

# **The High Nature Value Index**

## **Purpose and Functionality**

By

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# THE WORLD IS PERFECT

*It is just our knowledge of it that is  
imperfect*

# *For Example*

## Today's News Flash

**Chemical-infused watermelons  
explode in China:**

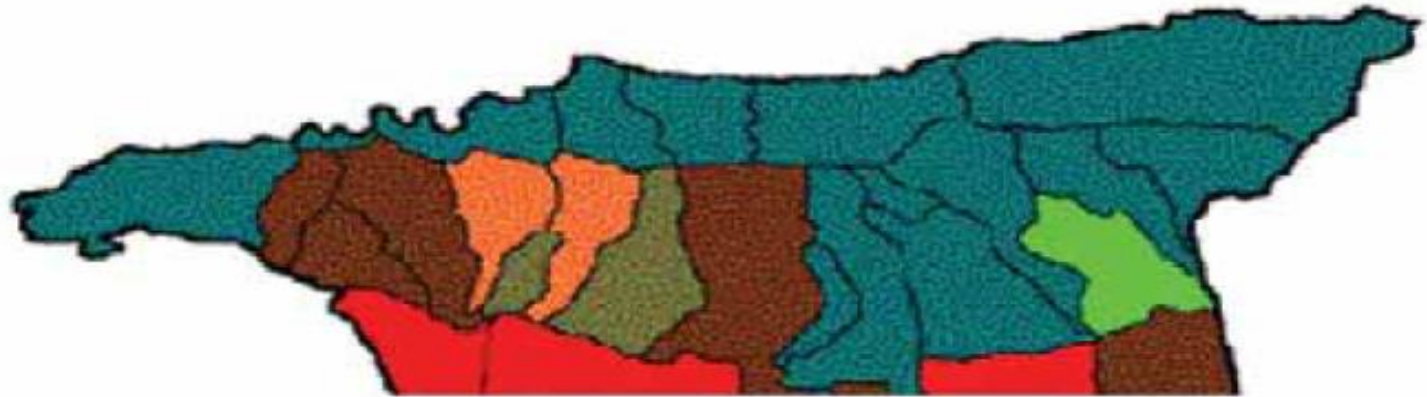








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A farmer holds up the packaging for chemicals used on watermelons that had burst in Danyang city in eastern China

# The High Nature Value Environments in Trinidad:

Fig. 21: Assessment of Watershed Quality (1999)



- |   |     |  |
|---|-----|--|
|    | 1.1 | Good in whole watershed                            |
|    | 1.2 | Good in upper watershed,<br>moderate in lower part |
|    | 1.3 | Good in upper watershed,<br>bad in lower part      |
|  | 2.1 | moderate in upper watershed                        |
|  | 2.2 | Moderate in upper watershed,<br>bad in lower part  |
|  | 2.3 | bad in nearly whole watershed                      |

Source: DHV Consultants BV (1999)

WHAT IS IMPORTANT ABOUT FARMING IN THIS

# HIGH NATURE VALUE ENVIRONMENT

## WHO CARES?

1. **You should** - about how costly it will become to maintain your productivity;
2. **Downstream farmers** - about what is coming down from your farm;
3. **WASA** – about the quality of the water they are collecting and the silting up of their reservoirs;
4. **Downstream communities** – about significant runoff and potential threat to life and property
5. **The Regional Corporation** – about flood damage between the EMR and the CRH
6. **The EMA** – about maintaining the integrity of the Landscape;
7. **The IMA** - about Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities.

When this Environment is in	Average annual (t/ha-1/year-1)	Soil Loss factor
Natural forest	0.046	1
Degraded forest	0.516	12
Grassland	2.673	63
Cultivation	11.878	279
Source (Faizool 2002)		

WHAT IS IMPORTANT ABOUT FARMING IN THIS

# **HIGH NATURE VALUE ENVIRONMENT**

- 1) You cannot farm in an High Nature Value Environment and pretend you do not know about **RESPONSIBLE LAND USE**.
- 2) You cannot be supporting farmers in this environment with advice that does not contribute to **GOOD STEWARDSHIP**
- 3) You cannot expect farmers in this environment to support your concerns and not give priority to **SUSTAINABLE FARMING PRACTICES**

**So what is the HIGH NATURE VALUE (HNV) INDEX?**

# Know your HNV Index Number

**HNV INDEX = 65**

**HNV INDEX = 39**



# Let us see how the HNV Index Works

Section	Context	Score
1	Farmer Personal Data	100%
2	Farm Location	100%
3	Soil Characteristics	100%
4	Crops Grown (during the year)	100%
5	Pest/ Disease/ Weeds Pressure	62%
6	Typical Agronomic Practices	44%
7	Fertilization Practices	13%
8	Management of Crop Growth	28%

[What does my HNV Index mean?](#)

[How can I improve my index?](#)



<b>WHAT DOES THE INDEX VALUE MEAN</b>		<b>HOW CAN I IMPROVE MY SCORE</b>
100 -86	Your practices definitely have a strong Ecological bent. Continue to follow your practices and share it with others	<p><b><u>Find Out How To:</u> (48)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Learn From Nature</li> <li>2. Improve the soil Quality</li> <li>3. Protect your investment in your soil.</li> <li>4. Make your soil more fertile</li> <li>5. Manage Plant Nutrients</li> <li>6. Meet Your NPK Needs</li> <li>7. Manage Weed Pressure</li> <li>8. Start an Eco-Friendly Crop System</li> <li>9. Make Profits in this environment</li> </ol>
85 -65	You are definitely on the way to a strong Eco-Friendly farming practice. Strengthen your practices by examining the weak points.	
64 - 45	There may be some lessons that you can learn from Nature itself. If you are interested in pursuing a more Eco-friendly farming practice, explore some of the alternatives	
Below 44	There may be a few “chemical” uses that is causing your index to tank. You can definitely improve your performance by changing both your inputs and also your approach to crop production.	