

Soil health is critical for food production and robust food security. Discuss

Soil health is prerequisite for food production and nutrient rich soil is necessary condition for food security.

Drivers that effect soil health

- The factors that degrade soils are
- (1) Nutrient loss and pollution significantly threaten soils
 - (2) Industrial activities
 - (3) Mining, waste treatment, unsustainable agriculture,
 - (4) Fossil fuel extraction and processing and transport industry

Reasons being soil nutrient loss

- (1) Soil erosion
- (2) Runoff leaching and the burning of crop residue like

stubble burning in Haryana and Punjab.
(3) shift cultivation in tribal areas

Effect of poor soil

- (1) Reduce food productivity
- (2) Poor micronutrient in food.
- (3) Threat to biodiversity conservation
- (4) soil degradation accounts 29% of India's total land.

India's Conservation strategy and interventions

- (1) Govt has adopted five pronged strategy for soil conservation
 - making soil chemical free
 - saving soil biodiversity
 - enhancing SOM
 - Maintaining soil moisture
 - mitigating soil degradation and preventing soil erosion
- (2) Soil Health Card to check macro-nutrients and micronutrients in the soil

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प्रश्न संख्या
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- (3) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana to prevent soil erosion, regeneration of natural vegetation, rainwater harvesting etc.
- (4) National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) to promote organic and natural farming
- (5) FAO Collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture and National Rainfed Area Authority to facilitate informed choices about crops to farmers

Thus, By strengthening communication on ground level about policies pertaining to sustainable soil usage, food production and food security can be ensured.