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EVERYDAY WORLD-MAKING IN TIMES OF CRISIS

**LIVELIHOOD SUSTAINABILITY ACROSS AGROECOLOGICAL ZONES:
ECOLOGICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL PERSPECTIVES FROM THE
BRAHMAPUTRA VALLEY OF ASSAM PLAIN IN INDIA**

Bimal Sharma (Bimal.Sharma2131@gmail.com)

This study analyses land quality, land management practices, and livelihood outcomes across three agroecological zones of the Brahmaputra Valley in Assam, India, emphasising the interlinked ecological, economic, and social dimensions of sustainability. Household-level evidence indicates widespread land degradation in all zones, driven by climate change, extreme weather events, recurrent flooding, and intensive agricultural practices, including excessive use of chemical fertilisers, pesticides, and multiple cropping. Although irrigation was widely acknowledged as essential for agricultural productivity, many systems were non-functional due to flood damage and poor maintenance, resulting in limited utilisation and dissatisfaction with institutional support. Adoption of land management practices such as irrigation, weeding, and pest control varied spatially, with markedly lower engagement in Zones I and III than in Zone II. These ecological challenges translated into adverse economic

outcomes, with farm incomes often insufficient to meet household needs, increased reliance on non-farm livelihoods, and selective borrowing under financial stress. Overall, the findings underscore the need for integrated land management and livelihood support interventions to strengthen sustainability and resilience in the Brahmaputra Valley.

Palavras-chave: livelihood; ecological sustainability; economic sustainability; social sustainability; agroecological zones; brahmaputra valley.