

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought June 17

Desertification is an expanding environmental issue. It is a process of land degradation in which fertile land loses its productivity and becomes desert. The United Nations officially defines it as “land degradation in typically dry areas resulting from various factors, including climatic variations and human activities.”

The main causes of drought and desertification can be:

- Overgrazing
- Deforestation
- Excessive use of fertilizers and pesticides
- Urbanization
- Climate change

To raise public support and awareness in the international community to implement ways of cooperation and efforts to combat desertification across the world, World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought celebrated every year. As the name suggests, this day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was established in 1994, as a legally binding convention that links environment and development to sustainable land management.

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought: Theme 2021

This year the theme is Restoration. Land. Recovery: We build back better with healthy land. Keeping in mind the economic imbalance caused in the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic and the worldwide lockdown that followed, a better relationship with nature and economic recovery have become the need of the hour! This year's theme of World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought aims at transforming deserted land into productive and fertile land. This initiative will ultimately, achieve the following goals:

- Bring strong ecosystem resilience
- Create food security
- Tackle the problem of unemployment
- Combat the effects of climate change
- Accelerating progress of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Significance of the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

The significance of this day lies in recognizing the importance of cooperation and joint action by the international community in implementing ways to combat desertification and drought.

Role of the Community

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is to mobilise the local public and encourage them to participate in the initiatives aimed at improving land degradation.

The joint effort of people in carrying out activities like reforestation and other sustainable development practices will help towards eradicating desertification of land and the possibility of droughts.

Role of Organisation, States and NGO

On this day, the Organisations, states and NGO launch various outreach programs and awareness campaigns to try and educate the people, especially those involved in agriculture about various practices that they can incorporate in their use of land to protect soil fertility and to minimize land degradation as much as possible.

Ref : <https://www.unccd.int/news-events/2021-desertification-and-drought-day-theme-announced>



Ref: <https://sdg.iisd.org/events/world-day-to-combat-desertification-and-drought-2021/>

Did you know?

Nearly three quarters of the Earth's ice-free land has been transformed, mainly to meet the demand for food, raw materials and human settlement.

Land degradation is negatively impacting the well-being of at least 3.2 billion people.

Land use change is the primary transmission pathway for emerging infectious diseases of humans, over 60% of which are zoonotic.

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Ref: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/desertification-day>



Restoration Land Recovery.
We build back better with healthy land

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