

SOIL EROSION -WEARING AWAY OF THE TOP SOIL COVER BY NATURAL AGENTS LIKE WATER AND WIND

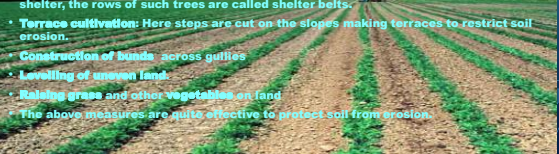


- Two types of soil erosion - water erosion and wind erosion
- Human activities like deforestation, overgrazing, construction and mining also lead to soil erosion.
- Heavy rain water removes the thin soil cover over large areas more or less uniformly.
- In areas of clayey soils, running water cuts through making deep channels called gullies. It is called gully erosion.
- Turned as Bad lands and are unfit for cultivation.
- In the Chambal basin such lands are called ravines.
- When water flows down the slope as a sheet, the top soil is washed away. This is termed as sheet erosion.
- Due to removal the removal of vegetation the topsoil becomes extremely loose to be carried away by wind in large quantities. This is called wind erosion. Generally confined to arid and semi-arid regions.

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SOIL CONSERVATION AND MEASURES TO CHECK SOIL EROSION

- Soil conservation includes measures which help protecting the soil from erosion.
- **Strip Cropping:** Here large fields are divided into strips and in between the crops, strips of grass are left to grow which help in restricting the force of the wind.
- **Contour ploughing:** In hilly areas, to prevent water from running down the slopes, ploughing is done along the contour lines.
- **Shelter belts:** To reduce the force of the wind, lines of trees are planted to create shelter, the rows of such trees are called shelter belts.
- **Terrace cultivation:** Here steps are cut on the slopes making terraces to restrict soil erosion.
- **Construction of bunds** across gullies
- **Leveling of uneven lands**
- **Planting grass and other vegetables on land**
- The above measures are quite effective to protect soil from erosion.



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