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The extent, magnitude and causes of land degradation in India, the steps taken by Government of India to tackle the problem of arresting soil erosion in the Five Year Plans including the proposal in Eighth Five Year Plan have been reviewed in the paper. The achievements of Central Soil & Water Conservation Research and Training Institute, Dehradun in developing soil and water conservation technology for hilly regions, ravine regions and semi-arid black soil regions as well as technology transfer by way of Lab-to-Land programmes and Operational Research Projects have been included. The soil and water conservation research priorities and development priorities in the micro-watershed programme have also been indicated in the paper.