



Regenerative Agriculture

For Prelims: Regenerative Agriculture, IPCC, Agroecosystem, Soil Degradation.

For Mains: Regenerative Agriculture and its Significance.

Why in News?

The **importance of regenerative agriculture was emphasised** in the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#) report on “Climate Change and Land.”

- It is a ‘sustainable land management practice’ that can be effective in **building the resilience of agroecosystems**.

What is Regenerative Agriculture?

- Regenerative agriculture is a **holistic farming system** that **focuses on soil health, food quality, biodiversity improvement, water quality and air quality** through methods such as **reducing the use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides, reducing tillage, integrating livestock and using cover crops**.
- It adheres to the following principles:
 - Minimise soil distribution through **conservation tillage**
 - **Diversify crops** to replenish nutrients and disrupt pest and disease lifecycles
 - Retain soil cover using **cover crops**
 - **Integrate livestock**, which adds manure to the soil and serves as a source of carbon sinks.

What is the Need of Regenerative Agriculture?

- The **current intensive agriculture system has led to soil degradation** and constant losses. **There may not be enough soil to feed the world** in next 50 years, according to international scientists. **Soil fertility and biodiversity are decreasing** across the globe.
- Regenerative agriculture **improves soil health through practices that increase soil organic matter, biota and biodiversity**. It also aims at **enhancing water-holding capacity and carbon sequestration**.
 - It facilitates **soil aggregation, water infiltration, retention and nutrient cycling**.
 - Regenerative agriculture also **reduces erosion, provides habitat and food for diverse species** and is **beyond sustainability**.

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Q. How far is Integrated Farming System (IFS) helpful in sustaining agricultural production? **(2019)**

Q. What is Integrated Farming System? How is it helpful to small and marginal farmers in India? **(2022)**

Source: DTE

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