

Several researches conducted, and adaptation options piloted and implemented. Key good practices and innovations in Bangladesh relating to UNCCD are:

- Mulching to address soil degradation
- Drip irrigation for efficient water use
- Rain water harvesting for natural resources
- Composting for soil health
- Land zoning

Global agenda for sustainable development and obligations of Rio Conventions focus on the interactions between the components of environment with sustainable livelihoods. Accomplishments of Rio Conventions are one of the key drivers to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030. Out of 17 SDGs, Goal 15: Life on Land is directly linked with Convention to Combat Desertification.



UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION (UNCCD)

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United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification is a 'Rio Convention'. This is the only Convention stemming from a direct recommendation of the Rio Conference's Agenda 21, was adopted on 17 June 1994 and entered into force in December 1996. It is the only internationally legally binding framework set up to address the problem of desertification. The Convention is based on the principles of participation, partnership and decentralization—the backbone of Good Governance and Sustainable Development. It has 196 parties, making it near universal in reach.

The international community has long recognized that land degradation or desertification is a major economic, social and environmental problem in all regions of the world. In 1977, the United Nations Conference on Desertification (UNCOD) adopted a Plan of Action to Combat Desertification (PACD).

The objective of UNCCD is to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious drought particularly in Africa. General obligations of UNCCD is to adopt an integrated approach to address the physical, biological and socio-economic aspects of the processes of desertification, drought and land degradation. Bangladesh as a Party signed the Convention on 14 October 1994 and ratified on 26 January 1996. Secretary of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is the National Focal Point of three Rio Conventions.

The Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme (LDN TSP) under UNCCD is assisting countries in making the LDN concept a reality by 2030. The programme provides practical tools and guidance for the establishment of voluntary LDN targets. Countries including Bangladesh have committed to set LDN targets.

Bangladesh's Response

Bangladesh has made considerable progress in managing drought and combating land degradation. Bangladesh has incorporated the land degradation issues in the relevant sector policy, master plans, national five-year plans and perspective plans. Following are the policies that incorporated the land degradation and drought management:

- National Environment Policy 2018
- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2016-2021
- National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) 2010-2021
- National Action Programme (NAP) on UNCCD 2015 -2024
- Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100
- National Land Use Policy 2001
- National Agriculture Policy 2013
- Bangladesh Biological Diversity Act 2017
- National Water Act 2013
- Bangladesh Biosafety Rules 2012
- National Biosafety Guidelines 2007

