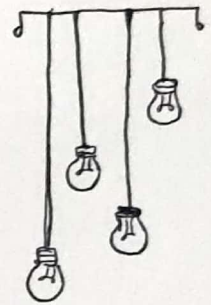


GEOGRAPHY

Project



ON

Soil

Acknowledgement

I am really grateful to have this opportunity of making this project on Soil.

I am really thankful for my teacher Mrs. Snehal for giving me this opportunity.

While making this project I came through a lot of new things, a lot of researches & a lot of ideas.

I learned a lot of new things about this topic.

Lastly, I want to thank my friends who helped me guiding and gathering different information time to time while making this project.

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Introduction

soil is the uppermost part of the Earth's crust. It is formed due to the weathering of rock under the influence of climate, vegetation, relief and parent rock.

India is a country of vast dimension with varied condition of soil geology, relief, climate and vegetation. Therefore, India has a large variety of soil groups, distinctly different from one other. Different criteria have been applied to classify Indian soils :- geology, relief, fertility, chemical composition and physical structure, etc. The formation of the soil in a particular climate is so perfect that each climate type and its own soil.

Soil ingredients : Soil being an important natural resource has many factors affecting its formation and they are:

- The parent rocks or material
- Topography
- Climate
- Vegetation

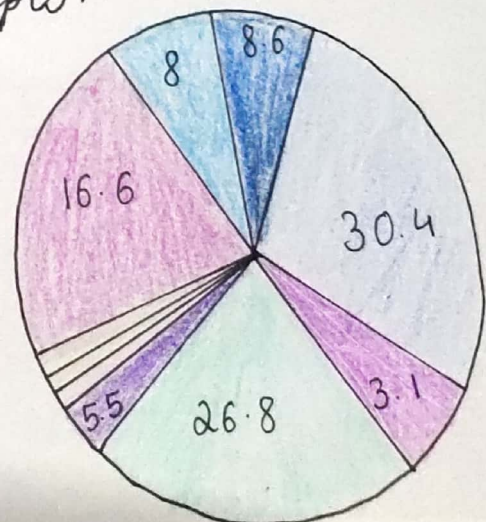
Classification Of Soil

Any classification based on any one of the aforesaid criteria has its own inherent drawback. Even the most competent pedologist would find it difficult to present an accurate, complete, comprehensive and generalised account of the Indian soils.

During the 'British rule in India', a vast body of fascinating accounts had emerged in district gazetteers and official reports. These accounts were generally directed towards the assessment and official reports. These accounts were generally directed towards the assessment & official reports.

In 1957, The National Atlas Organisation (Kolkata) published a soil map of India in which Indian soils were classified into 6 major groups & 11 broad types.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| ☐ Alluvial Soil | ☐ Hill soil |
| ☐ Coastal Alluvial soil | ☐ Terail soil |
| ☐ Red soil | ☐ Black soil |
| ☐ Laterites | ☐ Desert soil |
| ☐ Brown forest soils | ☐ Other* |



Red Soil

These are generally reddish to brownish in colour obtained

from weathering of granites, gneisses, and crystalline rocks and grade from poor, thin and light coloured soils on the uplands to that of fertile deep dark colour soils of plains and valley.

Red soils in India occupying 29.08% of the total soil cover of India extending extensively over parts of Tamil Nadu, Southern Karnataka, South-East Maharashtra, parts of Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Kerala, Orissa, Bihar, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Eastern Parts of Rajasthan etc.

Red to yellow in colour due to coatings of ferric oxides on the soil particles.

Textures of these soils is highly variable from loam to clayey loam texture.



Black Soil



The Black soil are also called because of their black colouration and derived from the Basalt rock

under semi-arid conditions. It is also known as 'Regur' (from the Telugu word Reguda) or black cotton soil as it is best suited for cotton cultivation.

In India black soil are largely found over Deccan trap region of the states of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, parts of Andhra Pradesh, Northern part of Karnataka, Gujarat, parts of Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan.

Several theories have been put forward regarding the origin of this group of soils but most pedologists

believe that these soils have been formed due to the solidification of lava spread over large areas during volcanic activity in Deccan Plateau, in Tertiary Period.



Alluvial Soil

Alluvial soils are by far the largest & the most important soil group of India. Covering

about 15 lakhs sq. km or about 45.6 percent of the total land area of the country. These soils contribute the largest share of our agricultural wealth and support the bulk of India's population.



Being one of the most important and fertile soils of India they support growth of wide variety of crops such as Rice, wheat, sugarcane, cotton, jute, potato and vegetables, but they are deficient in nitrogen, phosphorus and humus.



Alluvial are finer particles of rock materials carried in suspension and later deposited by the river in its bed & bank. The soil which is composed of alluvium is called alluvial soil.

Laterite Soil

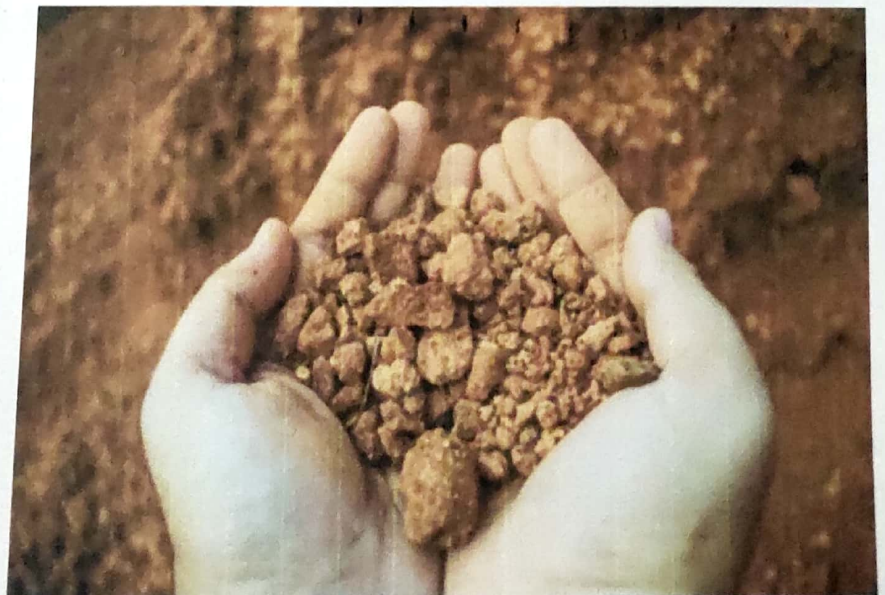


Laterite is a formation that is only found in tropical countries like India with alternate wet and dry climatic conditions.

The heavy rainfall conditions and high temperature makes the soil rich in oxides of Iron & Aluminium depleting it completely from silica. The remnants of such oxides are known as laterites which are characterized by compact to vesicular structure occupying 4.30% of India's soil cover.

They are mainly found on the summits of Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats along with Vindhya and Satpura's found in states of Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Assam and Tamil Nadu.

They are acidic in elevated areas and poor in retaining moisture but essentially heavy loam to clayey on the plains.



Conclusion

Soil provides a key set of fundamental ecosystem services that are crucial for our well-being.

Despite their crucial role, soils have been taken for granted for a long time. Considering that human pressures on soil are reaching critical limits that jeopardize our future, there is an urgent need to raise awareness on the importance of this strategic resource.

Bibliography

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