

Article

# Urban Sprawl and Adverse Impacts on Agricultural Land: A Case Study on Hyderabad, India

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**Abstract:** Many Indian capitals are rapidly becoming megacities due to industrialization and rural–urban emigration. Land use within city boundaries has changed dynamically, accommodating development while replacing traditional land-use patterns. Using Landsat-8 and IRS-P6 data, this study investigated land-use changes in urban and peri-urban Hyderabad and their influence on land-use and land-cover. Advanced methods, such as spectral matching techniques with ground information were deployed in the analysis. From 2005 to 2016, the wastewater-irrigated area adjacent to the Musi river increased from 15,553 to 20,573 hectares, with concurrent expansion of the city boundaries from 38,863 to 80,111 hectares. Opportunistic shifts in land-use, especially related to wastewater-irrigated agriculture, emerged in response to growing demand for fresh vegetables and urban livestock feed, and to easy access to markets due to the city’s expansion. Validation performed on the land-use maps developed revealed 80–85% accuracy.

**Keywords:** peri-urban; urban sprawl; urban agriculture; bi-spectral plots; urban land-use/land-cover change; IRS-P6; MODIS; Landsat-8; Hyderabad

## 1. Introduction

Rapid urbanization and population growth, particularly in developing countries, are expected to increase pressure on agricultural production by expanding into croplands, competing for resources, and leading to loss of biodiversity. By 2050, China, India, and Nigeria alone are expected to add about 900 million urban residents in the megacities of these countries [1]. Managing urban expansion in the future is critical for ensuring agricultural growth and food security, while also providing common amenities such as housing, water, and employment for the growing population. Four of India’s cities (Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, and Hyderabad), which currently have 5–10 million inhabitants, are projected to become megacities (population of >10 million) in the coming years, with a total of seven megacities projected in the country by 2030 [2].

Hyderabad is located in Telangana state in southern India and is the sixth largest metropolis in the country. It comprises twelve municipalities, including the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC). Hyderabad is located in the Musi sub-basin (11,000 km<sup>2</sup>), which is part of the Krishna river basin. Rapid development, especially in the information technology (IT) sector, has attracted skilled and unskilled labor from other parts of India, further increasing the city’s population. There is thus an urgent need for city planning to mitigate the impact that rapid development will have on natural resources in the Hyderabad area. In this regard,

accurate knowledge of the spatio-temporal pattern of urbanization is very important for policy making, natural resource management, and decision making [3].

Peri-urban agriculture contributes significantly to ecosystem services, serving as a sink for stormwater runoff, a recharge zone for groundwater table, as well as adding to aesthetic beauty and food security [4]. A majority of families in the peri-urban areas of Hyderabad sustain themselves by providing food and animal feed to the city, making these areas important for the local economy [5,6]. A growing population and development in cities increases competition for natural resources (e.g., water and land) and natural diversity [7,8], and shrinks surrounding agricultural areas [9,10]. These changes pose a great challenge to urban developers and the service sector in Hyderabad. Furthermore, urban water demand has grown exponentially in the past two decades and water availability within the city limits of Hyderabad is now inadequate to supply the growing demand, due to encroachment on freshwater lakes to build houses and public offices. Transporting water from nearby rural villages has become a necessity [10]. Agricultural land within the city's boundaries has been diminishing further with people migrating from rural areas in search of employment and better wages, which is overburdening social and infrastructure services.

Several studies have analyzed sprawl and other land-use/land-cover (LULC) changes in urban areas using satellite imagery. For example, Alqurashi et al. [11] analyzed expansion of urban growth and land-cover changes in five Middle East cities using object-based image analysis, while Cao et al. [12] conducted a study on urban expansion and its impact on land-use patterns using radar graph and gradient-direction methods and landscape matrices. Liu et al. [13] monitored urban expansion in China over the past four decades using satellite imagery while Gumma et al. [9] conducted a study on expansion of urban areas and wastewater-irrigated areas in Hyderabad, India, using Landsat images and supervised classification. Most of these studies used temporal analysis of Landsat imagery. Many studies have demonstrated how to map agricultural areas [14–19] using advanced techniques in satellite image analysis; e.g., Parece and Campbell [20] delineated urban impervious surfaces using Landsat imagery and high-resolution aerial photographs in a study conducted in Roanoke, USA. Myint et al. [21] accurately classified urban land cover using high spatial resolution imagery and object-based classification. Zhang et al. [22] assessed impacts of urban expansion on ecosystem services using shared socioeconomic pathways (SSPs) and the land-use scenario dynamics-urban (LUSD-urban) model. However, mapping of urban agricultural areas, including fragmented irrigated areas, has proven to be a challenge due to the diverse range of irrigated plot sizes, crops, and water sources used by farmers [23,24], and the literature has not been able to adequately capture agricultural land-use changes in urban expansion zones. Many studies have used normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI) for monitoring cropland and LULC changes over a set period [25–31].

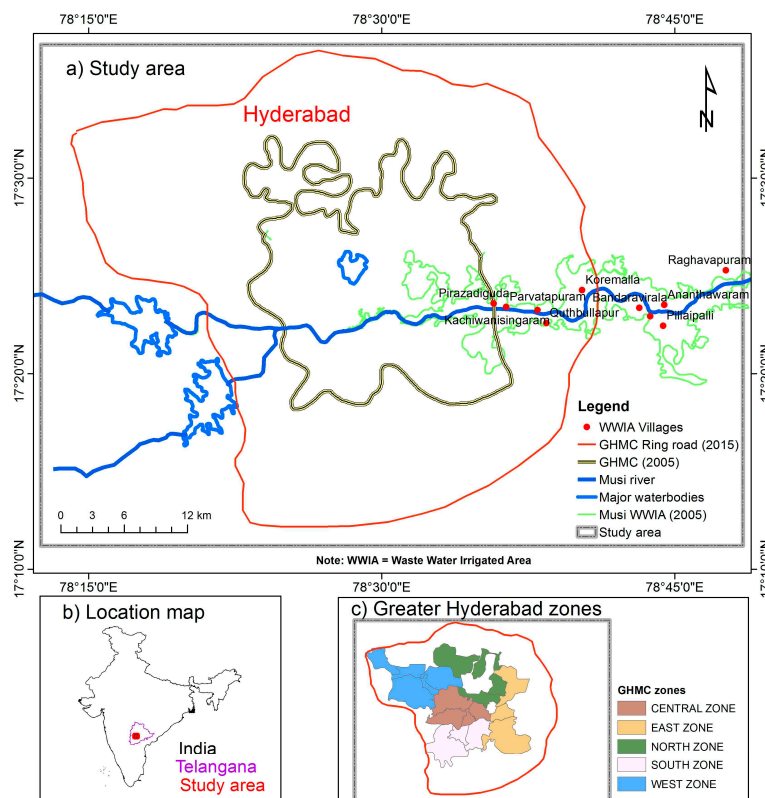
The main objective of this study was, therefore, to monitor changes in agriculture and LULC in the areas around Hyderabad, and thereby capture the effects of urban sprawl on land-use. The remote sensing imagery used was Landsat-8 data, IRS-P6 data, and MODIS 250 m 16-bit time series data, combined with ground survey data. Monitoring of agricultural areas is very difficult to capture with single-date imagery [32]. Therefore, the specific methodological contribution of this study relates to the use of unsupervised classification with clusters identified based on bi-spectral plots with high-resolution Google Earth images, spectral profiles, and ground survey data in a combined approach.

The aim in developing an approach based on analyzing high-resolution and coarse-resolution temporal imagery with advanced techniques was to help monitor agriculture and other LULC changes, to understand spatially how urban sprawl influences food security and sustainability in the city of Hyderabad.

## 2. Study Area

Rapid development, economic growth, and increasing employment opportunities in Hyderabad (301,403 ha) (Figure 1) have attracted people from all over the country, increasing the city's population to around 8.7 million [33]. The land under agriculture within the city's boundaries has decreased with infrastructure development, while migration of people from rural areas in search of employment and better wages will only further stress public services. Efforts by the state government of undivided Andhra Pradesh in the 1990s to establish Hyderabad as one of the best IT hubs in the country led to several changes in policies on the development of infrastructure and facilities, as well as in relevant public sectors.

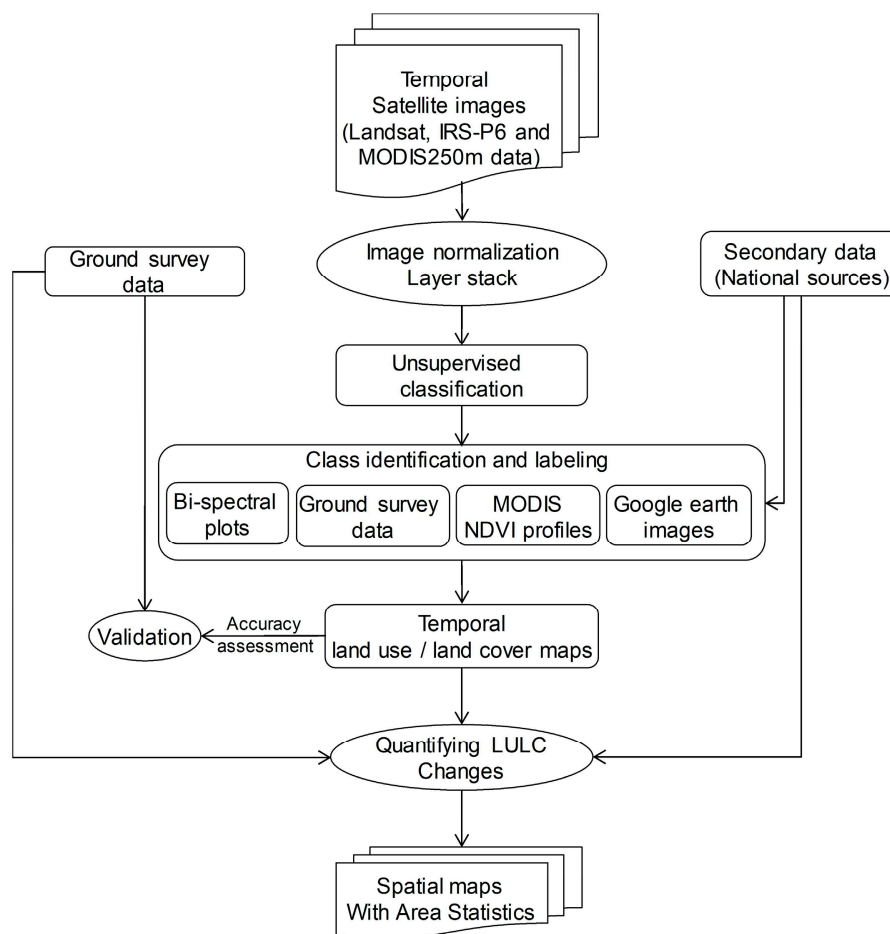
Such development has not been without consequences. For example, the Musi river, a tributary of the Krishna, flows through the city of Hyderabad and has become extremely polluted with discharges from the city. Nevertheless, year-round water supply in the river has encouraged wastewater-irrigated agriculture, within and around the city boundaries, despite the pollution [9,34]. The crops cultivated range from perishable vegetables to cereal crops and animal feed crops, depending on the season, distance from the city, and proximity to markets. In the last two decades, livelihood practices of marginal farmers have changed with urban expansion.



**Figure 1.** Maps of the study area showing different features: (a) Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC); (b) location of study area and (c) different zones in GHMC.

## 3. Data and Methods

A detailed flowchart of the method followed in this study is presented in Figure 2. Datasets used for the study, at medium and coarse resolution, were obtained from different satellites at different stages of analysis.



**Figure 2.** An overview of the methodology used to map urban areas and other land-use/land-cover (LULC) changes using Landsat-8 data.

### 3.1. Satellite Images

Three IRS-P6 images obtained from the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC, ISRO) were used for monitoring LULC changes in the study area. Two Landsat-8 images (January 2014 and January 2016) and three IRS-P6 images (January 2005, January 2008 and January 2011), which were captured in rabi (postrainy), were extracted from USGS Earth Explorer [35] (see Table 1). Image preprocessing started with image normalization, which involved converting digital numbers (DN) to reflectance values.

MODIS vegetation indices (MOD13Q1 product) were used for class identification and labeling processes. MOD13Q1 data were obtained from USGS LPDAAC [36]. MODIS data were acquired in 12-bit format (0 to 4096 levels) and later stretched to 16-bit (0 to 65,536 levels) and were prepared for the cropping year (June to May) 2004–2005, 2007–2008, 2010–2011, 2013–2014 and 2015–2016 [37,38].

**Table 1.** Characteristics of satellite data used in this study.

Sensor/Image Acquisition Date	Spatial (m)	No. of Bands	Band Range ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	Irradiance ( $\text{W}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{sr}^{-1}\cdot\text{mm}^{-1}$ )	Potential Application
IRS-P6 January 2005 January 2008 January 2011	23.6	2	0.52–0.59	1857.7	Water bodies and also capable of differentiating soil and rock surfaces from vegetation
		3	0.62–0.68	1556.4	Sensitive to water turbidity differences
	30	4	0.77–0.86	1082.4	Sensitive to strong chlorophyll absorption region and strong reflectance region for most soils.
		5	1.55–1.70	239.84	Operates in the best spectral region to distinguish vegetation varieties and conditions
Landsat-8 January 2014, January 2016	30	1	0.43–0.45	555	Water bodies and also capable of differentiating soil and rock surfaces from vegetation
		2	0.45–0.51	581	
		3	0.53–0.59	544	Sensitive to water turbidity differences
	250	4	0.64–0.67	462	Sensitive to strong chlorophyll absorption region and strong reflectance region for most soils.
		5	0.85–0.88	281	Especially important for the ecology because healthy plants reflect it
		6	1.57–1.65	71.3	Particularly useful for telling wet earth from dry earth, and for geology: rocks and soils that look similar in other bands often have strong contrasts in SWIR.
MODIS (2005–2016)	250	1	0.62–0.67	1528.2	Absolute Land Cover Transformation, Vegetation Chlorophyll
		2	0.84–0.88	974.3	Cloud Amount, Vegetation Land Cover Transformation

### 3.2. Image Normalization

The main purpose of normalization is to normalize the multi-date effect [39,40] of IRS-P6 and Landsat-8 images, for better classification. Data from different periods have differing radiometric resolution [41,42] (see Thenkabail et al., 2004, 2003), and hence their respective digital numbers (DNs) carry different levels of information and cannot be directly compared. Therefore, all data were converted to absolute units of radiance ( $\text{W}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{sr}^{-1}\cdot\mu\text{m}^{-1}$ ), then to apparent at-satellite reflectance (%), and finally to surface reflectance (%) after atmospheric correction. Details of these conversions are provided below, due to the uniqueness of the sensors involved.

#### 3.2.1. IRS-P6 Data

Since clear Landsat-8 images were not available for the selected dates (Table 1), we decided to use a dataset of similar resolution which was available from IRS-P6. We procured images from the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), India. The IRS-P6 8-bit DN data were converted to spectral radiance using the equation:

$$R = \frac{(DN \times Gain)}{255} \quad (1)$$

where  $DN$  is digital number and  $Gain$  is saturation radiance for the band.

A reduction in between-scene variability can be achieved through normalization for solar irradiance by converting spectral radiance  $R$ , as calculated above, to planetary reflectance or albedo [40]. The combined surface and atmospheric reflectance of the earth is computed with the following formula:

$$\rho_p = \frac{\pi L_\lambda d^2}{ESUN_\lambda \cos \theta_s} \quad (2)$$

where  $\rho_p$  is the at-satellite exo-atmospheric reflectance,  $L_\lambda$  is the radiance ( $\text{W}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{sr}^{-1}\cdot\mu\text{m}^{-1}$ ),  $d$  is the earth-to-sun distance in astronomic units at the acquisition date (see [27]),  $ESUN_\lambda$  is the mean solar exo-atmospheric irradiance ( $\text{W}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{sr}^{-1}\cdot\mu\text{m}^{-1}$ ) or solar flux [43], and  $\theta_s$  is solar zenith angle in degrees (i.e., 90 degrees minus the sun elevation or sun angle when the scene was recorded as given in the image header file).

### 3.2.2. Landsat-8 Data

The following equation was used to convert DN values to TOA reflectance for OLI data:

$$\rho\lambda' = M_{\rho}Q_{cal} + A_{\rho} \quad (3)$$

where  $\rho\lambda'$  is the TOA planetary reflectance (without correction of solar angle),  $M_{\rho}$  is the band-specific multiplicative rescaling factor from the metadata,  $A_{\rho}$  is the band-specific additive rescaling factor from the metadata, and  $Q_{cal}$  is the quantized and calibrated standard product pixel value (DN).

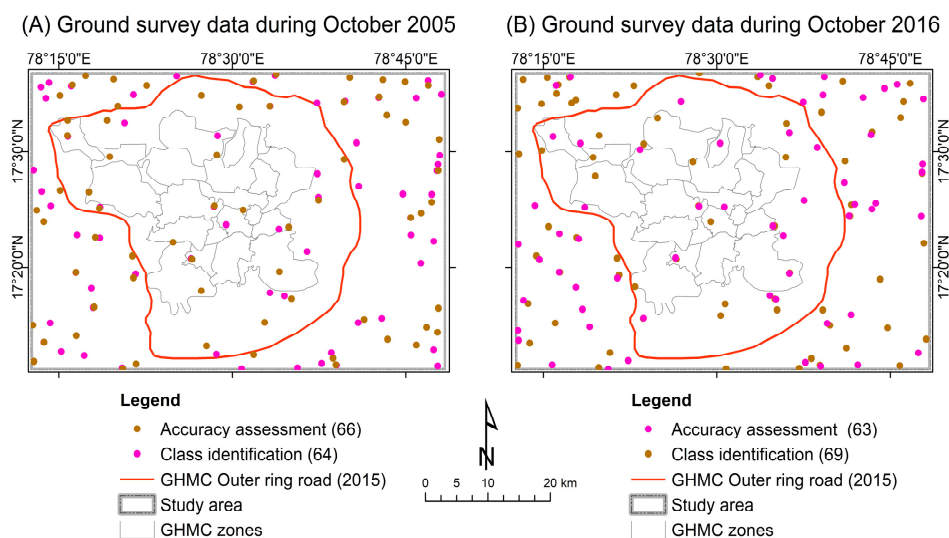
TOA reflectance with correction for the sun angle is then:

$$\rho\lambda = \frac{\rho\lambda'}{\sin(\theta_{SE})} \quad (4)$$

Where,  $\rho\lambda$  is the TOA planetary reflectance,  $\rho\lambda'$  is the TOA planetary reflectance without correction of solar angle, and  $\theta_{SE}$  is the local sun elevation angle provided in the metadata (SUN\_ELEVATION).

### 3.3. Ground Survey Datasets

Two ground survey datasets were collected, on 13–26 October 2005, for 130 sampling locations and on 24–29 October 2016, for 132 sampling locations. These locations covered major LULC changes within the study area. The collected data were divided into two datasets, one for class identification and labeling, and the other for validation (Figure 3). Samples were collected based on large continuous homogeneous areas selected as sampling locations. Several parameters were determined at each location, such as cropland including source-wise irrigation, crop type, urban extent including settlements and open land, and other land cover including shrubs, grass, water, fallow, and scrubland. Farmers were interviewed in order to obtain more detailed information on their agricultural fields, which helped to enhance the training data.



**Figure 3.** Spatial distribution of ground survey data in the study area in different periods.

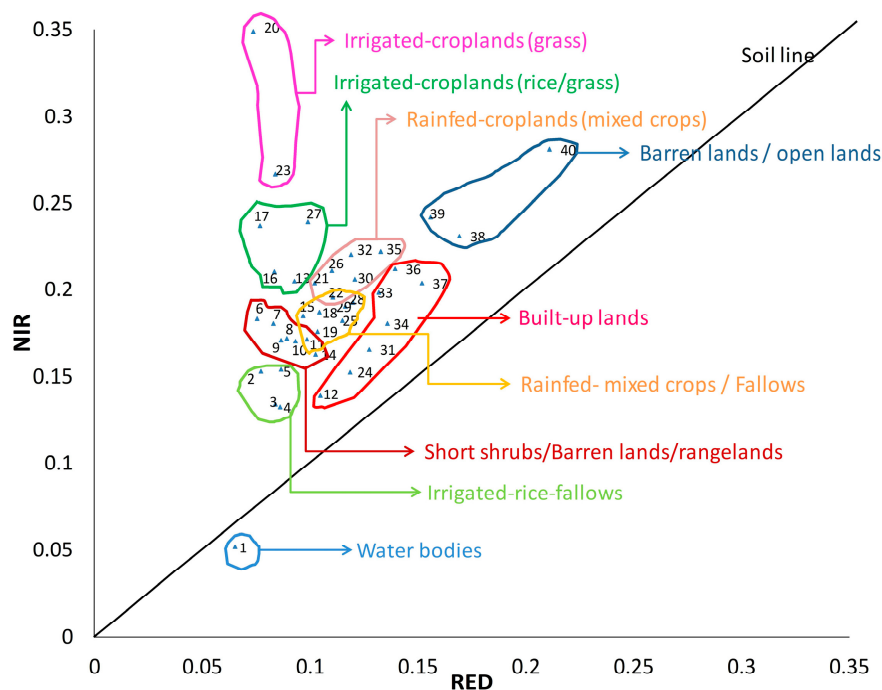
The ground survey data were grouped into five categories: water bodies, built-up land, irrigated cropland, rainfed cropland, and “other” LULC.

### 3.4. Mapping Land-Use/Land-Cover Changes

A comprehensive methodology for mapping cropland areas using IRS-P6 and Landsat-8 data was taken from the literature [27,31,32,44]. Each image was classified using unsupervised ISOCCLASS cluster

Isodata classification, with 40 classes and 40 maximum iterations and with convergence threshold of 0.99. The main purpose of unsupervised classification is to capture different LULC types within the image across a study area. Simultaneously, we generated mean spectral values for all classes using a signature set option. Class identification and labeling were performed based on spectral properties (bi-spectral plots), ground survey data, and Google Earth high-resolution imagery.

Spectral values of red and NIR bands extracted from unsupervised classification were plotted as shown in Figure 4, with reflectance values of red on the x-axis and reflectance values of NIR on the y-axis) [37,45,46]. In Figure 4, the diagonal line represents the soil line, which differentiated the classes with vegetation. Classes with similar spectral reflectance depict nearby clusters, which may represent the same category (same classes) with a slight variation in reflection. Other classes, like water bodies and shrubland/trees, show large variations in vegetation and can easily be identified and labeled. Classes closer to the soil line and the two-band (red and NIR bands) reflectance values were similar and high; they are classified as built-up areas. More highly vegetated areas, like irrigated cropland, have high reflectance values in NIR and lower reflectance in red.



**Figure 4.** Single-date bi-spectral plot of unsupervised classes plotted by mean class reflectance in the red and NIR bands.

Spectral profiles were generated from the MODIS time series composite data, with initially 40 unsupervised classes identified based on NDVI profiles at different crop growth stages in the season. Identification and labeling of LULC classes were based on bi-spectral profiles, MODIS NDVI time-series plots, ground survey data, and very-high-resolution images (Google Earth). The specific protocols included grouping class spectra based on class similarities and/or comparing them with ground survey data, rigorous protocols for class identification, and labeling with the use of very high-resolution imagery. After a rigorous classification process, most of the classes were identified, except for some mixed classes.

Validation was performed based on intensive ground survey information through an error matrix, which was generated based on a theoretical description in the literature [47]. The columns of an error matrix contain the ground survey data points, while the rows represent the results of the classified LULC maps [48]. The error matrix is a multidimensional table in which the cells contain changes from

one class to another [49]. The 81 points with major LULC and irrigation type observations were used for classification validation. A validation was performed on each LULC map.

### 3.5. Urban Expansion and Other Land-Use Changes

After class identification and labeling, final LULC maps were validated with ground survey data and used to detect change, based on the 2005 LULC map. The ERDAS modeler was used to quantify changes from 2005 to 2011 and 2005 to 2016, because these three dates were validated using ground survey data and Google Earth high-resolution satellite imagery during the same year. Equation (5) was used to assess changes from 2005 to 2011 and on to 2016. Changes were assessed class-wise, for example, “other” LULC classes and cropland based on the 2005 map were converted to built-up land as:

$$CD_{ij} = (LULC_i \times 10) + LULC_j \quad (5)$$

where  $CD_{ij}$  is the change detected,  $LULC_i$  is land-use/land-cover for the  $i$ th year and  $LULC_j$  is land use/land cover for the  $j$ th year.

## 4. Results and Discussion

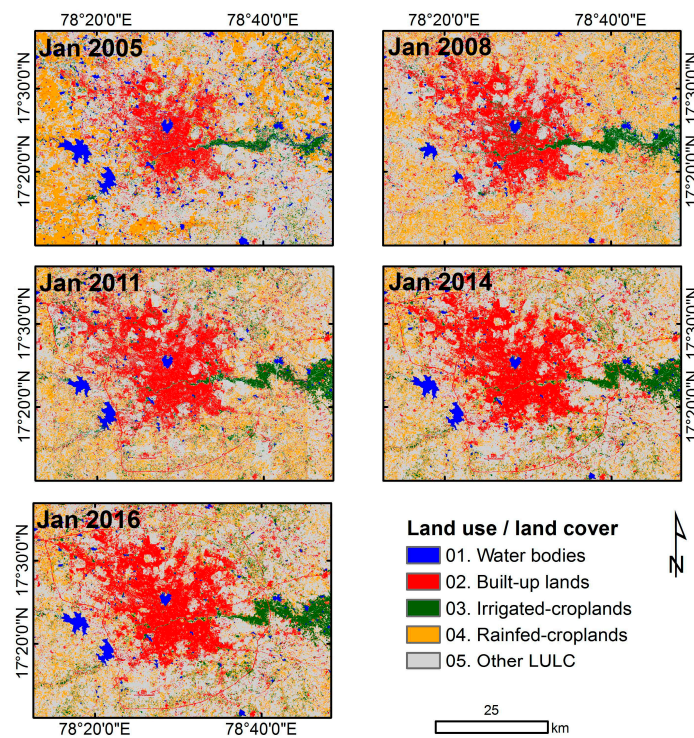
### 4.1. Spatio-Temporal Distribution of Land-Use/Land-Cover Changes

Figure 5 depicts observed changes in the urban sprawl of Hyderabad using IRS-P6 (2005, 2008 and 2011) and Landsat-8 (2014, 2016) imagery. The area covered by built-up land, constituting housing and other buildings, has more than doubled, from 38,863 ha to 80,111 ha, adversely impacting water bodies and rain-fed cropland, the area of which has decreased by half (37,902 ha in 2016 compared to 72,817 ha in 2005) (Table 2). There was a drastic increase in built-up areas in the west and east zones of the city, due to expansion of the IT sector in the former and industrial sector expansion in these zones. Seasonal water bodies appeared to be most exploited for building in the western, central, and southern zones. Similarly, the area under rain-fed cropland, which is now almost halved due to urban expansion, has decreased specifically in the west, east, and north zones. Irrigated cropland area increased from 2005 to 2011, but decreased slightly by 2016 due to low rainfall. An important finding in this study was that wastewater-irrigated agriculture, which is practiced along the banks of the Musi river, has also increased steadily from 2005 to 2016, to support vegetable gardens catering to the growing urban population. Since the formation of the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA), with a new master plan, many conservation measures have been established to sustain drinking water sources, such as the lakes Himayath Sagar, Osman Sagar, and Manjeera, and the water supply has been improved. Moreover, a new drinking water pipeline project has been implemented in a phased manner, harnessing water from the Nagarjuna Sagar reservoir [50].

**Table 2.** Selected land-use/land-cover (LULC) data for the years 2005, 2008, 2011, 2014 and 2016.

LULC	Area (Ha)				
	2005	2008	2011	2014	2016
01. Water bodies	12,535	3584	5417	5694	2283
02. Built-up land	38,863	62,000	68,560	74,131	80,111
03. Irrigated cropland	15,553	14,589	19,966	19,510	19,678
04. Rainfed cropland	72,817	69,601	53,361	46,815	37,902
05. Other LULC	161,635	151,562	154,288	155,445	161,583





**Figure 5.** The five land-use/land-cover (LULC) classes developed, based on Landsat-8, IRS-P6, and MODIS time series data, for the years 2005, 2008, 2011, 2014, and 2016.

#### 4.2. Validation

Validation was performed based on additional ground survey data (which were not used in classification), and also for individual years. Tables 3–5 show the error matrices for the study area during 2005, 2011, and 2016, respectively. Validation was performed by error matrix for whether a known LULC class was correctly classified or not. This process was conducted using 64 ground survey points that referred to one of five classes, as summarized in Table 3. The user accuracy varied from 71% to 100% across the five classes, with an overall accuracy of 81% for 2005, 83% for 2011, and 86% for 2016. Thus, on combining all crop classes into one class, the accuracy of rice mapping was very high (about 95%). The uncertainty in the class results, of about 15%, was due to inter-mixing among the various LULC classes. The accuracy was very high when distinguishing between cropland and non-cropland, while built-up areas and water bodies generally had higher classification accuracy than the “other” LULC and irrigated/rain-fed classes (Tables 3–5).

**Table 3.** Validation of land-use/land-cover (LULC) classes in 2005 based on ground survey data.

Classified Data	Reference Data (Ground Survey Data)					Row Total	Number Correct	Producer Accuracy	User Accuracy	Kappa
	01. Water Bodies	02. Built-Up Land	03. Irrigated Cropland	04. Rainfed Cropland	05. Other LULC					
01. Water bodies	11	0	0	0	0	11	11	100%	100%	100%
02. Built-up land	0	6	0	0	0	6	6	75%	100%	100%
03. Irrigated cropland	0	0	3	0	1	4	3	50%	75%	72%
04. Rainfed cropland	0	0	1	10	1	12	10	67%	83%	78%
05. Other LULC	0	2	2	5	22	31	22	92%	71%	54%
Column Total	11	8	6	15	24	64	52			
Overall classification accuracy = 81.25%					Overall kappa statistic = 0.7422					

**Table 4.** Validation of land-use/land-cover (LULC) classes in 2011, based on ground survey data.

Classified Data	Reference Data (Ground Survey Data)					Row Total	Number Correct	Producer Accuracy	User Accuracy	Kappa
	01. Water Bodies	02. Built-up Land	03. Irrigated Cropland	04. Rainfed Cropland	05. Other LULC					
01. Water bodies	9	0	1	0	0	10	9	100%	90%	88%
02. Built-up land	0	12	0	0	0	12	12	100%	100%	100%
03. Irrigated cropland	0	0	5	1	1	7	5	71%	71%	68%
04. Rainfed cropland	0	0	0	4	2	6	4	44%	67%	61%
05. Other LULC	0	0	1	4	20	25	20	87%	80%	68%
Column Total	9	12	7	9	23	60	50			
Overall classification accuracy = 83.33%					Overall kappa statistic = 0.7768					

**Table 5.** Validation of land-use/land-cover (LULC) classes in 2016, based on ground survey data.

Classified Data	Reference Data (Ground Survey Data)					Row Total	Number Correct	Producer Accuracy	User Accuracy	Kappa
	01. Water Bodies	02. Built-Up Land	03. Irrigated Cropland	04. Rainfed Cropland	05. Other LULC					
01. Water bodies	8	0	0	0	0	8	8	80%	100%	100%
02. Built-up land	0	12	0	0	1	13	12	100%	92%	91%
03. Irrigated cropland	1	0	7	0	0	8	7	70%	88%	85%
04. Rainfed cropland	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	20%	100%	100%
05. Other LULC	1	0	3	4	31	39	31	97%	79%	62%
Column Total	10	12	10	5	32	69	59			
Overall classification accuracy = 85.51%					Overall kappa statistic = 0.7838					

### 4.3. Urban Expansion and Other Changes

Five-year change detection analysis showed similar changes with respect to irrigated agriculture and other land-use classes (Figure 6). In 2005–2011, the outer ring road (ORR) from the eastern to the southern part of Hyderabad was built [51]. This was also the period when IT companies were starting new projects, the real estate business in the city began to boom, and new pharmaceutical, food, and manufacturing companies were established. This led to immigration of employment seekers from other parts of the country and a high demand for land. Due to this effect, there was transformation from one type of land-use to another, and particularly from cropland to built-up area, with the area of built-up land increasing from 29,684 ha to 41,235 ha during the period (Table 6).

There is a large variety of land uses due to increased urban sprawl in the city of Hyderabad, as shown by satellite image analysis (Tables 6–8, Figures 6 and 7). Of the 12,535 ha under water bodies in 2005, around 1900 ha had been converted to agriculture and 1210 ha into built-up land by 2011, and a total of 3016 ha to agriculture and 1345 ha into built-up land by 2016. As a consequence of the loss of water bodies, 2302 ha of irrigated area had been converted to rain-fed agriculture and 1500 ha to built-up land by 2011, and 1709 ha to rain-fed agriculture and 2033 ha to built-up area by 2016. Another important finding was the consistent increase in built-up land from ‘other’ land uses, e.g., rain-fed cropland lost around 7792 ha by 2006 and 9727 ha by 2011. Rain-fed agricultural area decreased consistently from 2005 to 2016, while the clean-water irrigated area did not change during that period.

**Table 6.** Matrix of Land-use/land-cover (LULC) changes from 2005 to 2011.

Land-Use/Land-Cover (2011)	Land-Use/Land-Cover, Ha (2005)				
	01. Water Bodies	02. Built-Up Land	03. Irrigated Cropland	04. Rain-Fed Cropland	05. Other LULC
01. Water bodies	5011	0	126	94	186
02. Built-up land	1212	38,863	1500	7792	19,180
03. Irrigated cropland	1790	0	4265	5620	8278
04. Rainfed cropland	1114	0	2302	17292	32,604
05. Other LULC	3406	0	7358	42,010	101,367

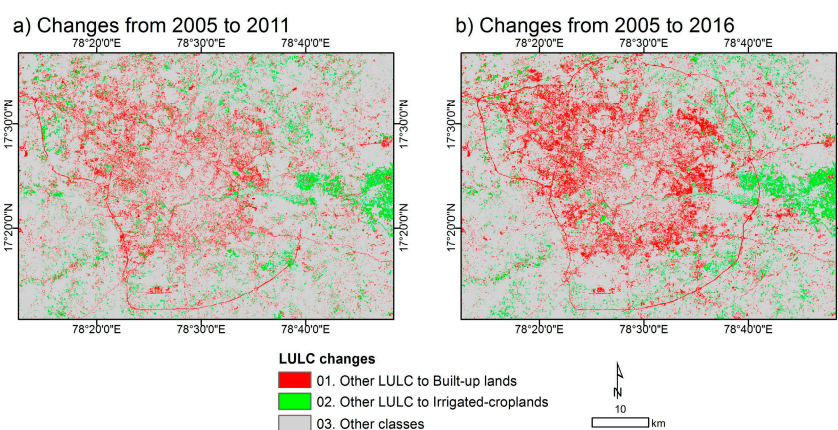
A significant increase in irrigated area was observed, with water supplied through the use of underground water or wastewater from the Musi river. There has been a drastic increase in wastewater because of urban expansion, which resulted in high use of fresh water. It was also observed that the sprawl is expanding beyond the ORR, which was supposed to regulate the increasingly heavy transport traffic.

**Table 7.** Matrix of Land-use/land-cover (LULC) changes from 2005 to 2016.

Land-Use/Land-Cover (2016)	Land-Use/Land-Cover, Ha (2005)				
	01. Water Bodies	02. Built-Up Land	03. Irrigated Cropland	04. Rain-Fed Cropland	05. Other LULC
01. Water bodies	2012	0	71	60	140
02. Built-up land	1345	38,863	2033	9727	28,130
03. Irrigated cropland	1890	0	4361	5339	8069
04. Rainfed cropland	1126	0	1709	11,874	23,155
05. Other LULC	6161	0	7376	45,801	102,114

**Table 8.** Changes in the area (ha) of “other” land-use/land-cover (LULC) to built-up land and irrigated cropland between 2005 and 2011 and between 2005 and 2016.

LULC Changes	Area (Ha)	
	2005 to 2011	2005 to 2016
01. Other LULC to built-up land	29,684	41,235
02. Other LULC to irrigated cropland	15,688	15,297
03. Other classes	256,221	245,062

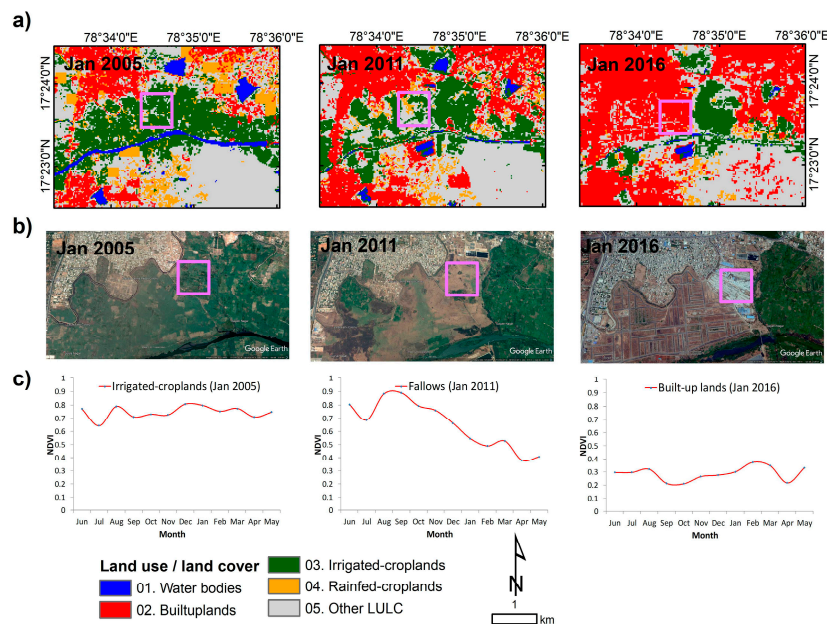
**Figure 6.** Land-use/land-cover (LULC) changes between 2005 and 2011 and between 2005 and 2016, based on Landsat-8, IRS-P6, and MODIS time series data.

#### 4.4. Discussion on Land-Use/Land-Cover

Mapping built-up land and other LULC using the fusion technique yielded better classification accuracy and helped to decipher LULC patterns, while the temporal LULC maps helped to identify key changes over time and space. In situations of rapid urbanization, planning is necessary to avoid unregulated building, obstruction of drainage lines, and destruction of high-value agricultural lands [52]. Bi-spectral plots have previously been used to map agricultural lands and other LULC for different purposes, such as mapping and classifying irrigated areas, detecting LULC changes, and detecting different land-use categories and cropland categories [28,30,44,53]. Here, we demonstrated its ability to differentiate urban sprawl and other LULC categories. We established LULC classes based on bi-spectral plots, ground survey data, and NDVI temporal profiles, and verified the results using high-resolution maps in Google Earth images for the same years. Alqurashi [11] used object-based image analysis (OBIA) segmentation and classification for mapping LULC in five cities in Saudi Arabia and, depending on the size of patches of LULC, created two levels of image segmentation and classification by adjusting the thresholds in the rules applied. Similarly Cao [12] used an OBIA-based decision tree process to map 13 land-use types, with visual modification employed to improve the classification. Lui et al. [13] used various kinds of automatic classification methods to efficiently map urban areas, and also employed the visual interpretation method combined with professional knowledge to obtain urban boundaries. Even though the accuracy levels are comparable with these different methods, the method developed in the present study is easier and is based on the spectral characteristics of the imagery used. The use of bi-spectral plots is faster and easier when diverse land uses must be distinguished for mapping.

Figure 7 illustrates the spatial and temporal land-use changes for 2005, 2011, and 2016. Using the methodology developed here, the analysis precisely mapped changes in irrigated cropland area to built-up land, and this area was matched with Google Earth high-resolution imagery. The NDVI spectral signatures for different classes (Figure 7c) showed crops continuously under irrigation in 2005,

a change to patches of irrigated crops in 2011, and replacement of irrigated cropland with build-up area in 2016.



**Figure 7.** Example of temporal changes in 2005, 2011, and 2016. (a) The land-use/land-cover (LULC) classes; (b) true-color Google Earth imagery for the same LULC classes map; and (c) MODIS-derived NDVI signatures for 2005, 2011 and 2016.

## 5. Conclusions

Urban expansion and other LULC changes were analyzed in this study using multi-sensor satellite data such as IRS-P6, Landsat-8, MODIS time series data, and ground survey data. Land-use classes were identified based on bi-spectral plots and ground survey data, and the classes obtained were compared with those in Google Earth high-resolution imagery. The major LULC classes were mapped with error matrix accuracy between 80% and 86%.

The results demonstrate significant strengths in using IRS-P6 23.6 m and MODIS data together with ground survey data in identifying fragmented and minor cropland areas with irrigation sources, such as wastewater irrigation and rain-fed agriculture. However, fragmented mixed cropland areas are better mapped using IRS-P6 data in fusion with coarser-resolution time series data.

The methodology developed in this study is useful in mapping changes in different land uses within a specific geographical area. It is also possible to link information derived from remote sensing to socio-economic variables, which can add a spatial dimension to the picture. In Hyderabad, the most important land cover loss is of water bodies. An increase in wastewater-irrigated agriculture is the most important consequence of this. The vegetable and fruit supply for the city comes from peri-urban areas once under staple food crops (rice, maize, and sorghum), which fed the peri-urban population. The increase in built-up area from 2005 to 2016 has resulted in the loss of 11,760 ha of agricultural land in Hyderabad. The associated reduction in food production is irreversible and this burden has shifted to the surrounding area. The urban sprawl also has impacts on the urban weather profile in terms of expanded heat islands and temperature differences.

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