

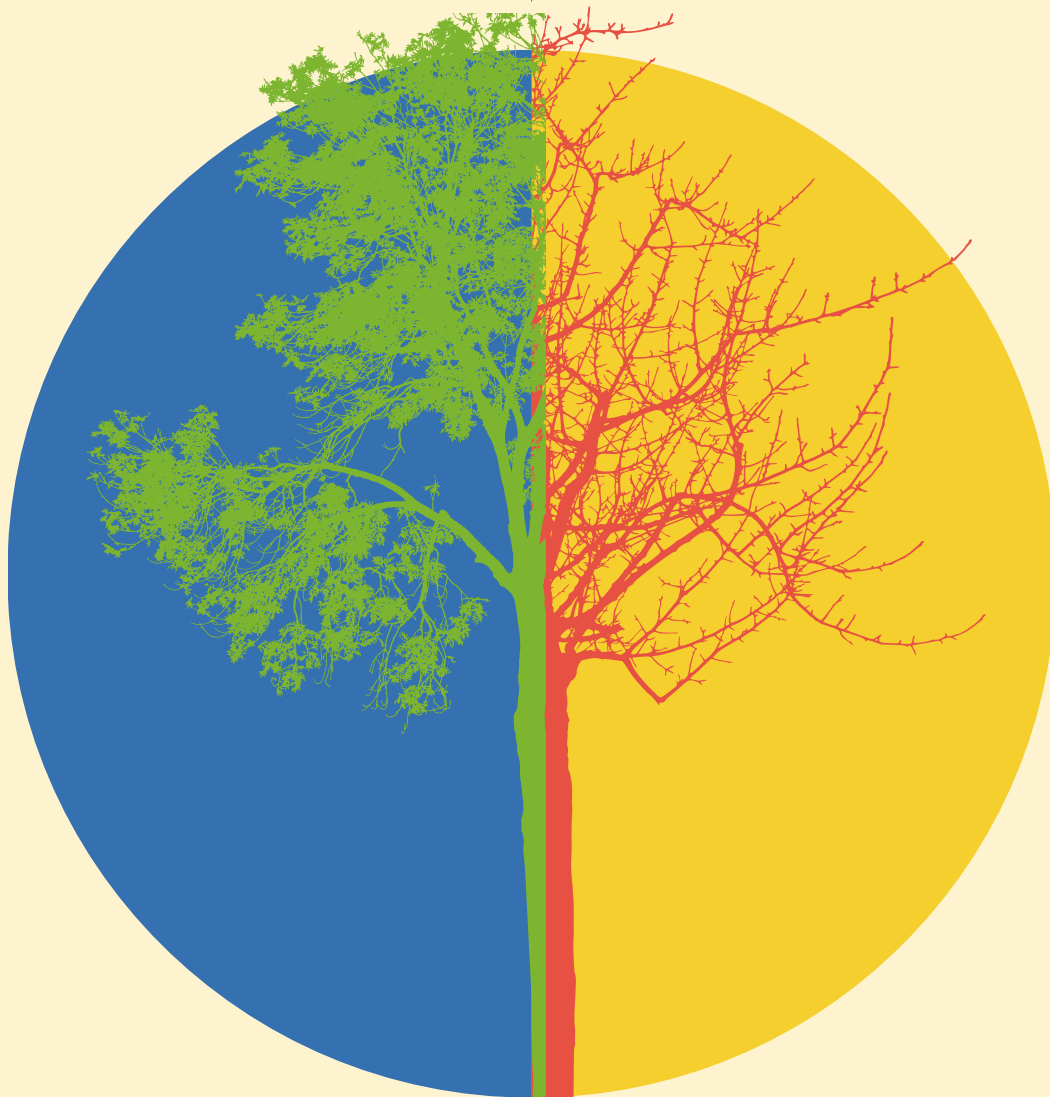


#UNited4Land
**OUR LEGACY.
OUR FUTURE.**

DESERTIFICATION AND
DROUGHT DAY • 17 JUNE 2024



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Symposium on

**World Day to Combat Desertification
and Drought**
June 18, 2024





World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, 2024

Desertification refers to the degradation of land in dry sub-humid, semi-arid, and arid regions, primarily caused by human activities and climate change. Key factors include global drought, moisture loss, overgrazing, deforestation, removal of natural vegetation, and inappropriate agricultural practices in fragile ecosystems. This process leads to a reduction in the land's productive potential, impacting various land uses and economic value. Desertification, land degradation, and drought are critical environmental issues of the 21st century, affecting up to 40% of the global land area. Healthy land is crucial for providing food, shelter, jobs, and protection against natural disasters. However, an equivalent of four football fields of land is degraded every second, totaling 100 million hectares annually. Increasing global populations and unsustainable resource use exert excessive pressure on land, leading to degradation. These conditions also drive forced migration, displacing tens of millions of people each year. Dryland ecosystems, covering a third of the world's land surface, are particularly vulnerable to desertification due to overuse and poor land management. Droughts, one of the deadliest natural catastrophes, lead to crop failures, wildfires, and water stress, affecting 55 million people annually. Drought frequency and severity have increased by 29% since 2000, and it is projected that by 2050, droughts will impact three-quarters of the global population.

To combat desertification and drought, the United Nations established the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought on June 17th, celebrated since 1994. The UN declared 2010-2020 as the Decade for Deserts to mobilize global action against land degradation. The Drought in Numbers 2022 report, presented at the UNCCD's CoP-15, highlighted the rising frequency and duration of droughts. This year's theme, "United for Land. Our Legacy. Our Future," emphasizes the need for collective action to address land degradation and ensure a sustainable future. Healthy soils are fundamental to human civilizations, sustaining life and prosperity. Unsustainable land use, climate change, and population pressures have accelerated desertification, threatening biodiversity, ecosystem services, and social stability. Protecting our future involves adopting sustainable land management practices, promoting reforestation, and empowering communities to adapt to environmental changes. Investing in resilience measures is essential for securing a sustainable future for generations to come. Achieving land degradation neutrality by 2030, as outlined in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, requires global collaboration.

Governments, civil society, academia, and the private sector must work together to implement integrated land management strategies prioritizing conservation, restoration, and sustainable development. Research, innovation, and education are crucial to equipping communities with the necessary tools to combat desertification effectively. Partnerships and sharing best practices can enhance our impact and accelerate progress. As we commemorate World Desertification Day, we must reaffirm our commitment to preserving our legacy and protecting our future. By nurturing the Earth's soils and ecosystems, we honor past generations and pave the way for a sustainable future. Our legacy is intertwined with the health of the planet, and our actions today will determine the legacy we leave for future generations. On June 18, 2024, the Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Land Management (CoE-SLM) is organizing a symposium on the occasion of World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought with various events to raise awareness about sustainable land management and the broader SDGs. Eminent experts and UNCCD representatives will share their experiences on the theme "United for Land. Our Legacy. Our Future."

Programme Schedule



June 17, 2024

Celebration of World Day to Combat Desertification by ICFRE Institutes (Plantation and other events)

June 18, 2024

Symposium at ICFRE Board Room

02:30-02:40 pm	Welcome Address	Director, CoE-SLM
02:40-02:50 pm	Inaugural Address	DG, ICFRE
02:50-03:00 pm	Special Address	Dr. Muralee Thummarukudy, Director of the Coordination Office of the G20 Initiative on Land
03:00-03:05 pm	Release of Publication	
03:05-03:15 pm	Overview of CoE-SLM	Dr. Gaurav Mishra Scientist, CoE-SLM
03:15-03:45 pm	Government initiatives to prevent land degradation in the Aravalli Hills	Dr. D. N. Pandey, IFS PCCF&HoFF (Retd.), Govt. of Rajasthan
03:45-04:15 pm	UNCCD Initiatives for Land Restoration	Prof. Tony Simons, UNCCD
04:15-04:45 pm	Land Resource Management Priorities and Practices in the Mountain Regions for Sustaining Livelihood of Future Generations	Dr. Rajendra Dobhal, Vice Chancellor, Swami Ram Himalayan University, Dehradun and Former DG, UCOST, Govt. of Uttarakhand
04:45-04:55 pm	Concluding remarks	Head, CoE-SLM
04:55-05:00 pm	Vote of thanks	Dr. Manish Kumar Singh Scientist, CoE-SLM



Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Land Management, ICFRE, Dehradun

The Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Land Management (CoE-SLM) was established following the announcement made by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India during high-level segment of COP 14 of UNCCD. The Centre was inaugurated on May 20, 2023 with a vision to provide technical support at the national and sub-national levels in India and other developing countries that are party to UNCCD. The Centre aims to facilitate sustainable land management practices, to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and foster global South-South cooperation to address land degradation issues. CoE-SLM aims to leverage the research, experience, knowledge, outreach and extension network of the ICFRE Research Institutes for capacity building of diverse stakeholders on various issues related to Land Degradation and upscaling of Sustainable Land Management practices.



Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Land Management

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