An Evaluation of Forest Area in Akola District

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Introduction:

Forests help in maintaining the oxygen and temperature levels of the atmosphere. Plants during photosynthesis release oxygen whereas it consumes carbon dioxide. This is the complete phenomenon that humans do. Also, forests are a huge reserve of trees and plants. Thus, they help by playing a significant role in balancing the oxygen level of the entire atmosphere. Furthermore, forests help in maintaining the oxygen cycle on the planet Earth. The water through the soils is absorbed by plants through their roots. Thus, the release of excessive water by the plant into the atmosphere in the form of water vapor is called the transpiration process.

So, in this process water vapor from the ocean rises and gets condensed in the formation of clouds is called precipitation. Thus, it eventually leads to the formation of rainfall. So, all these processes come together to form the water cycle where the forest plays a significant role. Forests also help in preventing the global warming levels of the Earth. The increase in the amount of carbon dioxide which is a greenhouse gas into the atmosphere results in the greenhouse effect on Earth. Thus, it is majorly responsible for causing global warming on Earth.

Analysis:

The tahsilwise area under forest in Akola district is given in table 1.

Table No.1

Tahsil wise Change in Forest Area in Akola District.

(Area in "00" Hectors.)

Name of Tahsil	1982-87 Area under Forest.	Total Geographical Area	1992-97 Area under Forest	Total Geographical Area	Valume of change in 1982-83 to1992–97
Akola	25	2.46 %	24	2.18 %	- 0.28 %
Barshi Takli	178	21.56 %	59	7.54 %	-14.01 %
Akot	7	0.89 %	24	3.02 %	2.13 %
Telhara	4	0.61 %	7	1.20 %	0.59 %
Murtizapur	7	0.96 %	9	1.13 %	0.17 %
Karanja	53	6.16 %	16	1.87 %	-4.29 %
Mangrulpir	50	6.54 %	48	6.11 %	-0.43 %
Manora	87	10.56 %	94	11.96 %	1.40 %
Washim	17	2.01 %	19	2.06 %	0.05 %
Risod	19	2.09 %	19	2.18 %	0.08 %
Malegaon	133	13.23 %	129	14.17 %	0.93 %
Balapur	1	0.11 %	1	0.15 %	0.04 %
Patur	121	17.29 %	122	17.43 %	0.14 %
District Total	**701**	**6.50** %	**571.6**	**5.46** %	**-1.04** %

Source : Computed by Author.

Table 1 shows that, Akola Tahsil area in forest is 2.46% , in 1982-87 and Decrease in 1992-97 – 2.18 % whereas in Barshi Takli Tahsil area under forest is 21.56 % in 1982-87 and it decrease in 1992-97 – 7.54 %. Akot Tahsil area under forest in 1982-87 is 0.89 % and in 1992-97 is increase -3.02 %. This Tahsil is decrease of area under forest because some changes in agriculture. Telhara area under forest is 0.61% in 1982-87 whereas 1.20 % in 1992-97, increase 0.59 %. Murtizapur area under forest in 1982-87 is 0.96 % and in 1992-97 is 1.13 %, increase valume of change is 0.17 %.

Karanja Tahsil area under forest is 6.16 % in 1982-87 where as 1.87 % in 1992-97. Volume of Changes is 4.29 %. This is highest change of forest area in Akola District. Mahora, Washim, Risod, Malegaon, Belapur, Patur Tahsil area under forest is increased comparatively 1982-87 to 1992-97. Akola district area under forest is 8.50 % in 1982-87 whereas in 1992-97 area under forest is 5.46 %. The volume of change is 1.04 % because lack of Rainfall.

The District Akola is not well wooded specially in the fertile plain country through which the Purna flows. But a fair number of trees and groves are scattered over it. The main track of forest runs along a range of hills which passes from East to West across the middle of the district about 20 miles south of Akola**.** There are also a few babul bans containing scarcely anything but babul, a new areas of mixed growth and other areas reserved chiefly for the supply of grass. The growth in all the forest except the babul bans is deciduous, containing a variety of species. The most valuable specied is teak. Which is largely used for the posts and rafter of buildings. The tree unfortunately seldom grown to a large size in this district. It is generally unsound overmutured and stag - eaded and is thus useless as timber. The species next is value to teak is ain and the next again area Dhawara land and bijasal. These are also used for building by poorer classes in villages. Behara and Harra are valued for their fruits, but the latter is not found in sufficient quantities for the exportation. Nim, Mango, Karvanji and some of the Ficus Species are often seen along road sides and being evergreens provide most valuable shade during the hot weather. Salai is a common tree but is not much used either for the fuel or for timber. The fruits of the bel tembhurni Char and the various specises of Zizyphus are eaten by the poorer classes. Mahua is largely used for the manufacturing of Country Spirit. Other species found in the forest are ganher

Rastwar, ghyara, baharuka, rohan, Rusam, though this is very scare moi, Biba, Tiwas, Haldu, Ralamb, Rahu, some species is grow in the different part of the District.

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