# Estimation of the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) Variation for Selected Regions in Iraq for two Years 1990 & 2001



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### ABSTRACT

### **Introduction:**

Land cover / land use of Iraq and its changes have a great Impact on the natural environment and Economic activities of human beings. The surface vegetation index an important index in the monitoring of global changes. Therefore, many researches have been focused on the type of canopy, distribution and variation of the plants and trees. Meanwhile, the vegetation index can also be used in the evaluation of environmental issues, such as crop product assessments, land cover or land use surveys forest fire monitoring, (1),deforesting, desertification. For example (3) used a set of the normalized differential vegetation index (NDVI) observed from 1990 and 2001 to analyze the forest fires that occurred over Alasks's dely forested areas, and found that a sudden increase in the surface temperature may speed up the desertification,-of--forestlands,--and increase the emission of carbon dioxide. Concerned with the desertification, (4) analyzed the composite NDVI values of the Sahara Desert during 1980 to 1992, hoping to understand the area's variation. Several research teams have made tremendous efforts in developing a so-called mixing -pixel NDVI mapping technique of mixed pixels for land use and land cover classification, which are useful for areas of development.

A monthly NDVI database was established through a supervised classification are mainly demonstrated in this study. In Iraq the results of The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index value show adverse pattern in comparison with digital value of spectral reflectance for all type of vegetation cover common in study area. Vegetation cover class shows lower value of NDVI (0.016) and the orchard cover class is (0.074). Where as the fodder crops class shows higher value of NDVI (0.135), whereof shows this the physiological nature for all classes and their ability to absorption the incident rays and reflects it. While make the chlorophyll material on absorption a larger amount of the light energy for visible portion (0.4-0.7) µm, and in the same time reflect a larger amount of the near infra red (0.8-1.1) µm, because using the visible rays in physiological actions. therefore it appears that plants in green color in the satellite image that captured in visible rays, while appears in red color in the satellite image that captured in near infra red rays (5).

# Methodology: Area of study

The location of study area was in Iraq, west of Baghdad within longitude (38°33) (36°91) northwards and latitude (44°18) (36°37) eastwards, has area of

(31<sup>AA</sup>£7.A) hectare. Studied area has been dominated by agriculture, Irrigation channels, drainage, besides bare land influenced by salts (salt affected soils).

## Data sources and NDVI analysis

Satellite image captured from Landsat-5 (TM) in march (1990) and Landsat-7 (ETM+) in march (2001) respectively with six bands ranging from first to the seventh except the sixth band in following wave length (0.45-0.515), (0.525-0.605), (0.63-0.69), (0.76-0.90), (1.55-1.75), (2.09-3.35) Micrometer, with pixel size  $(28.5 \times 28.5)$  m. were used to monitor the patterns of annual changes in plant cover using ERDAS program V.9. Equation suggested by (6) has been used which depends on the third and fourth spectral bands. Also using ArcGIS V.9 Program Figure (1) to reclassify the value of NDVI analysis.

B4 = Reflectance in NIR band.

B3 = Reflectance in visible red band.

# **Results and discussion:**

The range of value of NDVI is between (+1 and -1) (6), when it approaches the positive value, it indicates the increase of intensity and greenness of plant. The results refer to gradation in the value of NDVI and this index for different plant covers. For both years (1990 and 2001) Figure (2) and (3) respectively. Also the gradation in value of NDVI before reclassify it by ArcGIS program in 1990 was (0.1...to...0.7) which fewest comparing with 2001 it was (0.1-....to.....0.9) Table (1). This increasing shows an existence of many types of plant covers. But the most important it increases the NDVI in value and area from (44760.25) hectare to (75410.67) hectare, Figure (4).-The results refer to the development the agricultural situation in that period (2001) which is associated with economical embargo which imposed on Iraq in the period (1990-1991) that made people step on toward for agricultural grazing and foresting also Using techniques of processing bad water (saline water) in irrigation and reclamation the bare land. The study emphasize that is entity be different in types of vegetation cover depend on the vary of Normalized Difference Vegetation Index value, the dominate was the vegetation cover which the range of value of NDVI is between (0.1-0.4) while the range of value of NDVI is between (0.6-0.9) was fewer. The database of monthly NDVI value gathered from 1990 and 2001 covering region of Baghdad was established under our procedure. The variations of NDVI have been used for analysis in relevant researches. The data period of the NDVI dataset is constantly increasing as more application is made to monitor the surface land use change, especially for vegetation lands in region of Baghdad. It is worthy of developing another satellite, or perhaps trying to fuse together different satellite images, to obtain more accurate NDVI mapping and application. Such methods may help us to construct more accurate and practical applications, especially for Iraq's growing complex land use and utilization in precision farming.

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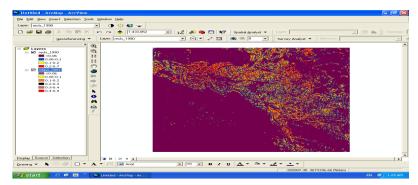


Figure (1) window of ArcGIS program which used to reclassify the value of NDVI

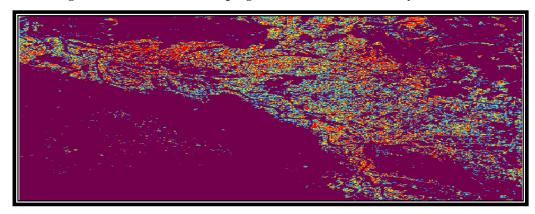


Figure (2) satellite image (1990) after apply NDVI analysis.

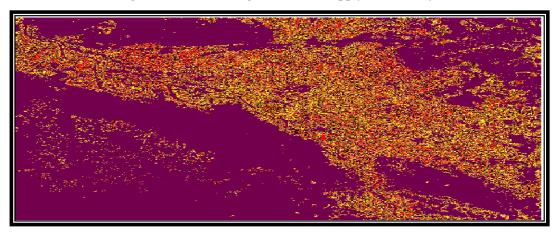


Figure (3) satellite image (2001) after apply NDVI analysis.

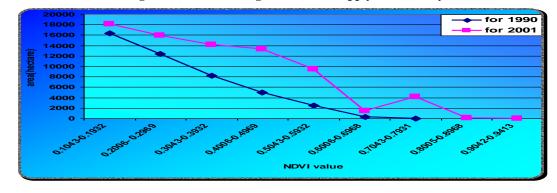


Figure (4) Relationship between the NDVI value and the area of study

The period (1990)		The period (2001)	
Range of NDVI	Area (hectare)	Range of NDVI	Area (hectare)
0.1029-0.1945	16344.99	0.1043-0.1932	۱۸۱۲۰٬۲۱
0.2006- 0.2984	12350.34	0.2006- 0.2969	109 6 1. 10 10
0.3045-0.3961	8182.444	0.3043-0.3932	1 £ 1 9 7.00
0.4022-0.4938	4992.576	0.4006-0.4969	14417.50
0.5000-0.5977	2528.778	0.5043-0.5932	9 6 7 9 . 7 7 9
0.6038-0.6954	359.177	0.6006-0.6968	1 £ 4 7 . 4 4
0.7015-0.7199	1.95	0.7043-0.7931	٤٢٠٠
		0.8005-0.8968	٥٥
		0.9042-0.9413	١
Total Area	44760.25	Total Area	V0£17V

# تقدير دليل تغاير الغطاء النباتي المعدّل (NDVI) لمنطقة مختارة من العراق وللعامين ١٩٩٠ و ٢٠٠١

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### الخلاصة:

أن دليل تغاير الغطاء النباتي المعدّل يستعمل غالباً كمقياس لكثافة الغطاء النباتي لسطح الارض المبنية على أفتراض أن قيم دليل تغاير الغطاء النباتي المعدّل تتناسب أيجاباً مع كمية أو كثافة الغطاء النباتي في مساحة عنصر الصورة (pixel) للقمر الصناعي الامريكي لاندسات من معلومات التحسس النائي التي تستخدم لتقدير مساحة الغطاء النباتي في منطقة غرب بغداد خلال الفترة ١٩٩٠ و ٢٠٠١. بينت النتائج أن في الفترة من ١٩٩٠ الى ٢٠٠١ انخفضت مساحة الأرض المكشوفة (الجرداء) وازدادت المساحة الخضرية من (44760.25) هكتار الى (75410.٦٧) هكتار.