



Ministry of Forests and Environment, Nepal



Press Release

WORLD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION (WDCD)

17 June, 2018

Nepal is a party to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) since 1997. The convention was adopted on 17 June 1994. The World Day to Combat Desertification has been observed since 1995 to promote public awareness relating to international cooperation and national efforts to combat desertification and land degradation. This day helps to unite together to achieve the land degradation neutrality goals and to reduce the adverse effect of drought and land degradation.

Parties to the Convention are observing this year's World Day to Combat Desertification (WDCD) under common theme of "Land has true value — invest in it". This focused to protect and conserve the value of land by promoting sustainable land management and land degradation neutrality through investment on organic and fairly trade products for the sustainable way of living and, producing and consuming. Effective observation of this theme is expected to contribute to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal 15.

Nepal encourages relevant organizations including non-governmental and private organization to advance people's awareness in addressing land degradation and dryness being one of the highly prioritized environmental concerns. Nepal has adopted National Action Programme in 2004 and revised and launched in the right day of World Day to Combat Desertification on July 17, 2016 and is implementing and improving programs to further minimizing land degradation and dryness. Nepal has decided to involve in the land degradation neutrality target setting programme since UNCCD COP 12 held in Turkey. Continuing this we have again committed for the same in the COP 13 in Ordos, China which is the adoption of Land Degradation Neutrality as a major tool to achieve the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development. The government of Nepal has different provisions with special projects and programs to promote the gender equality for the stewardship of land resources.

We wish for the successful celebration of the day for the collective effort to make landmark to achieve the Land Degradation Neutrality with gender equality and social inclusions. This day helps to provide opportunities to integrate management actions to improve land productivity restore degradation and ensure sustainable use of land, water and forests resources with people's participation.

June 17, 2018