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Land Use Changes in the Peri-Urban Area of Yogyakarta Region (Java/Indonesia)

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Abstract

Within the background of increasing urbanisation the land use of the densely populated agricultural regions of Asia and their potential possibilities of intensification have gained more and more in importance – especially in terms of nutrition backup and poverty reduction.

The island of Java belongs to the most densely populated rural areas of the world. The province of Yogyakarta on Java includes an area of 3200 sq.km. with an average population density of more than 1000 people/sq.km. and the urban centre, Yogyakarta city itself of nearly 15000 people/sq.km..

Concerning the driving forces of land use changes the exemplary research character of the peri-urban region of Yogyakarta is especially given by the varying agro-economic zonal structure of this relatively small research area. The fertile wetrice plain of the centre, the hilly limestone-karst area of Gunung Kidul in the east, the slopes of the Merapi volcano in the north, the mountainous area of Progo in the west as well as the coastal regions of the south.

The investigation of the spatial structural change and its ecological and socio-economical consequences are - also with regard to the decentralisation of the administration - of special interest.

The trend of land use development is different in every region though the whole area is influenced by the growing demand of the urban sprawl. With regard to the impact on the environment as well as socio-economic consequences of land use changes, various problems and conflicts are signed.

The geographical faculties of Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta (Indonesia) and Justus-Liebig-University in Giessen (Germany) investigate the land use development of the traditionally agricultural embossed region Yogyakarta in order to point out sustainable possibilities of development and to provide adequate basic information for a decentral land use planning.