

1194. Dhruva Narayana, V.V. 1986. Downstream impacts of soil conservation in Himalayan region. *Mountain Res. & Development*, 7(3):87, 287 p.

Of India's 328 m ha area, 175 m ha are experiencing intensive soil erosion as a result of

extensive deforestation and poor land management. The Lesser Himalaya and Siwaliks are some of the most seriously affected areas. This paper outlines the underlying geology and climate partly responsible for their high degree of vulnerability to soil erosion. Careful soil and water conservation measures, when applied to small mountain catchments, can significantly reduce soil losses, correct hydrological imbalances and improve agricultural and forestry productivity, leading in turn to a reduction in the rate of reservoir siltation. Data from specific treatments are introduced. It is concluded that greatly accelerated implementation of these measures is now urgently needed.