

The Rio Conventions Pavilion Science Day on 5 September 2019 in New Delhi

Connecting consumption and production to create sustainable supply chains

Over-consumption of ecosystem-derived goods, partly driven by continued population growth, but mostly by high consumption lifestyles in more developed economies, combined with rising consumption in developing and emerging economies, are the dominant factors driving land degradation globally. There is an increasing separation and spatial disconnection between consumers and the ecosystems that produce the food and other commodities they depend upon, which has resulted in a growing lack of awareness and understanding of the implications of consumption choices for land degradation by these consumers.

Achieving LDN can be enhanced through sustainable consumption and production flows, patterns, and practices if the existing mechanisms to collect, compile, and share information are integrated so that the flows of consumption are linked to the land which produces what is being consumed. This will require that we harness advances in monitoring consumption and production flows and making them more transparent in order for consumers to make informed decisions.

Key questions:

Q1. How do we minimize adverse economic, social and environmental impacts leading to land degradation on other countries and people around the world?

Q2. How do we increase awareness and education at the individual level, especially among consumers, of the environmental impacts associated with the full chain of production, transportation and, ultimately, waste management related to consumer products and services?