



ECOBUZZ

A BUZZ TO THE GREEN FUTURE!!

RIO SUMMIT 1992
21 KEY AGENDAS

JUNE'2025
EDITION

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Greetings from Faculty of Law, GLS University!

After a successful series on Sustainable Development Goals, I am very happy to learn that for the next EcoBuzz series we explore the five basic elements of nature –the *panchamahabhutas* – which inhere the properties of earth (prithvi), water (jala), fire (tejas), wind (vayu) and space (akasha).

Reconnecting to the nature outside of us can help us reconnect to our true, inner nature. When we spend more time outside in the elements, we start to rebalance ourselves physically, mentally and energetically.

The current edition of EcoBuzz shall focus on the element “Prithvi” – the Earth. It’s surprising just how easily we can lose connection to the earth. Spending long periods indoors, driving cars and fixating on screens all creates a disconnection between ourselves and the earth. The longer we’re disconnected from the earth and the outside world, the more we forget our interconnected role within nature. Thus, the more we tend to focus on ‘I, me, my’ – the ego.

Our Mother Earth is currently dealing with a wide range of issues, despite efforts in recent decades to address environmental challenges. Due to the terrifying pace at which the Environment is being exploited the legal framework for addressing environmental issues at the global and domestic levels seems inadequate without the collective effort of the human-kind.

I feel happy that the students have decided the ‘MOTHER EARTH’ as the theme for this month's EcoBuzz and our constant efforts towards a green and clean Earth, will continue to raise awareness on the alarming issues that the mother Earth is facing.

Let’s come together for organised actions with the sole objective of saving mother earth while thriving to keep it alive, green, and clean.

Regards,
Dr. Mayuri H. Pandya
Dean, Faculty of Law, GLS University

ECOBUZZ TEAM

Student Members:

Patron: Dr. Sudhir Nanavati President, GLS University	Tapati Dave	Krishnapriya Salvi	Simran Bharwad
Chief Editor: Dr. Mayuri Pandya Dr. Sneha Shukla	Malhar Faldu	Vishwa Ajmera	Jasleen Kaur Huda
Concept: Dr. Parna Mukherjee	Yuvraj Goswami	Mitanshi Singh	Rishabh Agarwal
Editors: Dr. Payal Mehta Dr. Jiya Matharani Dr. Hiral Shukla Dr. Margie Acharya	Honey Sojitra	Avantica Nandi	Khushi Parmar
	Pratham Vora	Priyal Bhatt	Payal Sirvi
	Rachit Tiwari	Yashika Agarwal	Harvi Bhalani
	Soham Shingala	Vaibhavi Vaghela	Dhwani Prajapati
	Charishma Mehta	Namisha Mehta	Atin Kumar
	Aneri Patel	Heer Joshi	Ritika Giri
	Neelatri Patel	Yash Dhakre	Himanshi Datt
		Diya Patel	Dhruvi Raval

National Updates

Expansion under PM-KUSUM Scheme for Solarizing Agriculture:

The Solar Agri Bulletin (published March but covering 2025 developments) highlights robust support for solarizing agricultural power across various states, with tenders, policy reforms, and fund disbursement under PM KUSUM significantly advancing renewable energy integration in agriculture.

National Climate-Smart Agriculture Mission Launch (July 2025):

In July 2025, India launched the National Climate-Smart Agriculture Mission, emphasizing micro irrigation expansion, agroforestry, organic cultivation, digital mandi reforms, and climate vulnerability mapping using AI and satellite technologies. These are designed to bolster land sustainability and farmers' resilience.

Strategic soil management policy recommendations released (22 July 2025):

Expert recommendations called for precision fertilization (Variable Rate Application), promotion of organic inputs and Integrated Pest Management, adoption of water-efficient irrigation, robust soil-health monitoring using soil cards and remote sensing, and capacity-building programs for farmers to adopt sustainable soil practices.

State Updates

Kerala - Fiscal-Climate Resilience in Agriculture:

On July 16, 2025, Kerala released the CREEA report (Climate-Resilient and Energy Efficient Agriculture) plan to safeguard its ₹56,000 crore farm economy from climate risks. Developed with expert and district-level input, the framework emphasizes resilient farming techniques tailored to the state's unique vulnerabilities.

Punjab - Farmer Protests Against Land Pooling Policy:

In July 2025, farmers across Punjab mounted tractor marches protesting the state's land pooling policy, which would acquire ~65,000 acres for urban and commercial development. Demonstrations spanned Ludhiana, Amritsar, Bathinda, and others, with farmers rejecting land surrender and demanding policy revision.

Haryana - Land Purchase Policy to Prevent Distress Sales:

Haryana approved a Land Purchase Policy 2025, allowing landowners to sell full or partial shares in case of necessity, aiming to curb distressed land sales. The policy provides a platform protecting smallholders from predatory purchases during emergencies.

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GREEN JUSTICE

Hinch Lal Tiwari v. Kamala Devi (2001)

In this case, a village pond was illegally allotted for residential construction. The Supreme Court ruled in favor of restoring the pond, stating that water bodies and common lands serve vital ecological and agricultural functions. The Court emphasized the role of sustainable land use in rural development and the preservation of natural resources for future generations. It held that the destruction of community lands and wetlands compromises both environment and food security. This landmark judgment reinforced the principle that development should not override ecological and community welfare and called for protection of natural resources through proper land use planning.

T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad v. Union of India (1997 onwards)

Originating as a case to prevent illegal deforestation in Tamil Nadu, it evolved into a series of judgments dealing with forest conservation across India. The Supreme Court expanded the definition of "forest" to include all land recorded as forest, irrespective of ownership. It imposed strict restrictions on diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes and halted large-scale deforestation. The case recognized forests as vital for sustaining agriculture, biodiversity, and ecological balance. It strongly upheld sustainable land management by mandating afforestation and environmental clearance processes before any land conversion, thus shaping India's forest and land use jurisprudence.

Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board v. C. Kenchappa (2006)

This case involved the acquisition of agricultural land for industrial purposes. The Supreme Court emphasized that environmental protection must be a fundamental part of any developmental planning. It mandated that environmental impact assessments (EIA) be conducted before converting land for non-agricultural use. The court ruled that unregulated industrialization could threaten food security and ecological stability. It also directed the state to include land sustainability criteria in future developmental decisions. The case underlined the necessity of balancing industrial growth with agricultural needs, advocating for sustainable land use policies that preserve green cover and arable land.

Orissa Mining Corporation Ltd. v. Ministry of Environment and Forest (2013)

This case concerned the proposed bauxite mining project in the Niyamgiri Hills of Odisha, home to the Dongria Kondh tribal community. The Supreme Court denied environmental clearance for the mining project, citing the need to protect tribal rights, biodiversity, and forest lands. It held that sustainable land use must include the interests of indigenous people and ecological preservation. The court emphasized the role of local communities in land governance and the significance of environmental justice. This landmark ruling reinforced that development must be inclusive and environmentally responsible, ensuring that land resources are used in a manner that respects both nature and native populations.

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GREEN LAWS

1. Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013

The LARR Act, 2013, reformed the process of land acquisition in India by balancing development needs with the rights of affected communities. It ensures that agricultural land is acquired only with due safeguards, proper compensation, and rehabilitation of displaced families. The Act also emphasizes minimizing acquisition of multi-crop fertile land and requires social impact assessments before projects begin. This framework makes land use more sustainable by protecting livelihoods while allowing for infrastructure and industrial development.

2. Forest Conservation Act, 1980

The Forest Conservation Act seeks to protect forest land from excessive diversion for non-forest purposes. Any proposal to convert forest land for mining, industry, or agriculture requires approval from the central government. By regulating deforestation and promoting afforestation, this law safeguards soil quality, prevents erosion, and maintains ecological balance. In the context of sustainable land use, it ensures that forests are preserved as vital resources for climate regulation and biodiversity.

3. Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act):

Mining activities significantly affect land resources, often leaving them degraded. The MMDR Act regulates the allocation of mining rights and imposes conditions for environmental protection and land reclamation. Amendments have introduced provisions for sustainable mining, requiring mining leaseholders to implement rehabilitation and reclamation plans. By mandating that mined land be restored or repurposed, the Act contributes to responsible land management.

4. Soil Conservation and Waste Land Development Laws

Various state-level legislations and schemes operate under the framework of soil conservation, aimed at preventing land degradation. Programs under the Department of Land Resources, such as the Integrated Watershed Management Programme, focus on improving soil fertility, managing water resources, and converting wastelands into productive assets. These efforts are essential for sustainable agriculture and ensuring food security.

5. Biological Diversity Act, 2002

The Biodiversity Act regulates the use of biological resources and promotes conservation of land-based ecosystems. It restricts activities that threaten land resources, such as over-exploitation of agricultural biodiversity or unsustainable use of traditional farming knowledge. By encouraging equitable sharing of benefits from biological resources, it promotes conservation-friendly land use practices and integrates community participation in sustainable agriculture.

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Sustainable Land Use Practices: Integrating Agriculture, Governance, and Ecology

Sustainable land use represents a vital strategy aimed at achieving a balanced utilization of land resources to support agricultural productivity and developmental objectives while preserving environmental integrity. It involves the responsible management of soil, water, flora, and fauna to fulfill present-day requirements without compromising the availability and ecological functions of these resources for future generations. In the agricultural context, sustainable land use emphasizes practices that maintain or enhance soil fertility and quality, optimize water conservation, protect biodiversity, and minimize pollution. Key methodologies include agroforestry—integrating tree cultivation with crops—conservation tillage to reduce soil disturbance, crop rotation to sustain soil health, cover cropping to prevent erosion, and efficient water management techniques such as drip irrigation and rainwater harvesting. Collectively, these approaches improve soil structure, prevent erosion, facilitate carbon sequestration, and decrease dependency on chemical fertilisers and pesticides, thereby fostering resilient agroecosystems. For instance, agroforestry not only stabilizes the soil and mitigates erosion but also generates supplementary income through timber and fruit production while promoting biodiversity. Conservation tillage preserves soil integrity and enhances water infiltration, essential for sustainable land productivity. Crop rotation naturally curtails pest infestations and replenishes soil nutrients, reducing the necessity for synthetic inputs. Beyond agricultural practices, sound governance and effective land use policies are imperative. The implementation of clear zoning regulations—delineating agricultural, conservation, residential, and industrial zones—prevents land use conflicts and degradation. Incentive mechanisms, including tax reliefs and subsidies, can motivate landowners to adopt sustainable practices. Comprehensive stakeholder engagement is essential to ensure that policies address diverse social, economic, and environmental considerations. Furthermore, advancements in technology—such as satellite imagery and artificial intelligence—facilitate the monitoring of land use changes and support the enforcement of sustainable management protocols. The benefits of sustainable land use extend beyond environmental preservation. It enhances agricultural productivity, generates employment in green sectors, strengthens food security, improves public health by reducing pollution, and enhances resilience to climate-related hazards such as droughts and floods. Additionally, sustainable landscapes contribute to cost savings in infrastructure through nature-based solutions and bolster rural livelihoods by promoting diversified and stable agricultural systems. In conclusion, sustainable land use necessitates a comprehensive approach integrating ecological stewardship, prudent resource management, robust governance, and economic viability. This integrated strategy safeguards essential ecosystem services while advancing the social and economic well-being of current and future populations. Given the escalating environmental challenges, population growth, and climate change, adopting and scaling sustainable land use practices is imperative for securing a prosperous and ecologically balanced future wherein human development proceeds in harmony with the natural environment.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

NATIONAL EVENTS

1. Sustainable Agriculture Summit & Awards (New Delhi)

The second edition of this summit—titled “Krishi 2047: Climate-Ready Farming, Future-Ready Bharat”—brings together policymakers, scientists, agritech innovators, and progressive farmers to spotlight climate-smart agriculture and celebrate best practices across 33 award categories.

2. India Rural Colloquy, 2025 (Bhopal)

Organized by Transform Rural India at the Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), this colloquy highlighted gender-equitable resource stewardship, community-led innovations, solar-powered rural infrastructure, and sustainable planning. It featured the launch of the Gram Panchayat Helpdesk initiative to support local governance.

3. M.S. Swaminathan International Conference 2025 (New Delhi)

A major agri-science forum at NASC in Delhi, this conference emphasizes sustainable agriculture, rural livelihoods, and climate adaptation. It's a platform for researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to share knowledge and strategies.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

1. LANDac Annual International Conference 2025

The event taking place on July 2–4, 2025, in Utrecht, Netherlands, will center on key themes such as land governance, tenure security, and the relationship between climate change and land management. It will explore how equitable land development and strong governance frameworks can support communities, improve land rights, and enhance climate resilience. These topics make the event highly relevant for understanding how land systems intersect with sustainability and climate-related challenges.

2. Global Land Conference — World Bank Land Conference 2025

Organized by the World Bank through the Donor Platform, this initiative focuses on improving land tenure security through stronger strategies and policy reforms that enhance transparency and fairness. It also promotes sustainable investments that respect both community needs and environmental goals. Central to the program is the land–climate nexus, emphasizing how better land governance can support climate mitigation, adaptation, and long-term sustainability.

3. ILDC 2025 – India Land & Development Conference

The ILDC 2025, held in Ahmedabad, India, centers on the critical role of land in achieving sustainable development. The conference highlights issues such as land tenure security, the protection of agrarian livelihoods, and the need to build climate-resilient land systems. By examining how land policies, community rights, and environmental pressures intersect, the event offers valuable insights into creating fair, sustainable, and climate-ready development pathways.

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CREATIVE CORNER



THIS IMAGE PORTRAYS A BALANCED SCALE WHERE FARMS AND CITIES SHARE EQUAL WEIGHT, SYMBOLIZING HARMONY BETWEEN NATURE AND PROGRESS. IT REFLECTS SUSTAINABLE LAND USE—NURTURING AGRICULTURE WHILE PLANNING URBAN GROWTH FOR A THRIVING FUTURE.

Source : <https://stock.adobe.com/search/images?k=%22life+on+land%22>

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