

# EVS

## Module 2

### LECTURE PLAN

1. Land Use - Definitions and Classification
2. Impact of Land use on Environmental Quality
3. Land degradation
4. Control on land degradation

### Definition

#### A. Land use:

Land use is characterised by the arrangements, activities and inputs people undertake in a certain land cover type to produce, change or maintain it.

(FAO/UNEP, 1999).

- One definition of land use is “the total of arrangements, activities and inputs that people undertake in a certain land cover type.
- Land use is the characterization of land based on what can be built on it and what the land can be used for. It’s determining what sort of community, environment or settlement can be used on a specific type of land.

## B. Types of land uses

The five most common uses are recreational, transport, agricultural, residential and commercial.

### 1. Recreational

It is meant to be used for the enjoyment of the people who use it.

Example-Children parks and open spaces to athletic fields, playgrounds and swimming pools,

### 2. Transport

Transport land is designed for the structures that help people get from one destination to the other.

Eg-roads, airports, train stations and subway stations.

### 3. Agricultural

Agricultural land is used for the growing and harvesting of crops and livestock.

Eg- ranches, farms and pastures.

### 4. Residential

The purpose of residential land is to build homes. This could mean mobile homes, single family homes or even apartment complexes.

## 5. Commercial

- Designated for businesses, warehouses, shops and any other infrastructures related to commerce.
- Commonly used for office buildings, restaurants, shops and other businesses.

## C. The Impact of Land-use on Environmental Quality

- (a) Deforestation
- (b) Degradation of biodiversity
- (c) Desertification and soil erosion
- (d) Degradation of water quality
- (e) Degradation of air and atmosphere and global warming
- (f) Contamination from waste
- (g) Modern agriculture

## D. Land degradation means:

1. Loss of natural fertility of soil because of loss of nutrients.
2. Less vegetation cover
3. Changes in the characteristic of soil.
4. Pollution of water resources from the contamination of soil through which water sweeps into ground or runoff to the water bodies.
5. Changes in climatic conditions because of unbalanced created in the environment.

## Causes of Land Degradation:

- (a) Deforestation
- (b) Overgrazing
- (c) Agricultural practises
- (d) Industrialization
- (e) Urbanization

## E. Prevention and Control Measures for Land Degradation:

Following are some practises for controlling land degradation:

### 1. Strip farming:

It is a practice in which cultivated crops are sown in alternative strips to prevent water movement.

### 2. Crop Rotation:

It is one of the agricultural practice in which different crops are grown in same area following a rotation system which helps in replenishment of the soil.

### 3. Ridge and Furrow Formation:

Soil erosion is one of the factors responsible for land degradation. It can be prevented by formation of ridge and furrow during irrigation which lessens run off.

### 4. Construction of Dams:

This usually checks or reduces the velocity of run off so that soil support vegetation.

### 5. Contour Farming:

This type of farming is usually practiced across the hill side and is useful in collecting and diverting the run off to avoid erosion.