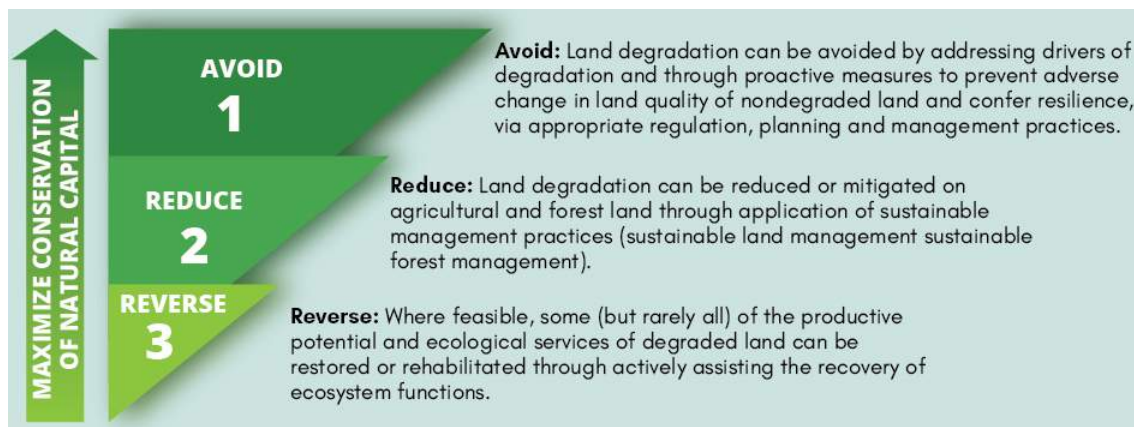


It can prevent Soil erosion, desertification, water scarcity, migration insecurity and income inequalities caused by land degradation. Thus, it helps in combating impacts of climate change.

India has adopted the goal of **achieving LDN by 2030** under Sustainable Development Goals.



11.5.2.1. Steps taken by India to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality

- **Comprehensive National Plan-** The National Action Plan (NAP) to combat desertification was launched in 2001 for 20 years. Its objectives are:
 - community based approach to development,
 - activities to improve the quality of life of the local communities,
 - awareness raising,
 - drought management preparedness and mitigation,
 - R&D initiatives and interventions which are locally suited,
 - Strengthening self-governance leading to empowerment of local communities.
- **Mapping of issue-** The ISRO and some other partners prepared the Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas (2016) of entire country using Indian remote sensing satellites data in GIS environment.
- **Mission Mode approach-** At the UNFCCC's CoP 2015 in Paris, India adopted a Bonn Challenge pledge to restore 13 million hectare of degraded land by 2020 and a further eight million hectare by 2030.
- **Sustainable land and Ecosystem Management (SLEM) Programme-** which is jointly implemented by Government of India and Global Environment Facility (GEF), aims to promote sustainable land and ecosystem management.
- **Initiatives launched-** Government has launched various schemes like Integrated Watershed Development Program, Per Drop More Crop, National Afforestation Program, National Green Mission, etc. which have components to tackle Land degradation.
- **Delhi Declaration-** India hosted the COP 14 to UNCCD in 2019 and adopted new targets.
 - India **raised its total area that would be restored from its land degradation** status, from 21 million hectares to 26 million hectares till 2030.
 - India has announced to set up a Centre of Excellence at the Forest Research Institute, Dehradun, for providing technical assistance to meet the challenges.

11.5.2.2. Government's broad approach towards addressing land degradation

- **Adoption of watershed approach-** planning based on micro-watersheds, use of remote sensing data and spatial data in planning at the micro-watershed level. E.g. Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP)
- **Integrated treatment incorporating contouring, gully plugging, vegetative as well as engineering-based solutions** for soil moisture conservation, covering agricultural as well as non-agricultural lands. E.g. Fodder and Feed Development Scheme-its component of Grassland Development including Grass Reserves.

Student Notes: