

Tittle Name : Soil and Environmental Sciences Overview

Course Name: Computer Fundamentals and Office Application

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Contents

[1. Introduction 2](#_Toc178979921)

[2.Understanding Soil 2](#_Toc178979922)

[2.1Definition of Soil 2](#_Toc178979923)

[2.2 Soil Composition 2](#_Toc178979924)

[2.2.1 Soil is primarily composed of: 2](#_Toc178979925)

[3. Soil Formation and Classification 2](#_Toc178979926)

[3.1 Soil Formation Processes 2](#_Toc178979927)

[3.2 Soil Types and Classification 3](#_Toc178979928)

[4. Soil Functions and Ecosystem Services 4](#_Toc178979929)

[4.1 Nutrient Cycling 4](#_Toc178979930)

[4.1.1 Water Filtration and Retention 4](#_Toc178979931)

[4.2 Carbon Sequestration 4](#_Toc178979932)

[5. Soil and Climate Change 4](#_Toc178979933)

[5.1 Soil's Role in Greenhouse Gas Emissions 4](#_Toc178979934)

[6. Overview of Soil and Environmental Sciences 4](#_Toc178979935)

[6.1 Lab Facilities 5](#_Toc178979936)

[6.2 Bechelor Programme 6](#_Toc178979937)

[6.3 Master Programme 6](#_Toc178979938)

[7. Soil Degradation and Conservation 7](#_Toc178979939)

[7.1 Causes of Soil Degradation 7](#_Toc178979940)

[7.1.1 Conservation Practices 7](#_Toc178979941)

[8. Conclusion 8](#_Toc178979942)

# 1. Introduction

Soil is often regarded as the foundation of life on Earth. It serves as a critical resource for agriculture, supports biodiversity, and plays a significant role in the Earth's environmental systems. Understanding soil's complex interactions with various environmental factors is essential for sustainable management and conservation efforts.

## 2.Understanding Soil

## 2.1Definition of Soil

Soil is a natural resource composed of minerals, organic matter, water, and air. It is the upper layer of the Earth’s crust that supports plant life and forms a habitat for a multitude of organisms.

## 2.2 Soil Composition

### 2.2.1 Soil is primarily composed of:

* Mineral particles (sand, silt, clay)
* Organic matter (decaying plants and animals)
* Water
* Air

The proportions of these components determine soil texture and structure, influencing its properties and behavior.

## 3. Soil Formation and Classification

## 3.1 Soil Formation Processes

Soil formation is influenced by five main factors: parent material, climate, topography, organisms, and time. Weathering processes break down rock material, while biological activity contributes organic matter and aids in soil development.

## 3.2 Soil Types and Classification

Soils are classified into various types based on their physical and chemical properties. The most common classification system includes:

* Sand
* Silt
* Clay

Each type has distinct characteristics that influence water retention, nutrient availability, and suitability for different crops.

# 4. Soil Functions and Ecosystem Services

## 4.1 Nutrient Cycling

Soils are essential for nutrient cycling, providing plants with vital elements such as nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. Microbial activity within the soil enhances nutrient availability.

### 4.1.1 Water Filtration and Retention

Healthy soils play a critical role in filtering and retaining water, helping to recharge aquifers and reduce surface runoff, which can lead to erosion.

## 4.2 Carbon Sequestration

Soils act as significant carbon sinks, storing more carbon than the atmosphere and vegetation combined. This process helps mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas concentrations.

# 5. Soil and Climate Change

## 5.1 Soil's Role in Greenhouse Gas Emissions

While soils can sequester carbon, they can also release it, particularly through practices like deforestation and intensive agriculture, contributing to greenhouse gas emissions.

# 6. Overview of Soil and Environmental Sciences

Soil and Environmental Sciences is a department under bio-science faculty in University of Barishal.

Adopting sustainable agricultural practices, such as cover cropping and reduced tillage, can enhance soil health and increase carbon sequestration potential.6. BU Soil and Environmental Sciences

## 6.1 Lab Facilities

## 6.2 Bechelor Programme

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | 28 |
| 2nd Year | 32 |
| 3rd Year | 34 |
| 4th Year | 28 |

## 6.3 Master Programme

# 7. Soil and Environmental Sciences department related Studies

## 7.1 Causes of Soil Degradation

Soil degradation results from factors such as erosion, compaction, salinization, and contamination, often driven by human activities like overgrazing and unsustainable farming practices.

### 7.1.1 Conservation Practices

Conservation efforts include sustainable land management practices, reforestation, and organic farming to restore soil health and prevent degradation.

Soils can become contaminated with heavy metals, pesticides, and other pollutants, posing risks to human health through food and water sources.

#### 7.1.1.2 The Link Between Soil Health and Food Security

Healthy soils are crucial for producing nutritious food. Maintaining soil quality is essential for food security and sustainable agricultural practices.

# 8. Conclusion

Soil is an invaluable resource that plays a vital role in environmental health and sustainability. Protecting and managing soil resources is essential for maintaining ecosystem services, ensuring food security, and mitigating climate change.