

LAND AS RESOURCE

- The most important natural resource, upon which all human activity is based since time immemorial, is land.
- Land resource is our basic resource.
- Throughout history, we have drawn most of our sustenance and much of our fuel, clothing and shelter from the land.
- It is useful to us as a source of food, as a place to live, work and play. It is a productive economic factor in agriculture, forestry, grazing, fishing and mining.
- It is considered as a foundation of social prestige and is the basis of wealth and political power



LAND DEGRADATION

- Man's progress towards development has, however, considerably damaged our land resource base, probably since the dawn of civilization.
- Out of the total land area, as many as 175 million hectares suffer from degradation.
- Land degradation is caused largely by soil erosion, but also by water logging and excessive salinity.
- The most serious threat to the land is posed by deforestation.



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- The exponentially growing population in the country has placed immense pressure on the dwindling land resources, endangering the very survival of the biome as a whole.
- The high degree of degradation of existing land resources, the changing climate and increasing diversion of land from agricultural to non-agricultural uses have aggravated the problem.
- Consequently, the productivity of land has suffered to a great extent, sometimes beyond repair and per capita arable land is also decreasing with the progress of time.
- India, being a large agrarian society, has, therefore, an enormous task to meet the growing demands for food, fuel, fiber together with environmental security for its people in the coming years.



Land use change simply refers to the conversion of a piece of **land's use** by humans, from one purpose to another. For example, **land** may be converted from cropland to grassland, or from wild **land** (e.g. tropical forests) to human-specific **land uses** (e.g. palm oil plantations).

Opportunities and constraints for new **land uses** are created by local as well as national markets and policies. Global forces become the main determinants of **land-use change**, as they amplify or attenuate local factors.

Population pressure, demand for fuel wood and construction material, agricultural expansion and policy and **tenure** insecurity were the **major** driving forces behind the **land use/cover change**.

There are many **types of land use** we need to consider when studying the topic. Those **types** include recreational, transport, agricultural, residential, and commercial.