

World Day to Combat

17TH JUNE 2023

Desertification and Drought

Theme: "Her Land. Her Rights"

Droughts are among the greatest threats to sustainable development, especially in developing countries and in developed nations too. This year it focuses on women's land right as a crucial component of achieving the related goals of gender equality and land degradation neutrality by 2030 under the theme, "*Her Land. Her Rights*".

Objectives of World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, 2023

- Highlight women's contributions to sustainable land management and the boarder SDGs.
- Raise awareness of the disproportionate impact of desertification, land degradation and drought on women and girls and the barriers they face in decision-making on land issues.
- Raise global support for advancing land rights for women and girls around the world.

Facts about Drought and Desertification

- Droughts can happen anywhere and can last for about a month or even years.
- According to the United Nations, over 1 billion people worldwide are currently affected by drought.
- Droughts can increase in wildfires as dry conditions can make it easier for fires to start and spread.
- Severe droughts affect air quality as well.

Reasons for Desertification in India

India has pledged to repair 21 million hectares of damaged land by the year 2030. Following are the reasons for desertification in India:

- Water erosion.
- Wind erosion.
- Human settlements.
- Vegetation degradation.
- Salinity.

Impact of Droughts

Droughts causes water and food shortages, which can lead to impacts on the health of the affected population. It may increase the risk of disease and death. Droughts may have acute and chronic health effects including:

- Malnutrition due to the decreased availability of food, including micronutrient deficiency, such as iron-deficiency anaemia.
- Increased risk of infectious diseases, such as cholera, diarrhea, and pneumonia, due to acute malnutrition lack of water and sanitation and displacement.

Things you can do to combat Desertification and Drought

1. Conserve water.
2. Plant trees.
3. Educate oneself.
4. Less usage of chemical fertilizers.

Did you know?

80-90% of natural disasters in the last 10 years are from floods, droughts and severe storms.

