



Land Use in India

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LAND USE IN INDIA

Land Use

The way land is utilised for various purposes (residential, commercial and agricultural).

Data on land use is categorised in a nine-fold classification on an yearly basis.

Land-Use Records

- ↳ **Maintained by:**
 - Land Revenue Department
- ↳ **Measured by:**
 - Survey of India
- ↳ **Collection:**
 - **Total geographical area** - 329 million hectares (reporting area)
 - **Statistics available for** - 305 million hectares (non-reporting area)

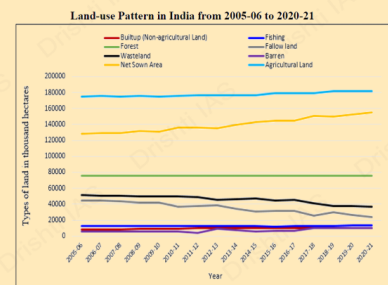
7% of the total area is not covered or classifiable under the nine-fold classification

Nine-Fold Classification

- ↳ **Forests:** All lands, whether state-owned or private, wooded or potential forest land, as per forest-related laws (23.44%)
- ↳ **Non-agricultural Uses:** Land occupied by buildings, roads, railways, or underwater (9.03%)
- ↳ **Barren and Unculturable Land:** Includes mountains, deserts, etc. (5.43%)
- ↳ **Permanent Pastures and Grazing Lands:** All grazing lands, whether pastures or not (3.36%)
- ↳ **Culturable Waste Land:** Land available for cultivation but not used for +5 years (3.87%)
- ↳ **Fallow Lands (excluding Current):** Temporarily unused for 1-5 years (3.52%)
- ↳ **Current Fallows:** Cropped areas kept fallow in the current year (4.23%)
- ↳ **Misc. (Trees, Crops, etc.):** Cultivable land not in 'Net Area Sown' but used agriculturally (0.98%)
- ↳ **Net Area Sown:** Total area with crops and orchards (46.10%)

Key Terms

- ↳ **Geographical Area:** Data from the Surveyor General of India on state/union territory size
- ↳ **Reporting Area:** Area with land use data available
- ↳ **Gross Cropped Area:** Total area sown once or more in a year
- ↳ **Area Sown more than once:** Land with multiple crop plantings in a year
- ↳ **Irrigated Area:** Land irrigated by canals, tanks, wells, etc
- ↳ **Total/Gross Irrigated Area:** All land is irrigated one or more times
- ↳ **Total/Gross Un-Irrigated Area:** Area without irrigation
- ↳ **Cropping Intensity:** Total Cropped Area divided by Net Area Sown
- ↳ **Agricultural Land:** Includes net area sown, fallows, wasteland, and more
- ↳ **Total Un-Cultivable Area:** Area minus cultivable land
- ↳ **Total Cultivated Area:** Net area is sown and current fallows
- ↳ **Total Un-Cultivated Area:** Area minus cultivated land



Source: Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

Causes for Land Use Change

- ↳ Increasing population and developmental activities
- ↳ Climate change
- ↳ Agricultural expansion
- ↳ Mining
- ↳ Land degradation



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