

The focus of Environmental Information System (ENVIS) scheme is to disseminate environmental information to decision makers, policy planners, scientists and researchers across the world.

CERC-ENVIS, Resource Partner to MoEF&CC works on the thematic mandate of 'Environment Literacy - Eco-labelling and Eco-friendly Products' This bi-monthly e-bulletin features latest of Environment, developments and innovations.

Green Issue



Better Cotton Initiative

Cotton is one of the world's most important renewable natural resources. Cotton farming demands intensive use of pesticides and fertilizers as well as litres of water to produce just one item of clothing.

Better Cotton is the world's leading sustainability initiative for cotton. BCI's mission is to help cotton communities survive and thrive, while protecting and restoring the environment. BCI exists to make global cotton production better for the people who produce it, better for the environment it grows in, and better for the sector's future. BCI connects people and organisations from across the cotton sector, from field to store, to promote measurable and continuing improvements for the environment, farming communities and the economies of cotton producing areas. Over 2.4 million farmers in 25 countries now have a licence to sell their cotton as Better Cotton. In total, BCI programmes have reached almost 4 million people whose working lives are connected to cotton production.

India was one of the first countries to implement the Better Cotton programme, with the first harvest of Better Cotton produced in 2011. It has the largest number of farmers participating in the programme and growing Better Cotton. India also has the largest area under cotton cultivation in the world – approximately 12,607 million hectares.



Source: <https://bettercotton.org/where-is-better-cotton-grown/better-cotton-in-india/>

Only One Earth

There is no universal definition of sustainability but there are various perspective on sustainability and on how it can be achieved.

Sustainability is “bearable” and “capable of being continued at a certain level”.

Sustainability is the balance between the environment, equity, and economy.

Sustainability is usually defined as the actions through which humankind avoids the exhaustion of natural resources, in order to keep a balance of ecology. It encourages people to make decisions to sustain for long term and taking posterity into account.



It is made up of three pillars:

1. The Economy
2. The Society
3. The Environment

Few examples of sustainability in different sector:

Transportation: The transportation sector generates the largest share of greenhouse gas emissions. Greenhouse gas emissions from transportation primarily come from burning fossil fuel for our cars, trucks, ships, trains, and planes.

Taking public transport (Bus, trains etc.), carpooling, opting electric vehicles, cycle/walk for shorter distance are sustainable choices that helps in reducing the emission of greenhouse gases to the environment.

Niti Aayog, the federal think tank of India, published in a report (India's Electric Mobility Transformation), that EV sales penetration in India of 70% for commercial cars, 30% for private cars, 40% for buses, and 80% for two- and three- wheelers by 2030. If the targets are achieved, it could generate cumulative savings of 846 Mtons of CO₂ over the total deployed vehicles' lifetime.

Electronic/Electrical Devices: Components of electronic devices are made of earth minerals extracted by the mining industry. Mining causes erosion, loss of biodiversity, deforestation, contamination of soil & groundwater and other environmental impact.

Using e-devices for longer period of time, repairing, recycling, resist in switching smart phones frequently and proper disposal of e-devices would reduce the environmental impact of electronic waste.

Fashion: It takes 2,700 litres of water to make just one T-shirt. Production of cotton requires lots of water, toxic chemicals in the form of pesticides and fertilizers which leads to soil degradation. Despite of using much of natural resources in textile industries, it generates lot of waste in terms of harmful gases, effluent water which contains toxic chemicals, oil & grease etc.

Use of sustainably produced fabric, reusing of clothes, use of natural dyes instead of toxic dyes, adapting alternatives to cotton, switching to slow fashion and as a consumer be part of the sustainable chain.

Sustainable practices supports to maintain the balance of Humans, Environment & Economy. Resources are limited and should be used sustainably and conservatively. Being committed to sustainability will reduce carbon footprint, helps in making the planet greener for future.



Source: <https://youmatter.world/en/definition/definitions-sustainability-definition-examples-principles/>

<https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/sources-greenhouse-gas-emissions>

<https://rmi.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/rmi-niti-ev-report.pdf>

Eco-Tips

Sustainable living takes little effort on your part, but creates a big difference in making our planet greener.
Let us adapt sustainable habits for a healthy planet.

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