

« Natural hazards in terraced landscapes »

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In steep areas the lack of terrain suitable to farming has induced man to modify the slopes with terraces. In the ligurian territory (northern Italy) above the twenty per cent of the total surface area have been changed by means of terraces.

Terraces may be regarded as a human interference with the geomorphic system, which drives the evolution of the terrestrial surface. This interference actually causes the increase of the hazard particularly in those areas where the morphology hardly constrains the urbanisation.

The preliminary results here presented are part of the hazard assessment task of the EU Interreg III Alpter project, which was born to contrast the abandonment of terraced agricultural areas in the alpine region. After checking the real extension of terraces and collecting data, will be performed a MS (multivariate statistic) analysis to get to a decision tree model of the hazard connected with terraces. The preliminary results make focus attention mainly on aspect and gradient slope more than on other features.