

Impact of Surface Mining on Food Security in Amansie West and South Districts of Ghana

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SUMMARY

In mining communities in the developing world, agricultural livelihoods are gradually being lost in labour and farmlands. These livelihood changes are fuelled by emerging foreign investments in the local mining sector. Encroachment on farmland, settlements and other land use is a major problem in Ghana as it hampers the efforts to develop agriculture and reduce the vast import of agricultural products in Ghana. Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System (GIS) techniques were used to analyze the dynamics of changes in land use and land cover. Reclamation of affected lands are mostly ignored and the once-arable lands are left barren and this article intends to assess the severity of sure actions and their possible impact on food security.

The integration of Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System (GIS) techniques were used to create a land use land cover classification scheme to analyze the trend, rate and extent of land use land cover changes. A modified random sampling technique was employed for data collection. Statistical analysis revealed that there has been a decrease in vegetation lands by 11.67% and forest reserves also reduced by 5.95% from 2007 to 2020. Contrary to that, mining areas and settlement/bare land increased by 12.12% and 5.51% respectively.

A further survey revealed that the people living in the mining communities encounter several difficulties such as water pollution and land degradation caused by the mining activities. Although productivity has not necessarily been affected, there are still concerns about food security in terms of utility and accessibility.

The research recommends a land reclamation exercise to cure the lands which have been left bare by the mining activities and also educate the inhabitants of mining communities about the ramifications of indiscriminate destruction of land and create awareness on the possible risks that

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mining poses to food security.

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