

Urbanization Impacts on the Soil Resources in the Nanjing/Shanghai Corridor (90)

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Often land use changes are addressed only as a function of amount land converted and are restricted in scope to the periphery of large cities. This effort expands this approach to use remote sensing and crop productivity to describe the nature and impact of rapid urbanization in the Nanjing/Shanghai corridor. Changes in urban area are discussed by time period, city size, and agricultural productivity. Six land use maps compiled from remote sensing data will document the increase in urban area from 1966 to 2004-05, primarily from the conversion of agricultural land. The rate of change will be discussed in terms of city size and amount and quality of farm land. Results are important for understanding the monitoring of land use changes at an appropriate scale. Further, the results highlight the need to relate land use changes to ancillary data that describe a range of natural and human resources.