

Over-exploitation of North Sub-Himalayan Vegetal Resources: Its Impact on the Brahmaputra Valley of Assam

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ABSTRACT Commercial exploitation of the vegetal forest resources coupled with intensified slash and burn cultivation in extensive areas as a sequel to rise of indigenous tribesmen in Arunachal Pradesh following introduction of modern medical service and ceasing of internecine warfare in the post-1950 years led to large-scale top-soil erosion in the northern Himalayan ranges, resulting in heavy siltation of the Brahmaputra and other river courses and inland storm-water pools (*Beels*) and extensive bank-erosion all over the valley. The man-induced environmental phenomena in the upper reaches of the Brahmaputra river-system have direct impact upon the community down in the valley by way of loss of land and obliteration of the people's source of food.