

An aerial photograph of a rural landscape. The foreground shows a village with several buildings and a road. The middle ground is dominated by terraced fields, likely for agriculture, with varying shades of green and brown. The background shows more terraced fields and some forested areas. The overall scene is a mix of natural and human-made elements.

LAND USE AND LAND COVER CHANGES IN A GLOBALISED WORLD

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ABSTRACT BOOK

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POST SOVIET PROCESSES OF LAND TENURE TRANSFORMATION IN SIBERIA



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Striking political and socioeconomic changes in Russia in the 90s of the last century had a profound effect on all economic sectors. The implemented land reform resulted in diversification of forms of property in land, the redistribution of lands among owners as well as farming lands transformation.

Siberia makes up nearly 40 % of the Russian territory and 23 % of farming lands where 13 % grain, 18 % potatoes, 12 % vegetables, 8 % fruits and berries, 15 % meat, 18 % milk, 15 % eggs are produced (mostly in south-western regions, i.e. Altai Krai, Omsk, Novosibirsk, Kemerovo).

Extensive reduction in farming lands and changes in structure of the area under crops (particularly in the border mountainous regions – Altai, Tuva, Buryatia and Zabaikale) is observed. It should be noted that some processes of land use transformation are positive because they lead to withdrawal of low productive lands (formed as a result of excessive ploughing of virgin lands in the 50s), while others in the interests of market reject balanced soil protective crop rotation that in its turn brings to intensification of soil erosion, salinization, acidification and finally to soil dehumification. For example, in Altai, humus in 0–20 cm layer is reduced annually by 0,57 t/ha.

For the last 3–4 years inverse processes, i.e. involvement of unused lands in arable rotation in southern farming regions, development and rationalization of structure of lands under crops appear. Though quantitative and qualitative characteristics of land use in the pre-perestroika period haven't been achieved yet, positive tendencies in land tenure system of Siberia are obvious.