



Enviro Notes

Environment Periodical for change makers
(An Environment Awareness Initiative by Nirvaan Somany)

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Is Fashion Costing The Earth?

The fashion industry is a significant contributor to environmental degradation worldwide. From the production of raw materials to the disposal of finished products, the industry has a significant impact on the planet.

One of the biggest environmental impacts of the fashion industry is the use of water. The production of cotton, which is used to make a large percentage of clothing, requires large amounts of water. In addition, the use of chemicals and dyes in the production of clothing also contributes to water pollution.

Another significant impact of the fashion industry is the pollution caused by textile manufacturing. The production of textiles generates a large amount of waste and pollutants, which can harm the environment and local communities.

The fashion industry is also a major contributor to carbon emissions. The production, transportation, and disposal of clothing all generate significant amounts of greenhouse gases, which contribute to climate change.

The rise of fast fashion has also had a negative impact on the environment. Fast fashion refers to the rapid turnover of trends and styles in clothing, which encourages consumers to purchase new clothes frequently. This has led to an increase in the amount of clothing that is produced, which in turn has led to an increase in the environmental impact of the industry.

In addition to the environmental impact of the production of clothing, the disposal of clothing also has a significant impact. Many clothes end up in landfills, where they can take decades to decompose. In addition, the burning of clothes can release harmful chemicals into the air.

To reduce the environmental impact of the fashion industry, consumers can make more sustainable choices when purchasing clothing.

This can include buying second-hand clothing, choosing clothing made from sustainable materials, and supporting companies that have environmentally friendly practices.

In conclusion, the fashion industry has a significant impact on the environment. From the use of water and chemicals in production to the disposal of clothes, the industry contributes to a range of environmental problems. However, by making more sustainable choices, consumers can play a role in reducing the environmental impact of the fashion industry.

The fashion industry is a major contributor to environmental degradation worldwide. Here are some statistics that high-

light the impact of the industry:

" It takes 2,700 litres of water to produce one cotton shirt, which is equivalent to the amount of water an individual drinks in three years.

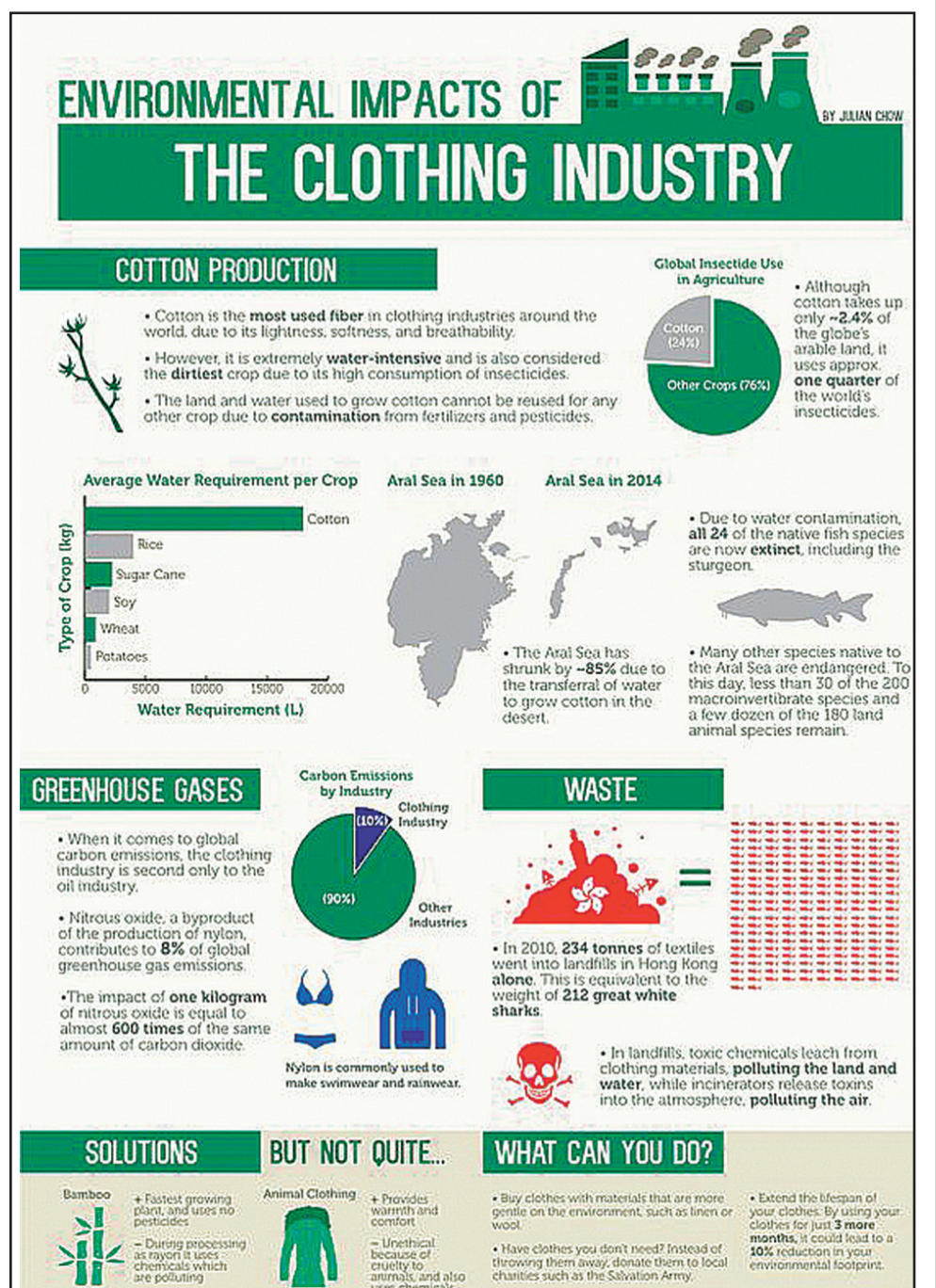
" The textile industry is responsible for 20% of global water pollution.

" The production of textiles generates 1.2 billion tons of CO2 emissions per year, which is more than international flights and maritime shipping combined.

" The fashion industry is the second-largest industrial polluter in the world, after the oil industry..

" It is estimated that the fashion industry produces 92 million tons of waste per year.

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SAVE SOIL

Soil is important for the planet because it plays a crucial role in supporting plant growth, which in turn supports entire ecosystems. Additionally, soil is responsible for filtering and purifying water, maintaining air quality, and supporting animal life. Soil is also an important sink for carbon, helping to regulate the Earth's climate. Without healthy soil, many of the planet's vital ecological processes would be disrupted.

Soil is a vital resource that supports plant growth, food production, and the overall health of the planet. However, it is under threat due to human activities such as deforestation, overgrazing, and intensive agriculture. The loss of soil also contributes to climate change, as it releases carbon stored in the soil into the atmosphere.

To save soil, it is important to practice sustainable land use and management. This includes using conservation tillage methods, crop rotation, and cover cropping to reduce soil erosion and improve soil health. Another important step is to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, which can degrade soil quality over time.

Another way to conserve soil is to reforest degraded areas and protect wetlands and other ecosystems that help to maintain soil health. This can be done through government policies, private land conservation, and community-based initiatives.

Another way to conserve soil is the use of composting, which is the process of breaking down organic materials such as food scraps and yard waste into a nutrient-rich soil amendment.

One of the most important ways to save soil is to raise awareness about its importance and the impact of human activities on soil health. This can be done through education, outreach, and research programs that inform the public and decision-makers about the value of soil and the need to protect it.

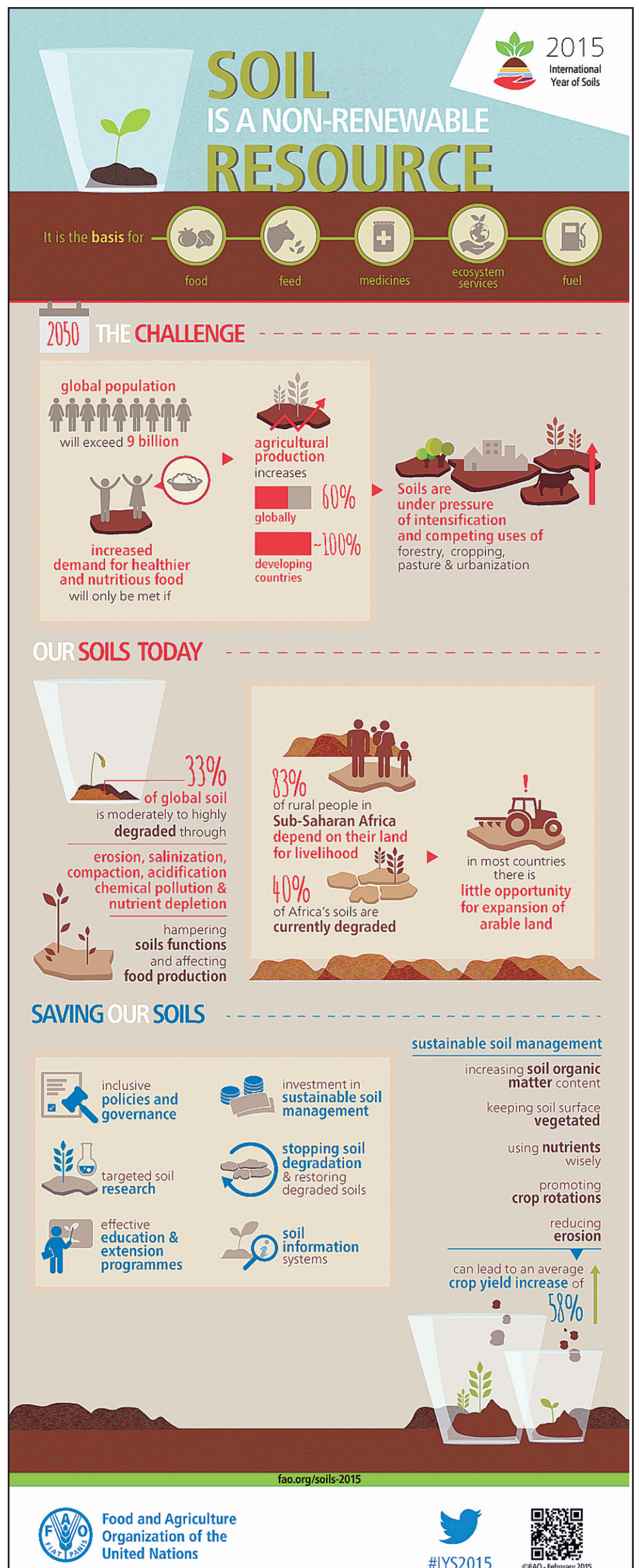
In summary, saving soil is crucial to ensure food security, biodiversity, and the overall health of the planet. This can be achieved through sustainable land use and management practices, reforestation, conservation tillage, cover cropping, composting, reduction of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, and raising awareness about the importance of soil.

Soil is being damaged in several ways, including:

1. **Deforestation:** Clearing forests for agriculture or urban development removes vegetation that helps to hold soil in place and increases erosion.
2. **Overuse of pesticides and fertilizers:** The use of these chemicals can lead to a decline in soil health and the loss of beneficial microorganisms.
3. **Urbanization:** Urban development often involves paving over or compacting soil, which can make it difficult for plants to grow and reduce the soil's ability to retain water.
4. **Climate change:** Extreme weather events, such as floods and droughts, can lead to erosion and degradation of soil structure.
5. **Overgrazing:** When too many animals graze in an area, they can strip the land of vegetation and cause erosion.
6. **Industrial activities:** Pollution from factories and mines

can contaminate soil and make it difficult for plants and animals to survive.

7. **Soil sealing:** The transformation of natural or semi-natural land into built-up areas, such as roads, buildings and industrial areas can lead to loss of soil function.



WHAT IS BIODIVERSITY AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT

Biodiversity, short for biological diversity, refers to the variety of life on Earth. This includes the diversity of species, ecosystems, and genetic variations within species. Biodiversity is a crucial component of the natural world and its loss can have serious consequences for both the environment and human well-being.

One of the main reasons why biodiversity is important is that it provides vital ecosystem services. These services include things like pollination of crops, pest control, and water purification. For example, it is estimated that 75% of the world's food crops rely on pollinators, such as bees, butterflies, and bats, for their survival. Similarly, wetlands and other ecosystems act as natural filters, purifying water and removing pollutants. The loss of biodiversity can lead to a decline in these services, which can have a negative impact on agriculture and human health.

Biodiversity also plays a key role in climate regulation. Trees and other plants absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, helping to mitigate the effects of climate change. In fact, it is estimated that terrestrial ecosystems store around 1,500 billion tons of carbon, which is roughly equivalent to the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. In addition, wetlands, mangroves, and other ecosystems act as natural buffers against extreme weather events such as floods and hurricanes.

Biodiversity is also important for cultural and spiritual reasons. Many indigenous peoples have a deep spiritual connection to the land and its biodiversity. For example, in the Amazon rainforest, indigenous people have lived in harmony with the environment for thousands of years, developing sophisticated agricultural systems that maintain biodiversity. The loss of biodiversity can lead to the loss of traditional knowledge and practices, as well as the erosion of cultural identity.

Despite the importance of biodiversity, it is under threat from a variety of human activities. Habitat destruction, pollution, overfishing, and climate change are all major drivers of biodiversity loss. In fact, it is estimated that around 1 million species are at risk of extinction, many within decades. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) in its Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, states that around 1 million species are currently at risk of extinction, many within decades, more than ever before in human history.

In addition, it is estimated that around 75% of global land and 66% of marine areas have been significantly altered by human activities. This results in the loss of habitats and the fragmentation of ecosystems, which can have a negative impact on biodiversity. For example, the destruction of rainforests and other tropical habitats is a major driver of species extinction, with around 17,000 species being lost every year.

In order to protect biodiversity, it is essential that we take action to address these threats. This can be done through a variety of measures, such as protecting and restoring habitats, implementing sustainable farming and fishing practices, and reducing pollution. In addition, it is important to recognize and respect the rights of indigenous peoples, who are often the best stewards of biodiversity.

For example, protected areas, such as national parks and marine reserves, are an effective way to protect biodiversity. It is estimated that protected areas cover around 15% of the Earth's land surface and 7% of the oceans. However, for effective conservation, it is important to ensure that protected areas are well-managed and adequately funded, and that local communities are involved in their management.

In conclusion, biodiversity is essential for the health and well-being of both the planet and its inhabitants. By taking action to protect and restore biodiversity, we can ensure a sustainable future for all. It is important that we all take the necessary steps to protect and conserve biodiversity, so that

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" The use of synthetic fibre in clothing, such as polyester, contributes to microplastic pollution in the ocean.

Approximately 35% of microplastics in the ocean come from the washing of synthetic textiles.

" The fast fashion industry is responsible for producing around 1 billion garments per year, and the average person now buys 60% more clothes than they did 15 years ago.

" The average life span of a piece of clothing has decreased by around 36% in the last 15 years.

" Only 15% of textiles are recycled globally.

These statistics demonstrate the significant environmental impact of the fashion industry. However, it is important to note that by making more sustainable choices and supporting companies that have environmentally friendly practices, consumers can play a role in reducing the environmental impact of the industry.

BIODIVERSITY. WHY CARE?

BIODIVERSITY IS SHORT FOR **BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**, AND IS THE TERM USED TO DESCRIBE THE **VARIETY OF ALL LIFE ON EARTH**; FROM GENES TO ECOSYSTEMS, AND THE **ECOLOGICAL AND EVOLUTIONARY PROCESSES** THAT SUSTAIN IT.

High levels of biodiversity mean a **healthy ecosystem**.

Biodiversity is usually explored at three levels -
genetic diversity,
species diversity and
ecosystem diversity

All species are **interconnected**. They depend on one another.

Genetic diversity is the **genetic information** and characteristics of individual organisms.

Ecosystem diversity is the **variety of ecosystems** in a given place.

Species diversity is the **variety of species** within an ecological community.

Biodiversity is under serious threat as a result of human activities.



Habitat Destruction



Natural Resource Exploitation



Urbanisation



WHAT YOU CAN DO

Plant native plants - Patrol wildlife areas - Pick up litter - Buy sustainable products - Avoid animal-based products

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please visit www.mygreenworld.org or download our mobile game app, World of the Wild, and see how you can participate in virtual wildlife conservation.