

Land Use and Land Cover Changes of West Tahta Region, Sohag Governorate, Upper Egypt

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ABSTRACT

Due to the growing of population in Egypt during the last few decades, great changes in agricultural area, and urbanization of Egypt art occurred. In this study we utilized the available record of multitemporal Land sat Thematic Mapper (Tm) and Egypt sat image to produce land cover/land use map of the area between 1987 and 2009. Also we used the post-classification change detection analysis to detect the change in the agriculture, urban areas and the change in the River Nile during the period between 1987 and 2009. The post-classification change detection analysis shows that agriculture development increased by 1785.96 Hectare through the study period with average annual rate of land reclamation 81.18 Hectare/year. While the urban area increased by 2231.24 Hectare with average annual rate 101.42 Hectare/year the increase of the urbanization and the growth occurring through encroachment into the farmer old cultivated lands. The change in the River Nile is not so much is reached to 138.32 Hectare in the study period with average annual rate 6.29 Hectare/year. The result of this study show that, the accuracy are quantify with the land cover changes and also delineate their spatial patterns, which display the efficiency of land sat in evaluating landscape dynamics over a particular time span. This data are very useful for natural resources management.

Keywords: Land Use; Land Cover; Remote Sensing; Change Detection

1. Introduction

Egypt is one of the lands which suffering from the rabid growth of population, the total population increased ranged from 11 million in year 1907 to 79.88 million in 2011 [1]. This increase leads to all the people which are live neighbor the River Nile in the past to search about anew area to live in it. [2] noticed that the Quaternary River Nile sediments which occupy 5% of the Egypt area support 90% of Egypt's agriculture production. In the last three decades the development of the Egyptian desert has accelerated rapidly for reliving overpopulation pressure in the narrow Nile Valley and Delta which the average annual growth rate is expected to reach 1.75% [3]. The successive governments of Egypt adopted policies seeking self sufficiency in food production through the extension of cultivated land (1.2% per year) and maximization of production of the existing agricultural land [4]. Also the national plan aims at exploiting 25% of the territory of Egypt by the end of the first half of the 21st. Reclamations for agriculture purposes and human settlements have targeted different areas throughout the Egypt and the southern part of the western desert are which the study area lie in it is a part of these areas.

The study area is lies in the western side of the River Nile at Tahta in the Sohage governorate, Upper Egypt. Upper Egypt becomes important and attractive area after the national project of agriculture (Tushka). Remote sensing studies are applied to monitoring and evaluate the change and the development of these new areas. Remote sensing data provide the better source for derivations of land-use due to reproducibility, internal consistency and coverage in locations where ground-based knowledge is sparse [5,6]. Remote sensing technology has greatly facilitated investigation and monitoring of land use/cover changes. Several factors such as image quality, data analysis methodology, interpretation techniques, and numerous temporal and phonological considerations became known to significantly influence the quality of the resulting geospatial information [7]. Land sat Thematic Mapper (TM) and Enhanced Thematic Mapper Plus (ETM+) data have been widely applied in for land-use and change detections studies [8-10].

The accuracy of the resulting change maps is subjected to error propagation and is dependent on the accuracy of the input classification maps, the individual classified images constitute a historical series that can be used in

applications other than change detection [11].

In this study the change detection application using post classification comparison along with field investigations were used to detect the change in agriculture areas, urban areas, and River Nile during the period from 1987 to 2009 of the area under investigation. The quality of the land-use maps and change detection information produced were ensured through accuracy assessment analysis. The validated change detection results facilitated comparing vegetation cover patterns and urban land-use trends and the River Nile change are spatially and quantitatively. The information gleaned from land-use/cover and changes over time can be used in formulating management policies of the national governments and monitoring active agricultural programs.

2. Materials and Methods

Landsat Thematic Mapper (TM) acquired in 1987 (**Figure 1**) and Egypt sat 2009 (**Figure 2**) have been used to detect the change in agriculture and urban areas as well

as the River Nile, from 1987 to 2009. The topographic maps prepared by the Egyptian Military Survey at scale 1:50,000 were also used as well as field investigations. Numerous change detection methods have been developed to assess variations in the land cover using satellite data including image differencing, principal component method and post-classification comparisons. Among these techniques the post-classification comparison is preferable. The accuracy of this technique to detect the dynamic changes depends mainly on the accuracy of the individual classification of each land cover unit.

In this study radiometric calibration was performed using ERDAS imagine -9.2 [12]. Geometric correction is applied to raw sensors data to correct errors of perspective due to the Earth's curvature and sensor motion. Some of these errors are commonly removed at the sensor's data processing center (NASA). Georeferencing refers to the process of assigning map coordinates to image data. Image mask process is used to reduce consumed time during processing and the storage capacity of processed images [13].

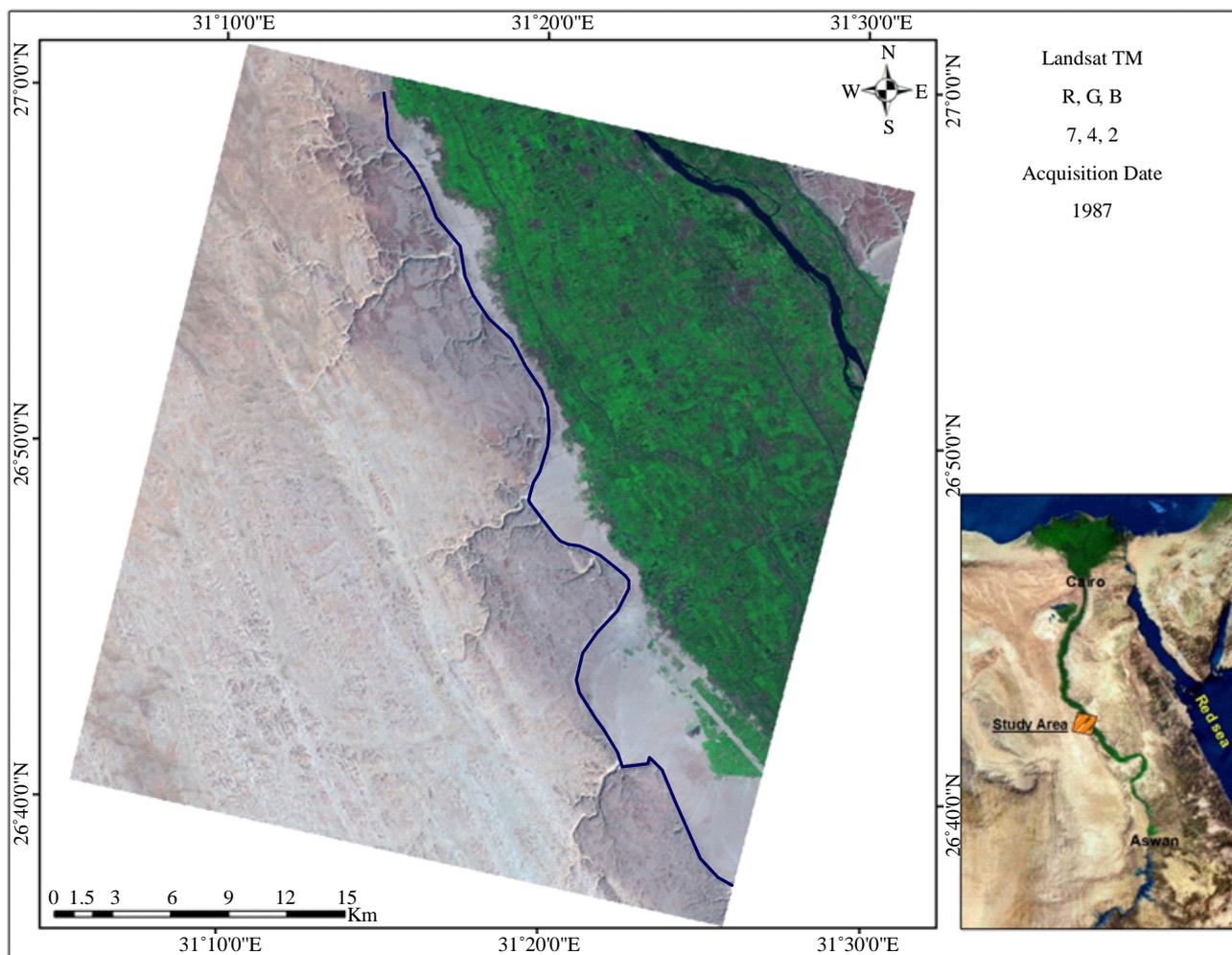


Figure 1. Land sat TM acquired in 1987 (blue line is scarp border).

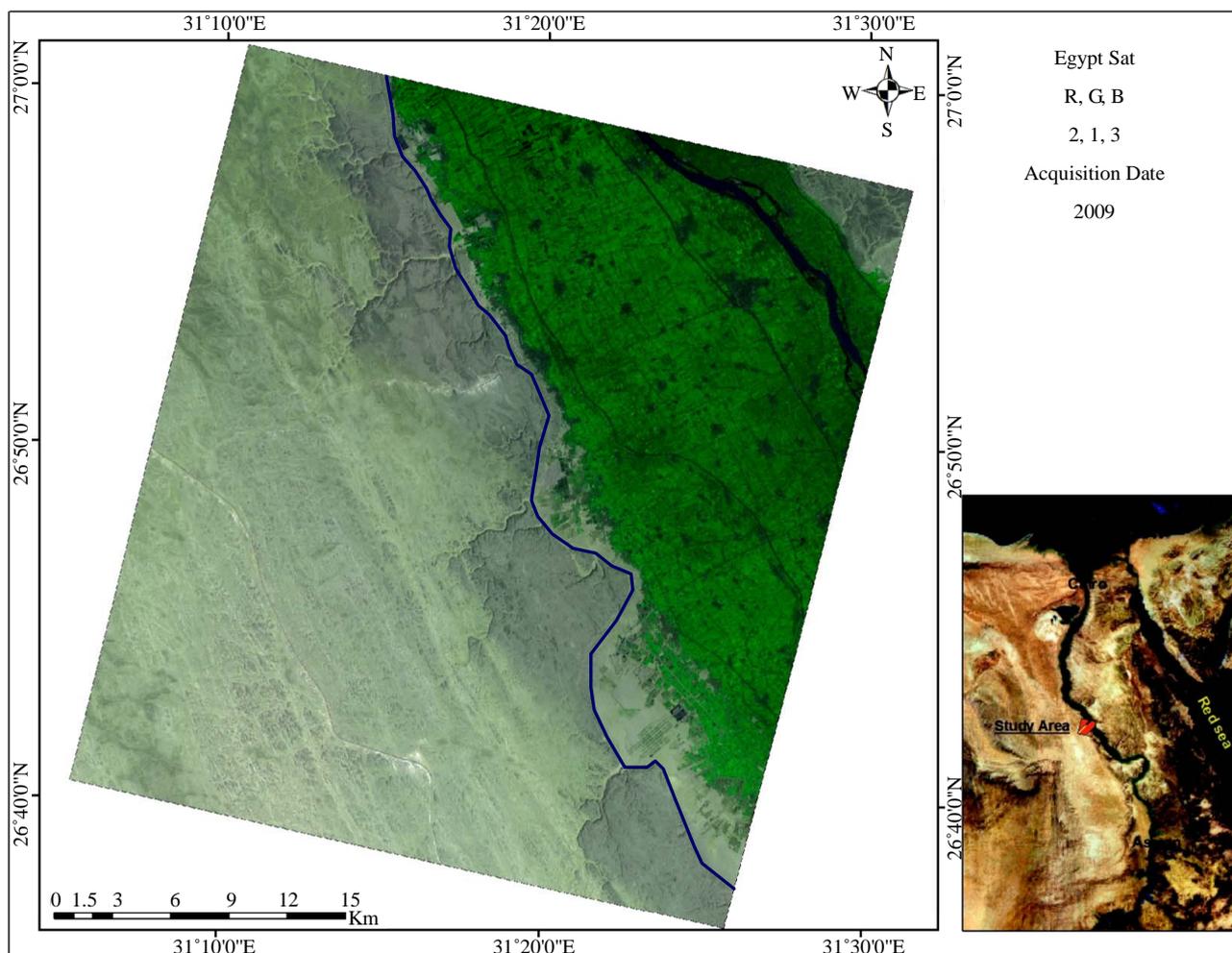


Figure 2. Egypt sat 2009 (blue line is the scarp border).

Multispectral image classification is used to extract thematic information from satellite images in a semi-automatic way [14]. Digital image classification uses the spectral information represented by the digital numbers in one or more spectral bands and attempts to classify each individual pixel based on the spectral information. This type of classification is termed spectral pattern recognition. The result of classified image is comprised of a mosaic of pixels, each of which belongs to a particular theme and essentially a thematic “map” of the original image.

3. Image Classification

In this study the TM data and Egypt sat data were classified by using supervised and unsupervised classification technique.

Supervised classification has been developed for satellite image processing where it has been applied to the classification of spectral layers. Supervised classification depends mainly on the experience and accuracy of the

user in detecting the signature differences between various units in the satellite image using his naked eyes. Using ERDAS Imagine version 9.1 new supervised classification analyses were carried out on the TM (1987) and Egypt sat (2009) images to identify the land use/cover changes in the study area. The supervised classification wasn't able to differentiate between various landcover units, so the unsupervised classification technique took place which gave more valuable and accurate results.

In the unsupervised classification, the computer separates the pixels into classes with no directions from the analyst [15]. This means that unsupervised classification techniques do not require the user to specify any information about the features contained in the images. In the study area the unsupervised classification applied to the six visible and reflected IR bands of the subscene resulted in 20 classes. At this point, the image is difficult to interpret. Decisions need to be made concerning land cover types corresponding to each category.

To make these decisions, additional materials and knowledge of the area are useful. Checking in the field,

the various areas discriminated in the digital image should be performed at the time of correction of the image to obtain more accurate results. If this knowledge is not available, scientific reasoning may be used to group the various categories together into related land cover units. In the case of the present study the second option was the only possibility. The unsupervised classification analyses (Figures 3 and 4) were carried out on the TM (1987) and Egypt sat (2009) images to identify the land use/cover changes in the study area. Three different land use classes were identified which include the following:

- 1) Agriculture and cultivated lands with the green color.
- 2) Urban and man made structures with the black color.
- 3) River Nile with the blue color.

Post-classification refinement was used to improve the accuracy of the classification as it is a simple and effective method [16], because urban surface is heterogeneous and composed of a complex combination of features (e.g., buildings, roads, grass, trees, soil, water) [17]. After the

performance of the post-classification refinement, the misclassifications have been mostly corrected. The post-classification transformation of the classified raster into shape three vectors has been done using ENVI version 4.5 and using ARC GIS tool. The obtained shape three was converted into a geodata base in order to introduce the change detection analysis. Before this step, it is necessary to make sure that the classification used for the change detection procedure is matching fact in the field using the accuracy assessment technique.

4. Accuracy Assessment

Accuracy is the degree of closeness of results to the true values. The expected accuracy and the level of confidences obtained from a particular accuracy assessment approach depends primary on the number of samples of each class and the quality of reference data set involved in the analysis. The classified thematic maps are produced for a wide variety of resources: soil types or properties, land cover, land use and many more. These maps

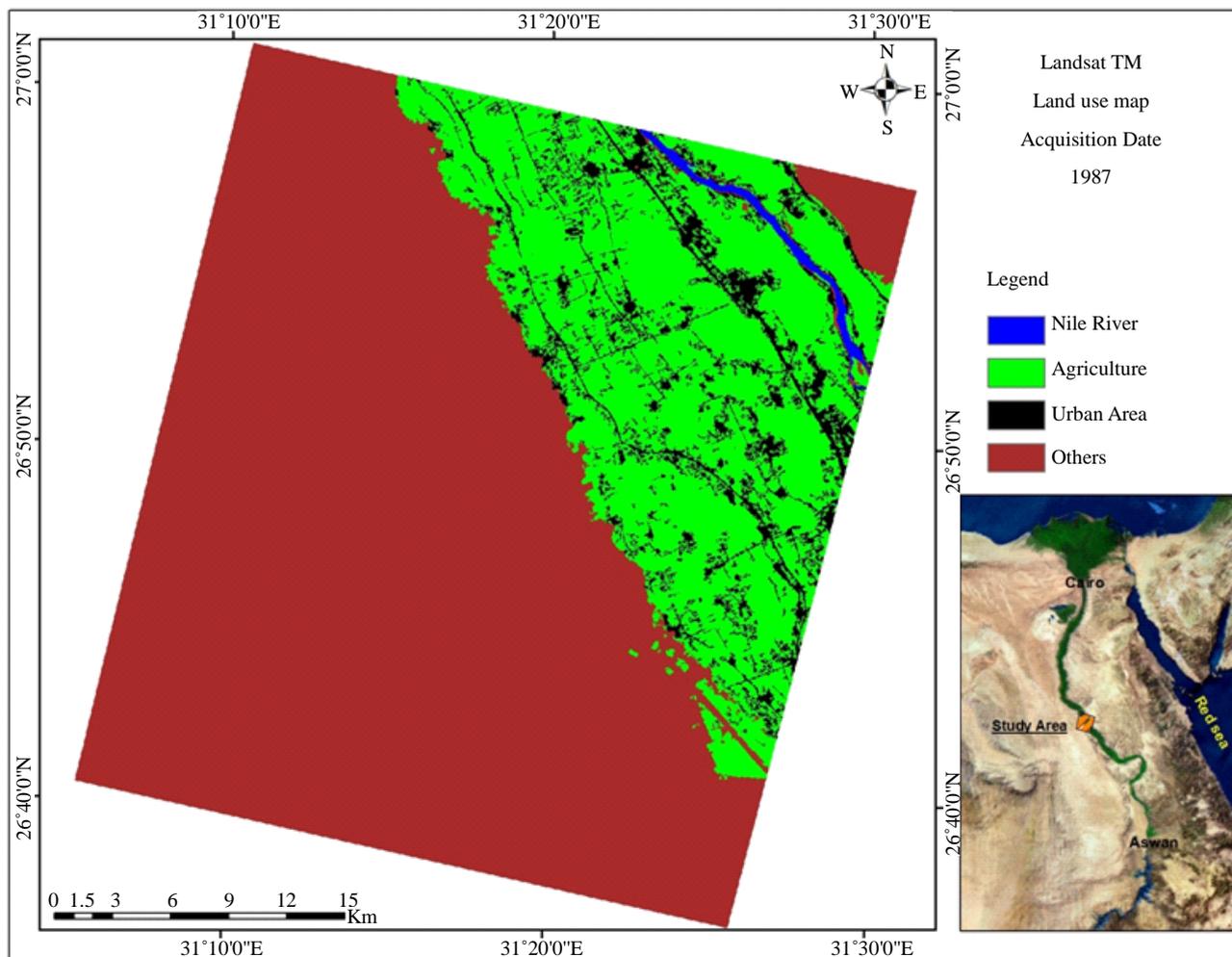


Figure 3. Land use map 1987.

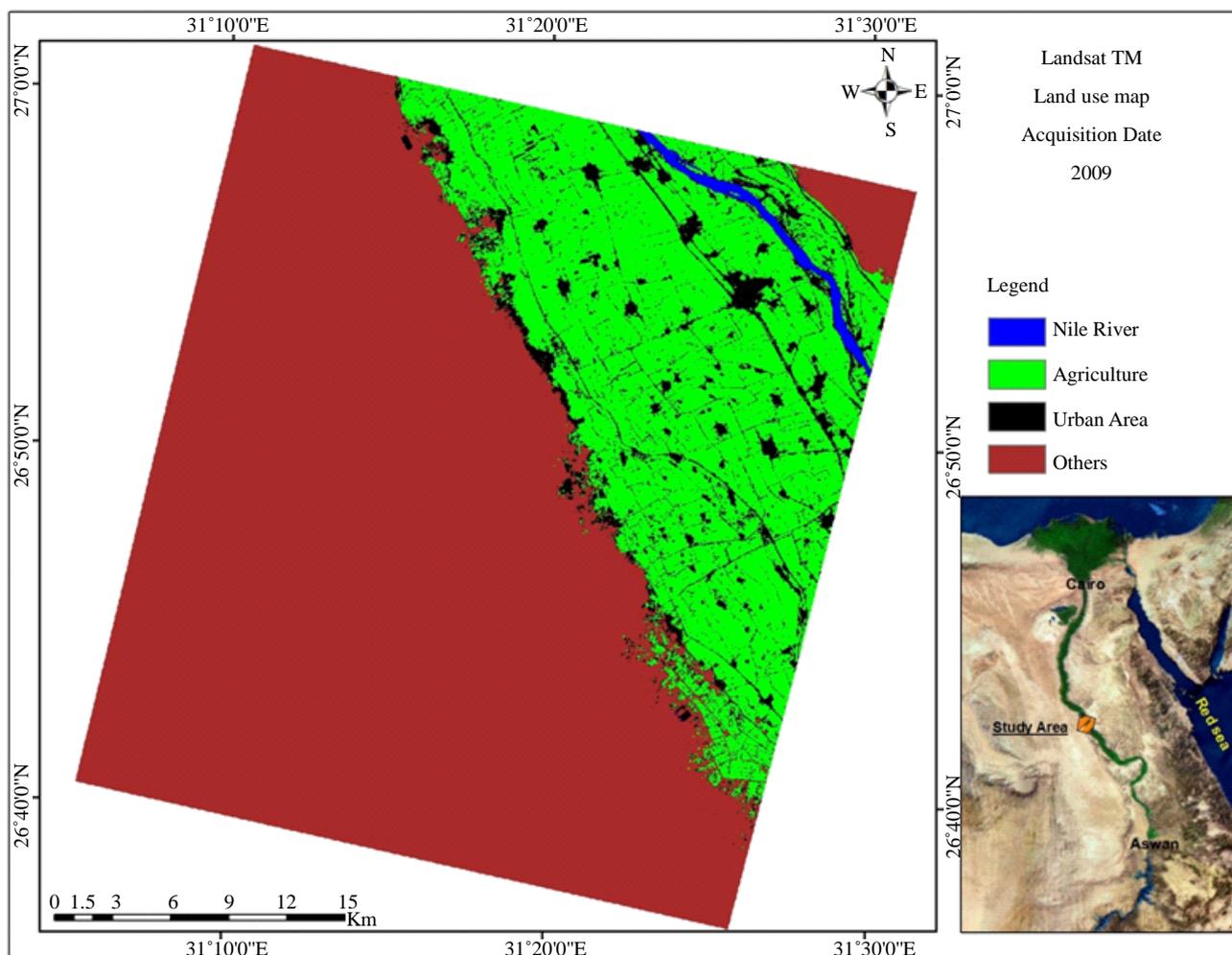


Figure 4. Land use map 2009.

are not very useful without quantitative statements about their accuracy. Generally, classification accuracy refers to the extent of correspondence between the remotely sensed data and reference information [17].

The accuracy of digital land cover classifications can be expressed quantitatively by building and interpreting a classification error matrix. An error matrix compares information from a classified image or land cover map to known reference ("truth") sites for a number of sample points.

The accuracy assessment of the land cover maps extracted from Landsat data include the generation of 100 random references ("truth points") for each land cover map. Accuracy assessment of the land cover maps after the post-classification refinement and merging of the 20 classes into 3 classes covering the major land cover units was then performed using field data, topographic maps, and the results were recorded in a confusion matrix. Confusion matrix, standard method for accuracy assessment [18-20] is applied to detect the accuracy of both classification and change detection outputs. Two impor-

tant information can be derived from the error matrix: errors of omission, or producer's accuracy, and commission, or user's accuracy [21-23]. The user's accuracy of a specific class is the ratio of the correctly classified samples to the total number of samples selected in that class. A Kappa coefficient is commonly used as a measure of the map accuracy [20,24]. Typically, the overall accuracy target of 85% with no class less than 70% accuracy is acceptable for land-use/land-cover mapping with Landsat data [25,26]. The accuracy of the land-use/landcover maps was evaluated at several stages in the processing. [27] found that integrating visual interpretation with supervised classification increase the overall accuracy by about 10 percent in areas undergone a severe land-cover change. The expected accuracy and the level of confidence obtained from a particular accuracy assessment approach depend primarily on the number of samples of each class and the quality of reference data set involved in the analysis. The accuracy of both classification and change detection outputs in terms of agreement between our derived map and references datasets is evaluated empirically

using confusion matrices, standard method for accuracy assessment [18,20]. Important information can be derived from the errors of omission, or producer’s accuracy and commotion can be derived from the error matrix: error of omission, or producer’s accuracy, and commission, or user’s accuracy of a specific class is the ratio of the correctly classified samples to the total number of samples selected in the class. Likewise, the producer’s accuracy of one class is derived by taking the ratio of correctly defined pixels to the total number of pixels selected for that class in the reference data.

For classification purposes, 75 or 100 samples per land-use is recognized acceptable in evaluating large area (~4000 Km²) or if there are more than twelve land-use classes in the analysis [20]. After eliminating reference data close to boundaries, 95 samples, completely included within 10 - 15 pixels, were randomly selected from reference stations of each land-use class and given a unique identification number. In a random fashion, 35% of these identification numbers were used for accuracy assessment, and the remainder was used as training sites. Before carrying out change detection, the accuracy of the land-use/land-cover maps was evaluated at several stages in the processing. **Table 1** shows that the overall accuracy of the land-use/land cover maps, with the user and producer accuracy and Kappa coefficients of Egypt sat 2009.

In Egypt due to the presence of water and vegetation cover all the years leads to great difficulties to distinguish between urban areas and agriculture fields because of similar visible-near infrared spectra [4,28]. In my study the calculated overall accuracies represent the maximum obtainable accuracies but not the optimum. This is due to the errors of omission which are calculated from the producer accuracy data not accounting for any possible bias introduced by the details of the sampling process, for example the sampling technique itself or the number of samples per class [29]. **Table 1** shows that the

agriculture classification accuracy is 94%, while urban classification is 97.56% and the River Nile classification accuracy is 94.23.

5. Change Detection

Change detection is a general remote sensing technique that compares imagery collected over the same area at different times and highlights features that have changed. Many remote sensing change detection techniques have been developed, and the advantages and disadvantages of each have been reviewed by a number of authors [26]. However, new digital change detection techniques are continuing to be developed, primarily in response to the range of social and environmental challenges posed by human transformation of the Earth’s surface [30,31] and the potential of remote sensing in monitoring related processes [32-34].

All change detection techniques rely on the basic idea that changes in the spectral and/or textural characteristics of geometrically, atmospherically, and topographically corrected remotely sensed imagery represent changes of the Earth’s surface. The most frequently used change detection algorithms are image differencing, principal components analysis, and post-classification comparison, respectively.

In this study, the post-classification comparison method is the most preferable. The magnitude and location of change (“from-to” change detection matrix) were determined for the entire studied years (1987-2009). The major land cover changes were color coded. **Table 2** shows the observed major land cover changes and the area of each land cover class has been given in m² with the yearly average change in each type (each class).

6. Discussion and Conclusions

Understanding the potentiality of natural resources and a natural hazard are very important in the development and

Table 1. User’s and producer’s accuracies and Kappa coefficients for the change detection data analysis.

Accuracy Total Egypt Sat 2009					
Class Name	Reference Totals	Classified Totals	Number Correct	Producers Accuracy %	Users Accuracy %
Nile River	52	50	49	94.23	98
Agriculture	50	50	47	94	94
Urban	41	50	40	97.56	80
Desert	57	50	48	84.21	96
Total	200	200	184	-	-
Overall Classification Accuracy = 92%					
Class Name		Kappa Statistics			
Nile River		0.97			
Agriculture		0.92			
Urban		0.7			
Desert		0.94			
Total Kappa Statistics		0.89			

also in the creation of new societies [35].

This information are not only useful to improve the natural resources but also play a vital role in keeping the land development from water logging, soil salinity, desertification and probable natural hazards like Flash floods [36]. The statistics and maps product from the

analysis are useful in monitoring socioeconomic potential and trends [4].

The agriculture in the study area covered about 34573.90 ha in 1987 while it reached about 36359.80 ha in 2009 (Figure 5), that means a total increase in the agriculture area from 1987 to 2009 of about 1785.9 ha

Table 2. The lands cover changes in (Hectare) in 1987 and 2009 and the average of Change per year.

Class	1987	2009	Total Change	Chang/year
Agriculture	34573.90 ha	36359.80 ha	1785.9 ha	81.2 ha
Urban	6034.37 ha	8265.58 ha	2231.21 ha	101.45 ha
River Nile	686.79 ha	825.11 ha	138.32 ha	6.29 ha

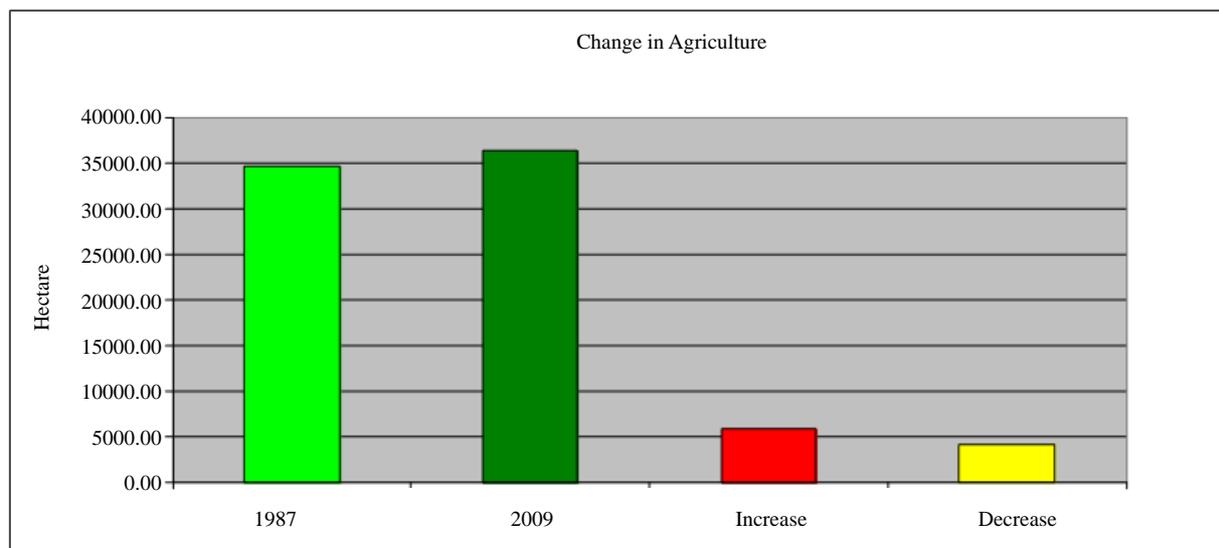
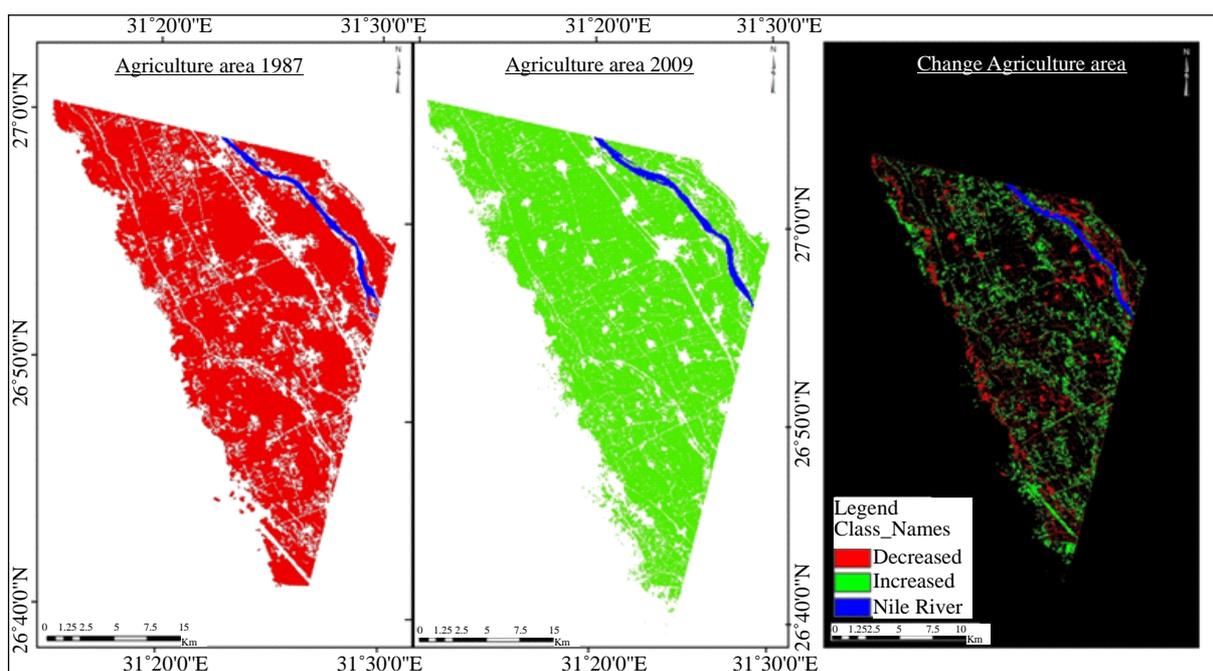


Figure 5. Change detection map in agriculture area.

with an average annual rate of 81.2 ha/year. This increase in the agriculture area is due to the extensive reclamation project in the study area. Presence of underground water represented by Quaternary aquifer plays an important role in the development. This aquifer mainly recharged from the surface water (River Nile and irrigation canal) this leads to the groundwater suitable for irrigation, due to the low of salinity and also sodium adsorption ratio.

The presence of suitable water for live act as the main role in the development, this leads to extensive urban project to resolve the increasing in population. **Figure 6**

shows total urban area in 1987 are 6034.37 ha and in 2009 it reached to 8265.58 ha with total increase in the period from 1987 to 2009 about 2231.21 ha and average annual rate 101.45 ha/year.

River Nile is the main source of the surface water in the study and act as the source of the recharge of the quaternary aquifer which also act as the main source of the groundwater in the area under investigation. The River Nile from 1987 to 2009 (**Figure 7**), in 1987 are covered about 686.79 ha and in 2009, 825.11 ha with total change in this period about 138.32 ha and average annual

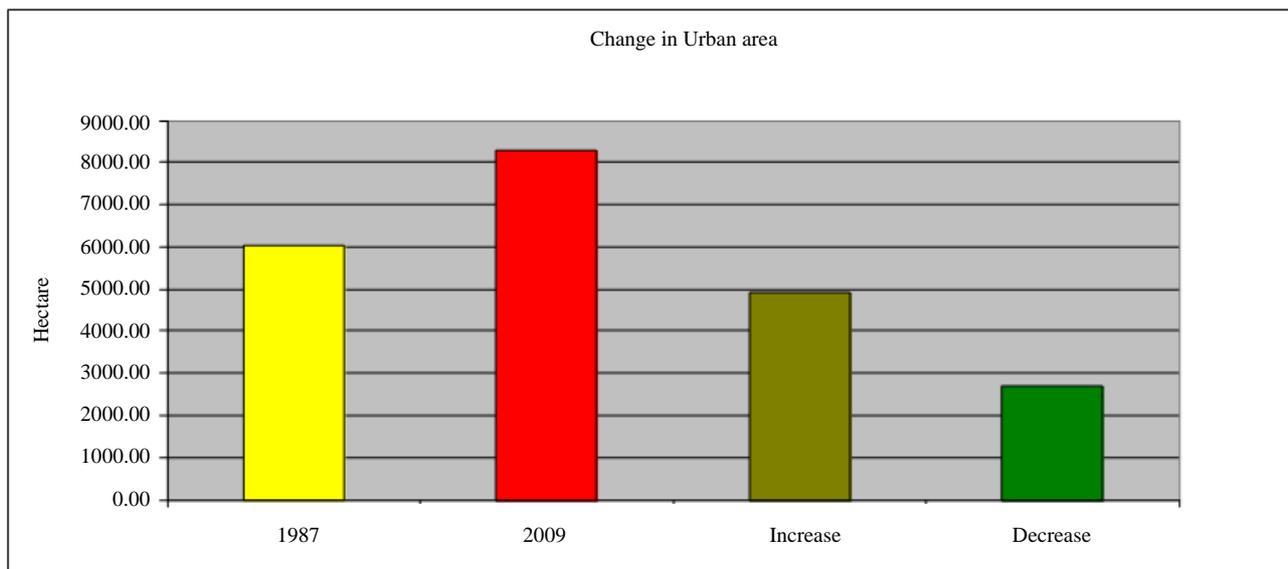
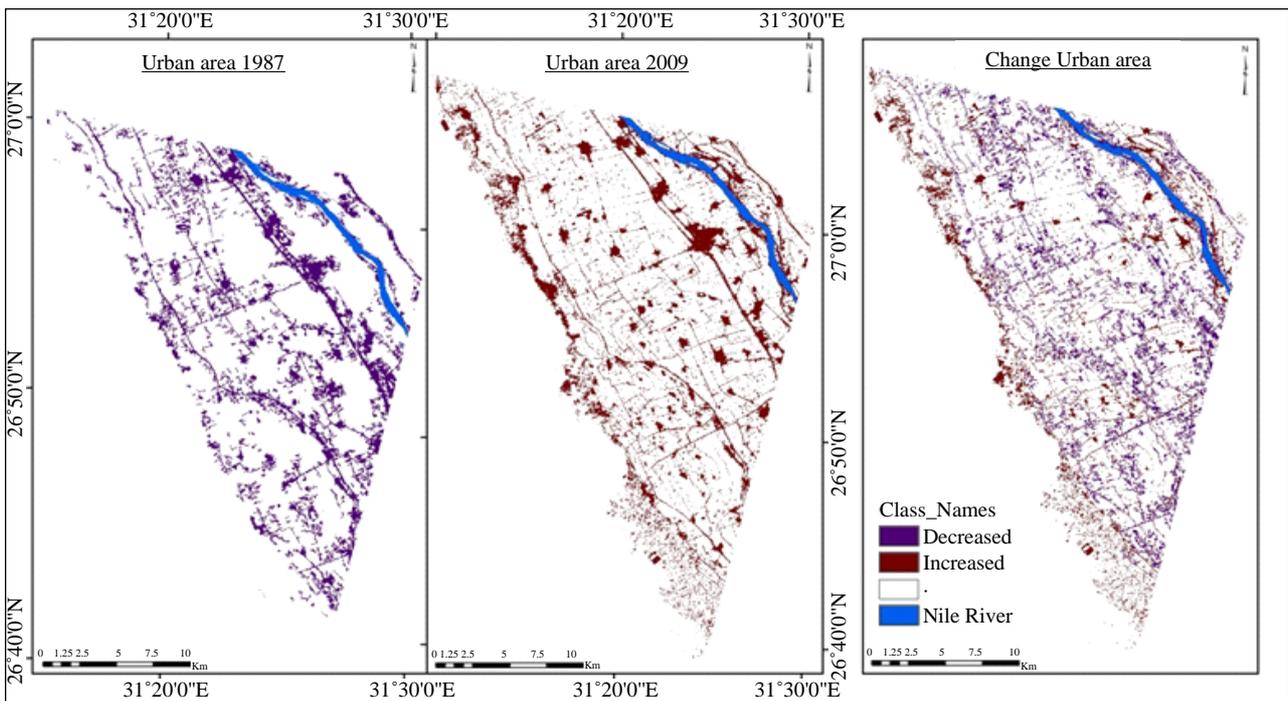


Figure 6. Change detection map in urban area.

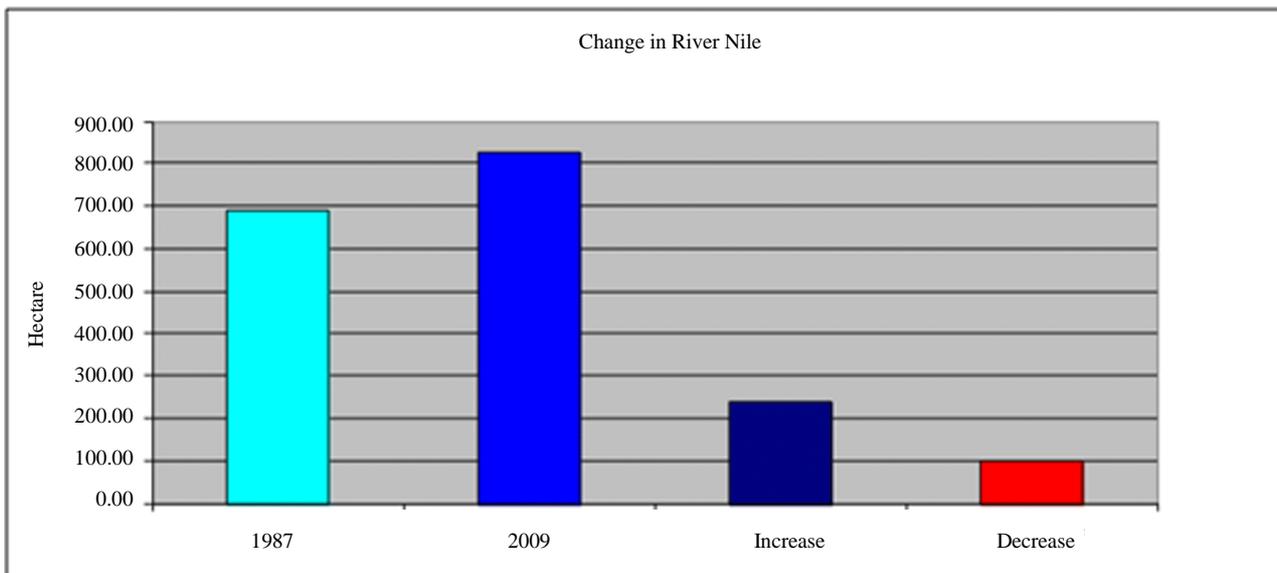
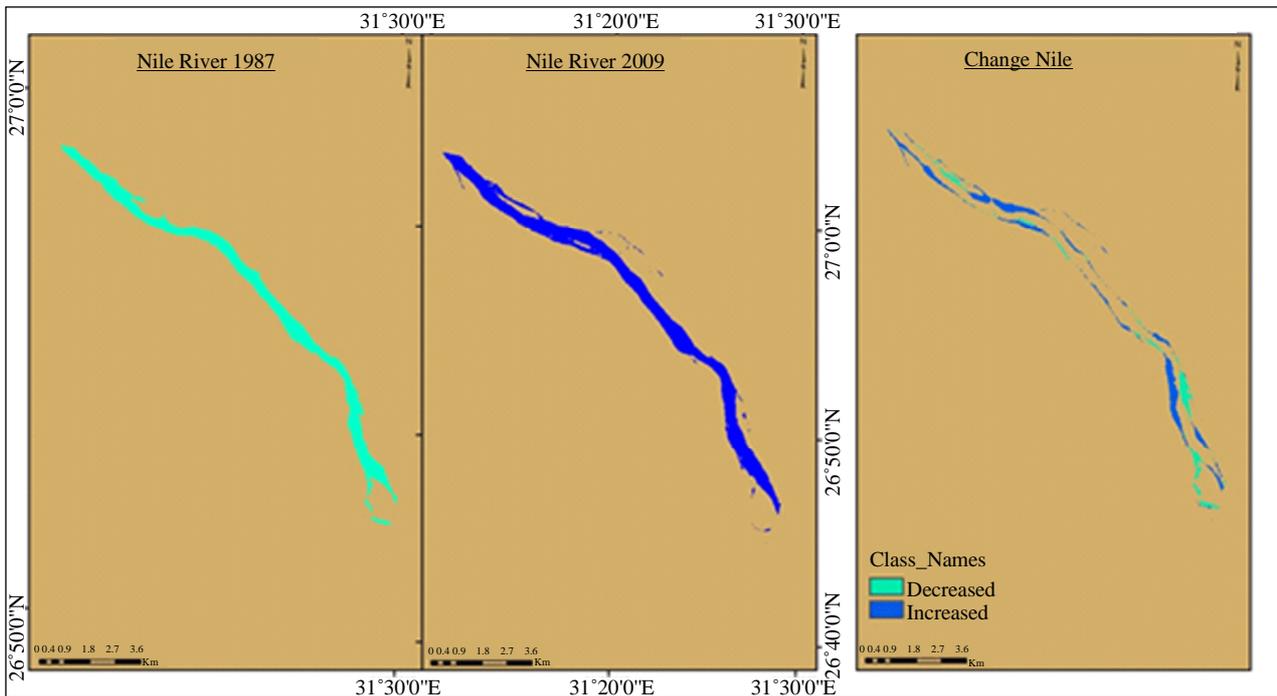


Figure 7. Change detection map in River Nile.

rate 6.29 ha/year.

From the upper discussion we found that, there are high change in the agriculture area and urban area it reached to 81.2 ha/year and 101.45 ha/year respectively. The change in the River Nile is low with average annual rate 6.29 ha/year.

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