



PCERP Seminar Proceedings

Book 9

National Level Seminar

On

Environmental Reengineering: Series 6

YEAR OF SOILS



Organized by

Mahatma Education Society's

Pillai College of Education & Research,

Dr. Pillai Teacher Training Center, Sector 8, Khanda Colony,

New Panvel - 410206 Tel No: (022)- 27464161, 27480289

Website: www.pcerpanvel.ac.in

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PREFACE

One of the important elements of the panchbhutas is the 'Soil'; a living system in itself. It supports and sustains different forms of life. Life on this planet evolves from the soil and perishes in the soil - A source and destination for all. It heals, restores and resurrects life. Charles E. Kellogg rightly states, "There can be no life without soil and no soil without life; they have evolved together." Soil is a complete world in itself; it helps create a powerful and complex natural system comprising a variety of abiotic and biotic components.

India is blessed with different types of soil. Rich Indian soil supports biodiversity, and so it is counted as one of the mega-diverse countries of the world. We owe this to our culture, a culture which gives great importance to its soil, a culture which is driven by its pious relationship with the soil. Soil forms a part of our daily life, be it in the form of agriculture or ritual ceremonies, be it in the form of sand art or artifacts, be it in the form of pottery or sculpture... it has touched us and even the world around us with its beauty. However, the beauty of this soil is overshadowed by the dark clouds of destruction and, we humans play a major role in eroding this beauty of nature.

The establishment of any civilization, the manifestation of cultural evolution is built upon the foundation of agricultural productiveness which is dependent on the soil. Undue pressure exerted by the developing civilization on the soil has left an unhealed lesion on nature. A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself, and if we lose the soil we lose the means to feed ourselves.

Though we are aware of this fact, but we seldom acknowledge that life is not possible without the soil and no soil can be possible without life; therefore it is our responsibility to preserve and conserve the both. United Nations General Assembly has designated the year 2015 as the International Year of Soils. Keeping in line with the above view, Pillai College of Education & Research, Panvel, has dedicated the seminar on Environmental Reengineering Series 6 to this cause. The seminar was an attempt to kindle the minds of participants to strategize conservation and preservation of the 'Soil'.

Asst. Prof. Mrs. Geeta S. Thakur