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ECOSYSTEM DEGRADATION CYCLE IN THE HIMALAYAN FOOTHILLS OF JAMMU, INDIA

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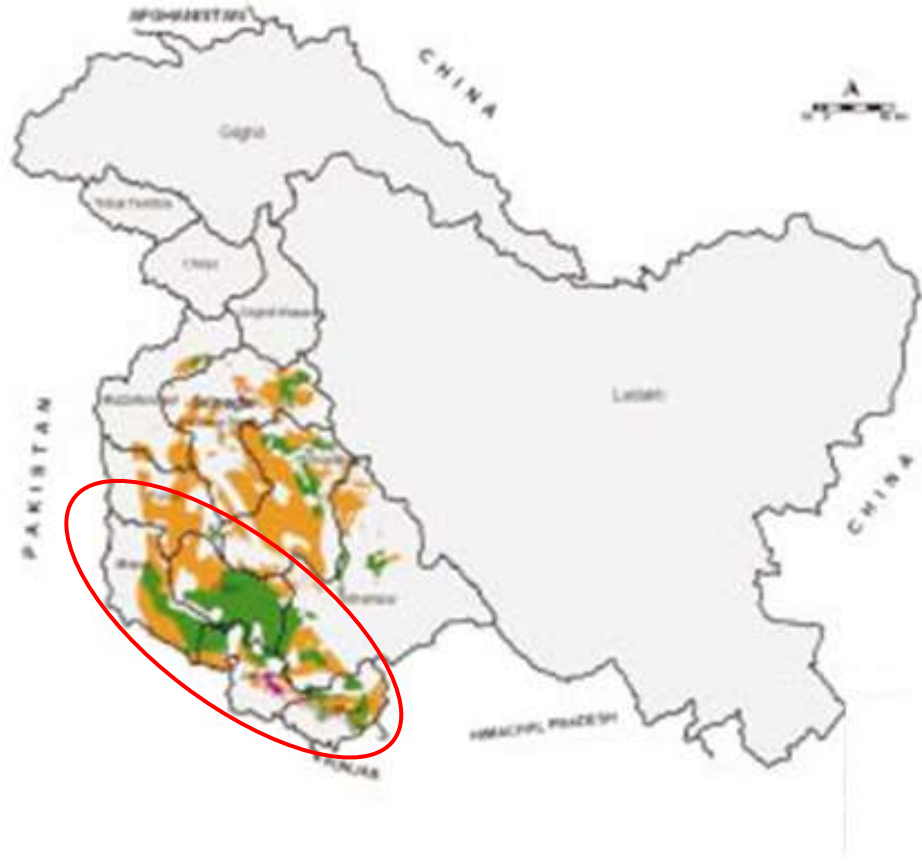
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Introduction

- Foothill Himalayas is a fragile ecosystem
- Large scale degradation mainly because of water erosion
- A million ha. In Jammu division alone is degraded
- Water scarcity is a major factor responsible for poor crop productivity, and hence poverty.
- Both poverty and ecosystem degradation are interlinked.
- Poor returns which translates into inability of the communities to invest in water harvesting and ecosystem conservation.

Constraints

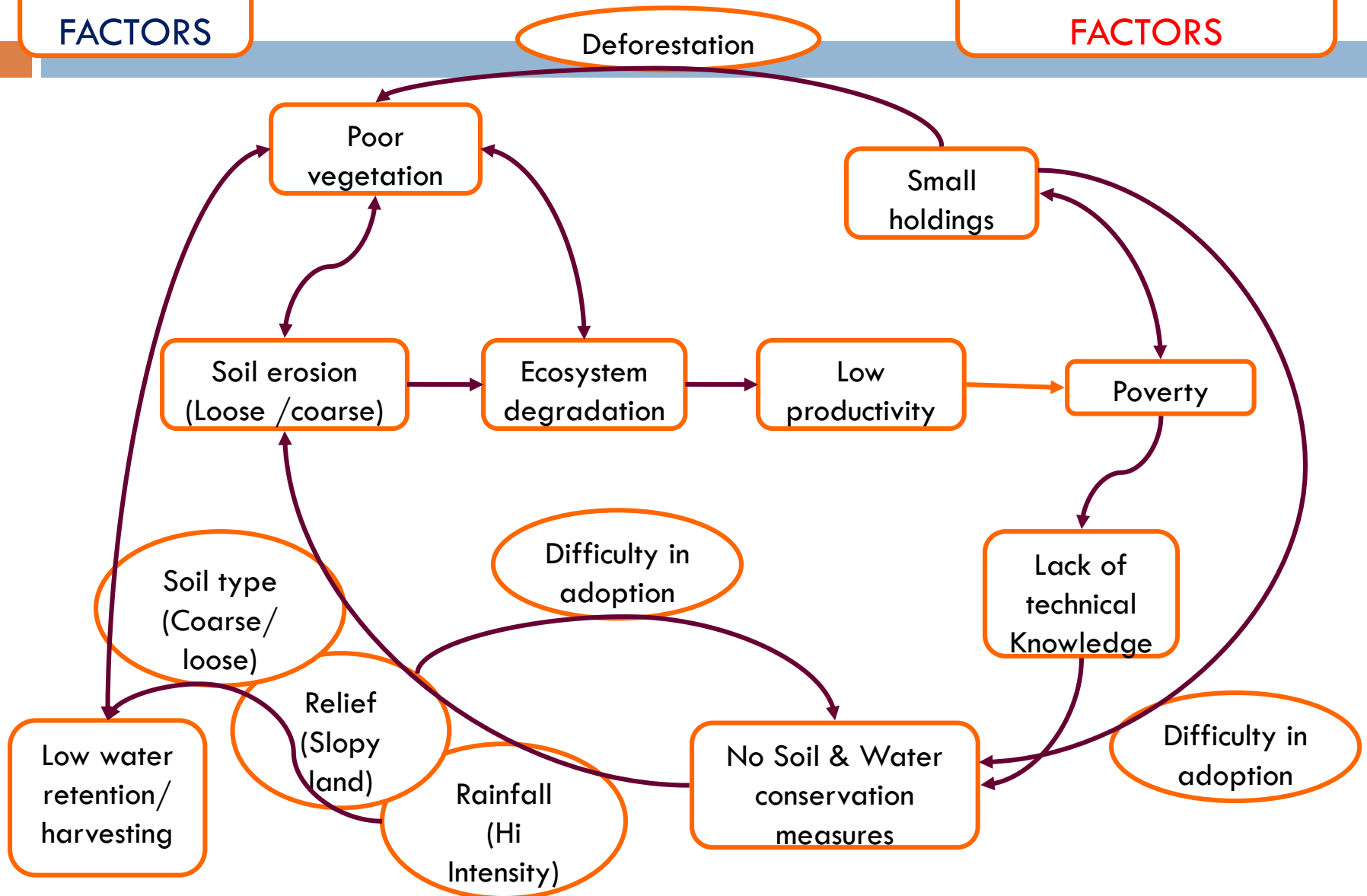
- Erratic rainfall (750-1 100 mm)
- deep water table,
- undulating terrain,
- frequent droughts,
- low soil organic matter
- coarse textured soils
- poor water retention capacity
- Soil erosion due to high runoff, results in sizeable loss of soil and nutrients.
- Dying natural/traditional water storage structures.



Ecosystem degradation cycle

NATURAL
FACTORS

ANTHROPOGENIC
FACTORS



Challenges and Opportunities

- The challenge lies in
 - protecting the limited land resource and storing the water,
 - improving productivity of land and
 - eroding poverty in the region.
- Maximize the value of the land for the stake holders.
 - Inexpensive, easy to adopt and use technologies.
 - Land holdings being small possibility of subsidiary occupations needs to be explored.
 - Agro-forestry and horticulture
 - Strategic interventions requiring capital at Administrative level.
 - Water storage structures: small and large



THANK YOU