

**Subject: Environmental Science (Hons.)**

**Semester/Year : 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester/1<sup>st</sup> year**

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**Name of Topic: Land Use Pattern**

# **Land Use Pattern**

# Definition of Land

**Land as a physical entity in terms of its topography and spatial nature thus including natural resources like the soil, minerals, water and biota existing on the land. These components provide a variety of services essential to the maintenance of life-support systems and the productive capacity of the environment.**

# Functions of Land

1. **Production Function**
2. **Space function for socio-economic and infrastructural development**
3. **Human settlement space function**
4. **Biotic environmental function**
5. **Climate regulative function**
6. **Hydrologic function**
7. **Waste and pollution control function**
8. **Storage function**
9. **Archive or heritage function**

# Classification of Land Area

- **Land Cover Classification – physical appearance**
- **Agro-Climatic / Agro-Ecological Classification - technical attributes like soil profile, soil texture, agro -climatic conditions etc.**
- **Land Use Classification - purpose for which it is being used**

# **Land Use Classification**

**To measure land and its impact on ecosystem land use classification is required**

**The traditional nine-fold land use classification**

**UN ECE classification**

# Nine-fold classification

- 1. Forests**
- 2. Land put to non-agricultural uses**
- 3. Barren and unculturable land**
- 4. Permanent pastures and other grazing lands**
- 5. Miscellaneous tree crops and groves, not included in the net area sown**
- 6. Culturable waste**
- 7. Fallow land, other than current fallows**
- 8. Current fallows**
- 9. Net area sown**

# UN ECE Classification

**Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) released a Standard Statistical Classification of land use mixing some categories of land cover and taking into account additional economic activities like mining, industrial land, land used for public services, etc.**