



4TH NATIONAL REPORT SUBMITTED TO UNCCD SECRETARIAT HIGHLIGHTS

- About 69 percent of India is dry land – arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid
 - These areas are heavily populated
 - Degradation has severe implications for livelihood and food security for millions of people living in these areas
- An estimated 32 percent of India’s total land area is affected by land degradation (of which desertification is a major component)
- 81.45 million hectares, or 24.8 percent of the country’s geographic area is undergoing desertification
- Water and soil erosion are major causes of land degradation; water erosion is most prominent in agricultural regions
- The key anthropogenic factors resulting in degradation are unsustainable agricultural practices; diversion of land to development programmes; industrial effluents; mining and deforestation
- Unsustainable resource management practices drive desertification, and accentuate the poverty of people affected by desertification
- Land rehabilitation has been a major priority since Independence, and several policies and government agencies address desertification and degradation¹

¹ These include: Desert Development Programme; Integrated Wasteland Development; National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas; Soil Conservation in the Catchment of River Valley Projects; National Afforestation Programme; Arid Zone Research; Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme; National Rural Drinking Water Programme etc.