Evaluation and mapping of soil erosion susceptibility: an example from Kenya.

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Abstract

The erosion susceptibility of the Erosion Research Farm at Kabete Campus was mapped using a qualitative parametric method. A grid soil survey of the 4 ha farm was combined with a map of slope gradients, slope segments being delineated by breaks in slope. Rainfall erosivity and soil erodibility were also measured. Areas with the greatest erosion susceptibility according to this method were those occupying convex slope positions and slopes of more than 30olo. Field observations and soil loss measurements generally supported the erosion susceptibility rating map produced by this method. The soil and erosion susceptibility maps were useful for planning erosion control measures and for selecting suitable sites for runoff plot experiments.