List of figures and plates

Figure 3.1 Map showing the study areas.

Figure 3.2 Climatograph of the study area (A) Monthly variation of air temperature (°C) and rainfall (mm), (B) Monthly variation of relative humidity (%).

Figure 3.3 Experimental design

Figure 4.1 Seasonal variation of soil moisture content in (a) jhum cultivation system (b) terrace cultivation system (c) horticultural/agroforestry system (d) abandoned jhum land (e) forest at Sagalee and Kheel.

Figure 4.2 Seasonal variation of soil pH in (a) jhum cultivation system (b) terrace cultivation system (c) horticultural system (d) abandoned jhum land (e) forest at Sagalee and Kheel.

Figure 4.3 Seasonal variation of ammonium-N concentration in (a) jhum field (b) terrace cultivation system (c) horticultural system (d) abandoned jhum land (e) forest soil at Sagalee and Kheel.

Figure 4.4 Seasonal variation of nitrate-N concentration in (a) jhum field (b) terrace cultivation system (c) horticultural system (d) abandoned jhum land (e) forest soil at Sagalee and Kheel.

Figure 4.5 Seasonal variation of available phosphorous concentration in (a) jhum field (b) terrace cultivation system (c) horticultural system (d) abandoned jhum land (e) forest soil at Sagalee and Kheel.

Figure 4.6 Seasonal variation of organic C in (a) jhum field (b) terrace cultivation system (c) horticultural system (d) abandoned jhum land (e) forest soil at Sagalee and Kheel.

Figure 4.7 Seasonal variation of total-N in (a) jhum field (b) terrace cultivation system (c) horticultural system (d) abandoned jhum land (e) forest soil at Sagalee and Kheel.

Figure 4.8 Seasonal variation of C/N ratio in (a) jhum field (b) terrace cultivation system (c) horticultural system (d) abandoned jhum land (e) forest soil at Sagalee and Kheel.

Figure 4.9 The scatter plot matrix showing linear relationship among different physical properties of soil irrespective of sites, land use systems, season, depth and year.

Figure 4.10 Scatter plot matrix showing the overall relationships among various chemical properties of soil irrespective of sites, land use system, season, depth and year.

Figure 5.1 Seasonal variation of soil fungi population (No. of colonies x 10^4 g^{-1})
dry soil) in different land use systems namely (A) jhum cultivation system (B) terrace cultivation system (C) *agroforestry/horticultural system (D) abandoned jhum land and (E) Forest at Sagalee and Kheel (W=winter, S=summer, R= rainy, A=autumn, AM=Annual mean) *agroforestry in Kheel and horticulture in Sagalee.

Figure 5.2 Seasonal variation of soil bacteria population (No. of colonies x 10^4 g^-1 dry soil) in different land use systems namely (A) jhum cultivation system (B) terrace cultivation system (C) *agroforestry/horticultural system (D) abandoned jhum land and (E) Forest at Sagalee and Kheel (W=winter, S=summer, R= rainy, A=autumn, AM=Annual mean) *agroforestry in Kheel and horticulture in Sagalee.

Figure 5.3 Seasonal variation of soil microbial biomass C (μg g^-1) in different land use systems namely (A) jhum cultivation system (B) terrace cultivation system (C) *agroforestry/horticultural system (D) abandoned jhum land and (E) Forest at Sagalee and Kheel (W=winter, S=summer, R= rainy, A=autumn, AM=Annual mean) *agroforestry in Kheel and horticulture in Sagalee.

Figure 5.4 Seasonal variation of soil microbial biomass N (μg g^-1) in different land use systems namely (A) jhum cultivation system (B) terrace cultivation system (C) *agroforestry/horticultural system (D) abandoned jhum land and (E) Forest at Sagalee and Kheel (W=winter, S=summer, R= rainy, A=autumn, AM=Annual mean) *agroforestry in Kheel and horticulture in Sagalee.

Figure 5.5 Relationship between microbial biomass with soil C and N content.

Figure 6.1 Relative contributions of herb, shrub, and tree species to the plant communities of different land use systems at Sagalee and Kheel.

Figure 6.2 Density and basal area of trees, herbs and shrubs of different land use systems at Sagalee and Kheel.

Figure 6.3 Importance value index of tree species in different land use systems in Sagalee and Kheel.

Figure 6.4 Importance value index of shrubs in forest (a), abandoned jhum land (b), horticulture (c), terrace cultivation system (d), jhum cultivation system (e) at Sagalee.

Figure 6.5 Importance value index of shrubs in forest (a) abandoned jhum land (b), agroforestry (c), terrace cultivation system (d), jhum cultivation system (e) at Kheel.

Figure 6.6 Importance value index of herbs in forest (a), abandoned jhum land (b), agroforestry (c), terrace cultivation system (d), jhum cultivation system (e) at Sagalee.
Figure 6.7 Importance value index of herbs in forest (a), abandoned jhum land (c), groforestry (d), terrace cultivation system (d) and jhum cultivation system (b) at Kheel.

Figure 7.1 Monthly variation of plat biomass in (A & B) jhum cultivation system (C & D) terrace cultivation system (E) agroforestry/ horticultural system (F) abandoned jhum land (G) Forest at Sagalee.

Figure 7.2 Monthly variation of plant biomass in (A & B) jhum cultivation system (C&D) terrace cultivation system (C) agroforestry/ horticultural system (D) abandoned jhum land (E) Forest at Kheel.

Figure 7.3 Annual crop and weed biomass production in different land use systems at Sagalee.

Figure 7.4 Annual crop and weed biomass production in different land use systems at Kheel.

Figure 8.1 Dry weight, carbon and nitrogen remaining (% of initial) during decomposition of *Ageratum conyzoides* leaf (A), stem (B) and root (C); *Oryza sativa* straw (D) and root (E); *Castanopsis indica* leaf (F), *Eleucine coracana* straw (G) and root (H).

Figure 8.2 Dry weight, carbon and nitrogen remaining (% of initial) during decomposition of *Glycine max* leaf (A), stem (B); *Zea mays* stem (C); *Manihot esculenta* leaf (D); *Musa sp.* leaf (E); *Litsea monopetela* leaf (F), *Gmelina arborea* leaf (G).

Figure 8.3 Decay pattern of different crop/plant residues namely *Ageratum conyzoides* leaf (B) stem (C) root; *Oryza sativa* (D) straw (E) root and (F) *Musa sp.* leaf.

Figure 8.4 Decay pattern of different crop/plant residues: *Eleucine coracana* straw(A), root(B), *Glycine max* leaf (C), stem (D) and *Manihot esculenta* leaf (E) *Zea mays* stem (F).

Figure 8.5 Decay pattern of different plant leaf litter namely *Litsea monopetela* (A), *Gmelina arborea* (B) *Castanopsis indica* (C).

Figure 8.6 Monthly variation of net N mineralization rate (% release day\(^{-1}\)) in the decomposing litter of *Ageratum conyzoides* leaf (A), root (B), stem (C), *Oryza sativa* straw (D), root (E), *Castanopsis indica* leaf (F), *Musa sp.* leaf (G), *Eleucine coracana* straw (H).

Figure 8.7 Monthly variation of net N mineralization rate (% release day\(^{-1}\)) in the decomposing litter of *Eleucine coracana* root (A), *Glycine max* stem (B), leaf (C), *Manihot esculenta* leaf (D), *Zea mays* stem (E), *Litsea monopetela* leaf (F), *Gmelina arborea* leaf (G).

Figure 8.8 Relationship between weight loss (day\(^{-1}\)) and initial litter chemistry.

Figure 8.9 Relationship between C release (day\(^{-1}\)) and initial litter chemistry.
Figure 8.10 Relationship between N release (day$^{-1}$) and initial litter chemistry.

Figure 9.1 Percentage germination of (A) Zea mays (B) Phaseolus vulgaris (C) Abelmoschus esculentus under different treatments.

Figure 9.2 Above and below ground biomass production (kg ha$^{-1}$) in (A) Zea mays (B) Phaseolus vulgaris (C) Abelmoschus esculentus under different plots.

Figure 9.3 Inorganic N concentration and N mineralization in soil during the plant growth in different plots under different treatments.

Figure 9.4 Regression showing relationship between biomass productions over time and total inorganic N in soil.

Figure 9.5 Regression showing relationship between biomass productions over time and N mineralization in soil.

Plate 3.1 Jhum cultivation system
Plate 3.2 Terrace cultivation system
Plate 3.3 Horticultural system
Plate 3.4 Agroforestry system
Plate 3.5 Abandoned jhum land
Plate 3.6 Forest ecosystem
Plate 7.1 Harvesting of paddy
Plate 7.2 Residues left after on-farm processing of harvested crops
Plate 7.3 Paddy residues left in terrace cultivation system
Plate 7.4 Maize Residues left in jhum cultivation system
Plate 7.5 Crop residue loss from jhum cultivation system