

- 517. Singh, R.K. and Pratap Narain. 1994.** Assessing sustainability of agroforestry systems. Pre-Conference Abstracts, 8th Intl. Soil Conservation Conference, Dec. 4-8, 1994, New Delhi, India: 390-392.

Emphasising the need of developing a methodology for quantitative or qualitative evaluation of sustainability of agroforestry system, the authors have attempted to develop a simple sustainability index (SI) considering important ecological, economical and social criteria. Ecological criteria considered are, soil organic matter and nitrogen enrichment, erosion control, recharging of underground water resources, tolerance to climatic extremes and toxication of soil and water resources. The socio-economic criteria are net income, income stability, fulfilment of local needs, employment generation, productive use of wastelands, external input requirement and creation of capital stock. The SI values for recommended agroforestry systems for different land capability classes in the northwestern hill region have been evaluated using SI technique. It is revealed that silvipastoral systems on degraded

land with N-fixing trees and *bhabar* grass are highly sustainable.