



General Editor Meera George, Ph.D

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# LIFE SCIENCE FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

## SEMINAR PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CURRENT TRENDS IN LIFE SCIENCE FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

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## LIFE SCIENCE FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

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Above Ground Biomass Estimation of Selected Vegetation Types in Vithura Region, Thiruvananthapuram Using GIS and Remote Sensing

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## Abstract :

About 90% of all live terrestrial biomass is found in forests, which are a primary source of carbon storage in terrestrial ecosystems and act as a carbon sink to help slow down the effects of climate change and global warming. Forest aboveground biomass (AGB) plays an important role in the study of the carbon cycle and climate change in the global terrestrial ecosystem. The main aims of this study were to estimate above-ground biomass from field inventory data and to map AGB by combining field inventory data, remote sensing and geostatistical models in the Vithura region of Thiruvananthapuram. Vithura is a small village situated on the way to Ponmudi, about 37 km from Thiruvananthapuram, the capital of Kerala, surrounded by the western ghats and blessed with numerous trees and extensive green land. A total of 14 plots and 5 vegetation indices were used to estimate the AGB of the study area. The vegetation indices used in this study were ARVI, NDVI, GNDVI, NDREI1, and NDREI2. The AGB from field measurement was calculated using allometric equations. The mean of field AGB was 172.387503t/ha with maximum value of 490.91506 t/ ha and minimum value of 10.07827856 t/ha. The correlation between the biomass value measured in each plot and the variables extracted

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from the optical image was assessed by the Pearson correlation coefficients. GNDVI (R<sup>2</sup>=0.849) exhibited a strong correlation with AGB followed by NDREI2 (R<sup>2</sup>=0.7065). The AGB map for the whole area of the Vithura region was estimated by developing a linear regression model. The model was developed using variables GNDVI and NDREI2 because of their high R<sup>2</sup> value and low p value.

**Keywords:** AGB Estimation, vegetation analysis, NDVI, GNDVI, NDREI<sub>1</sub>, NDREI<sub>2</sub>

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