

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL

SDG 12: Sustainable Consumption and Production



INTRODUCTION

- Our planet is under massive strain. Should the global population push the figure of 9.6 billion by 2050, we will need three Earths to sustain current lifestyles for everyone.
- Each year, an estimated one-third of all food produced, equivalent to 1.3 billion tonnes worth around USD 1 trillion ends up rotting in the bins of consumers and retailers, or spoiling due to poor transportation and harvesting practices.
- More than one billion people still do not have access to fresh water. Less than 3% of the world's water is fresh (drinkable), of which 2.5% is frozen in Antarctica, the Arctic and glaciers. Humanity must therefore rely on 0.5% for all man's ecosystem's and fresh water needs.
- Despite technological advances that have promoted energy efficiency gains, energy use in OECD countries will increase a further 35% by 2020.

TARGET

- A large share of the world population is still consuming far too little to meet even their basic needs.
- Halving the per capita of global food waste at the retailer and consumer levels is also important for creating more efficient production and supply chains. This can help with food security, and shift us towards a more resource efficient economy.
- The efficient management of our shared natural resources, and the way we dispose of toxic waste and pollutants, are important targets to achieve this goal.
- Encouraging industries, businesses and consumers to recycle and reduce waste is equally important, as is supporting developing countries to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption by 2030.

INDIAN APPROACH

- India faces a unique challenge in the imperative to lift millions of people out of poverty and at the same time, conserve the natural resources required to sustain development.
- In October 2015, India committed to reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 20-25 per cent from its 2005 levels by 2020 and by 33-35 per cent by 2030.
- There are efforts to adopt and implement environmental sustainability measures, which would help reduce the ecological footprint of economic growth by changing the patterns and processes of production and consumption of goods and resources.

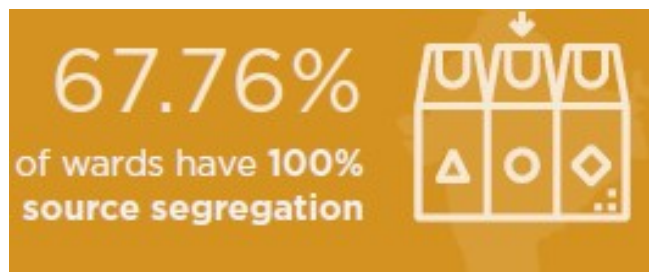
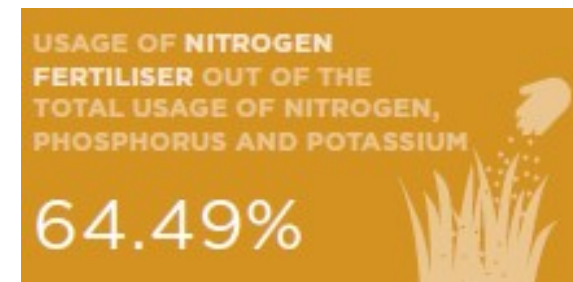
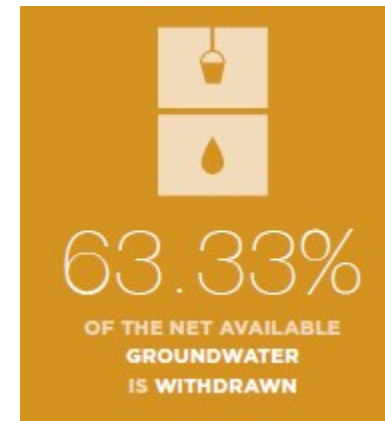
ACTION PLAN

- Sustainable agriculture is indispensable for a sustainable food system in India. The National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), in tandem with other missions under the National Action Plan on Climate.
- The government extensively supports certified organic farm production in a value chain model in the North-East Region, one of the 18 mega biodiversity hotspots in the world.
- Farmers' access to new information, knowledge and skills is being strengthened through the network of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) or Farmers' Science Centres, and agriculture extension support.

- Comprehensive strategies on climate-resilient agriculture have been developed and promoted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) producing adaptive crop regimes and crop management practices for different agricultural seasons.
- According to the US Green Buildings Council, India is witnessing a dramatic increase in sustainable development practice. It ranks third as of 31st December 2018 in the global listing for the top ten countries for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED).
- Soil Health Management (SHM) initiative promotes organic manures and bio-fertilizers and low-input sustainable agriculture.

- The Government has launched the Comprehensive Sustainable Tourism Criteria for three major segments of the tourism industry, namely, tour operators, accommodation and beaches, backwaters, lakes & rivers sectors, which incorporates various eco-friendly measures like Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), rain water harvesting system, waste management system, pollution control, introduction of non-Chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) equipment for refrigeration and air conditioning, measures for energy and water conservation among others.

FACTS



CHALLENGES

- It is crucial to retain focus on operating a sustainable supply chain, involving everyone from producer to the final consumer. This includes educating consumers on sustainable consumption and lifestyles, providing them with adequate information through standards and labels and engaging in sustainable public procurement, among others.
- Ineffective solid waste management needs attention, especially in urban centres. About a third of the population lives in urban areas. By 2050, it is expected that about 50 per cent of India's population will be urban, and waste generation will grow by 5 per cent per year.

- According to the FAO, up to 40 per cent of the food produced in India is wasted. This also implies that water, fertilizers, and other resources that go into producing food also are wasted. Food disposed of in landfills produces methane, a potent greenhouse gas. India's ambitious development plans call for better resource efficiency.
- Estimates show that nearly 74.6 lakh tonnes of hazardous waste are generated in India annually. Of this, waste which can be disposed of in landfills constitutes for about 34.1 lakh tonnes or 46 per cent of the total. The recyclable hazardous waste consists of 33.5 lakh tonnes or 45 per cent of the total. Since the amount of recyclable hazardous waste is a considerable percentage of the total, efforts must be directed towards upgrading the waste recycling mechanisms.

CONCLUSION

- Sustainable consumption and production aims at “doing more and better with less,” increasing net welfare gains from economic activities by reducing resource use, degradation, and pollution, while increasing the quality of life.
- Sustainable development will be achieved not only by growing our economies, but minimizing waste in the process of doing so. Growth that contaminates the environment sets development back.
- Achieving economic growth and sustainable development requires that we urgently reduce our ecological footprint by changing the way we produce and consume goods and resources. Agriculture is the biggest user of water worldwide, and irrigation now claims close to 70 percent of all freshwater for human use.