

India

Agenda Item - 6

Space Technology for Sustainable Socioeconomic Development

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished delegates,

Today, Indian delegation is pleased to brief the subcommittee on the agenda item 'Space technology for Sustainable socioeconomic development'.

Technological interventions are gaining increasing importance in India to pursue the sustainable development so that benefits could reach to the last miles of the society. In this regard, use of space technology, in the field of natural resources inventory and assets mapping, is playing critical role to evolve suitable management practices towards exploitation and conservation of resources in a sustainable manner.

Mr. Chairman,

Space based inputs have been facilitating the farming community to optimally manage the crop production system. Satellite remote sensing data is being used as inputs to the model-based approach for crop yield forecasting. Satellite based Agro-met advisories provide weather conditions and crop stress early warning services helped farmers to save their crops and thereby, contributes to food security. As an example, satellite data is used to assess the severity of agriculture drought in-time, so as to take measures to mitigate the damage.

As agriculture is the major consumer of fresh water, integrated irrigation water management is the prerequisite for judicious use of water for crop production. It also helps in preventing the land degradation through waterlogging and soil salinity in irrigated command areas. In India, satellite data is being used to derive information on crop type and crop area coverage in the command areas. It facilitates in estimating the optimal crop water requirements towards more efficient irrigation at the field level.

Mr. Chairman,

While addressing water security issues in dry land areas, the land and water resources

development on a watershed basin in India, has shown encouraging results and demonstrated the operational utilization of space technological inputs. It has helped to adopt suitable conservation measures for improving the productivity of the watershed and thereby, enhancing income of the farming communities. Satellite based mapping and monitoring of fallow lands and wastelands have significantly aided in diversification and intensification of agricultural activities in the country.

Mr. Chairman,

Satellite data serves as critical inputs for providing early warning, assessing and managing the disaster events such as cyclones, flood, drought and forest fires in the country. Using satellite derived inputs in to the model, in-house methodology has been developed for early warning of tropical cyclones. It has helped in evacuations of the people in advance from the vulnerable areas and saves precious human lives.

India has made commitments on emission control at recent Glasgow COP-26 summit. At the same time, India's energy requirement is expected to surge 3 to 4 times in coming decades from the present level. In order to address the commitments, India has been increasingly making efforts to enhance CO₂ removal through increasing vegetation cover, adopting renewable energy options without compromising the developmental priorities of the country.

Mr. Chairman,

To support Governance initiatives, geospatial databases, including satellite data are being used for planning and monitoring the developmental programmes initiated by the Government. This has helped the administrators to undertake the midcourse corrections to enhances efficiency in implementing the flagships schemes of Government.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, using space technological interventions, India is making efforts in protecting the environment and conserving the resources, studying issues such as land degradation, rise in urbanisation, loss of forest cover etc., In this regard, Indian delegation will be happy to share the experience in this important area.

Thank you Chairman and Distinguished delegates