

# FAO – State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) 2025 Report

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**Theme (2025):** Impact of human-driven land degradation on agricultural productivity, food security, and ecosystem resilience.

### **Key Highlights**

**Land Degradation**: Defined as the long-term decline in the land's ability to provide essential ecosystem services.

#### Causes:

Natural: Soil erosion, salinization.

Human-induced: Deforestation, overgrazing, unsustainable cropping and irrigation.

## **Major Findings**:

**Yield Loss**: Around 1.7 billion people live in areas where crop yields are 10% lower due to land degradation.

**Most Affected**: Asia — due to high population and accumulated degradation.

Productivity Loss: Total Factor Productivity (TFP) growth has declined since 2000s, especially in the Global South.

Food Security Link: 47 million children under 5 suffering from stunting live in areas with major yield losses.

**Ecosystem Impact:** Degradation affects crops, livestock, forests, and biodiversity, disrupting climate patterns and ecosystem balance.

# Significance for India

India is among the countries facing serious land degradation due to soil erosion, deforestation, and overuse of water.

#### Supports need for:

oSustainable land management and soil conservation,

oWatershed restoration and climate-resilient farming,

oAfforestation and agroforestry initiatives (e.g. National Mission for a Green India).

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