineers are constructing the embankment to protect the agricultural field and built-up area, but the hydrologist do feel that these anthropogenic involvements accelerate the intensity of flood, so these kind of structural mitigation

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Susmita Sengupta¹, Sanat Kumar Guchhait²

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Abstract

The paper aims to analyze the household livelihood issues and related coping strategies of one of the drought-prone and backward areas of rural and remote plateau tracks of Eastern India. The paper adopts socio-ecological systems approach to explore specific interactive environmental loops, indulging the drought-prone households to be 'in-lock' in poverty for years. Based on previous literature, the longitudinal survey of 200 farm and off-farm households, intense observation, and detailed recall survey, the study sketches the physical harshness of the area, i.e., rough terrain with prolonged drought conditions, soil infertility, and degraded vegetation cover causing extreme seasonality in income generation, recurrent crop failure, limited livelihood diversification, ample food poverty making the livelihood risk-averse. Therefore, against the backdrop of several interrelated and partially self-reinforcing socio-ecological traps, the study addresses some area-specific suggestions to increase alternative employment opportunities to 'unlock' the trapped households from poverty in a sustainable way.

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Fluvial Systems in the Anthropocene

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Abstract

The sinuous natural flow of a river as a fluvial process incorporating hydraulics with its concomitant erosion, transportation, deposition, development of landforms, flood etc. is the most lucrative study in geomorphology under the backdrop of channel development, valley configuration, basin dynamics, riparian regime and so on. Apart from this channelized flow, a large number of rivers and their drainage basins are viewed as the riverine landscape and also riverine ecology where the river, river basin and its adjacent terrestrial surface are conceptualized into an integrated complex of soil, water, biota, productive cropland and even the settlement. But due to the use, abuse, and overuse of rivers and non-judicious human activities, most of the riverine landscape of the world is

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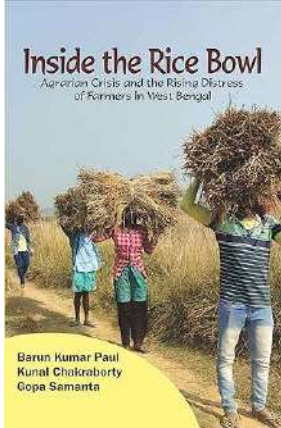
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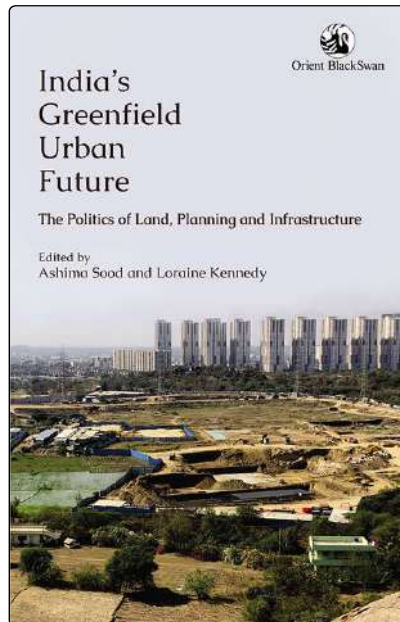
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In contemporary India, the impetus behind new cities has been reworked by the prominence of private real estate actors. One compelling and emblematic image of millennial urban transformation is the high-rise gated community. Promising high-quality infrastructure and 'amenities', aspirational lifestyles and sanitised vistas of work and leisure, these housing developments signal a decisive break from older ways of living in the Indian city. This discontinuity is also apparent in the geographic location of these enclaves, which are largely a feature of the peri-urban and 'greenfield' frontier areas—the Gurgaons and Greater Noidas, Navi Mumbais, Rajarhats, Whitefields and Cyberabads, Lavasas and Sri Citys.

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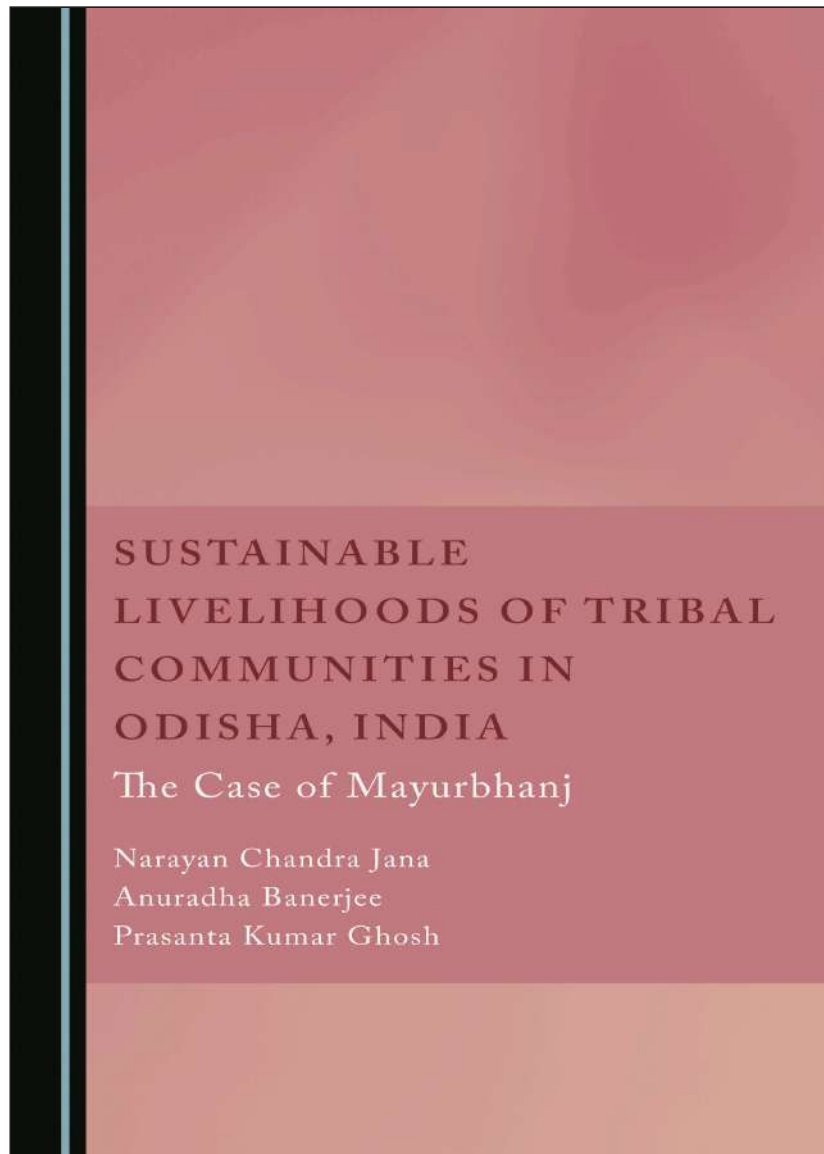
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Sustainable Livelihoods of Tribal Communities in Odisha, India: The Case of Mayurbhanj



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In India, indigenous tribal communities are the most backward sections of the society and they have been a matter of great concern for the Government. More than 87 per cent of the country's tribal population is confined to 11 states, among which Odisha has the largest number of tribal communities and Mayurbhanj district has the highest concentration of tribes. Throughout the history of development, tribal communities were trapped in a vicious circle of exploitation. This led to social

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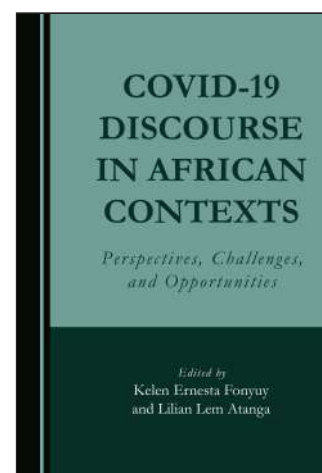
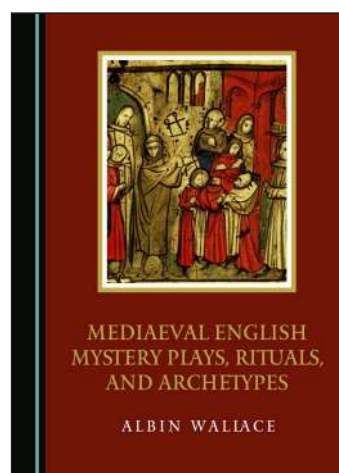
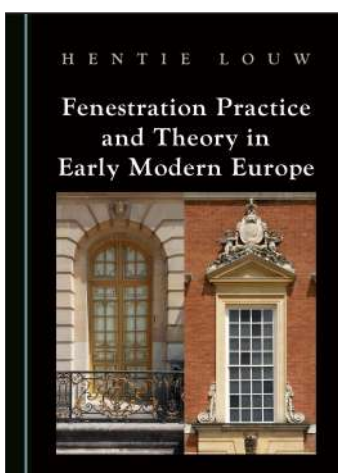
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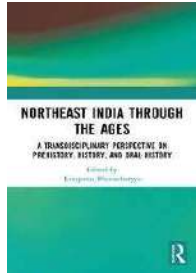
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Assessment of LULC Changes and Its Impact on Agricultural Landscape in Peri-urban Space of Bolpur Town, West Bengal (India)

| Chapter | First Online: 24 May 2023

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As the cityscape of large metropolitan cities gets increasingly supersaturated, policymakers and developers are being compelled to transform undeveloped land and the natural landscape of peri-urban areas into urban fabrics. Industrial developers and entrepreneurs' first choice was the peri-urban spaces where land is readily available for construction without a hassle of complicated legal restrictions; furthermore, government's supportive policies on infrastructure development may have exacerbated

Wang H, Qiu F (2017) Investigation of the dynamics of agricultural land at the urban fringe: a comparison of two peri-urban areas in Canada. *Can Geogr/Le Géographe Canadien* 61(3):457–470. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cag.12>

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