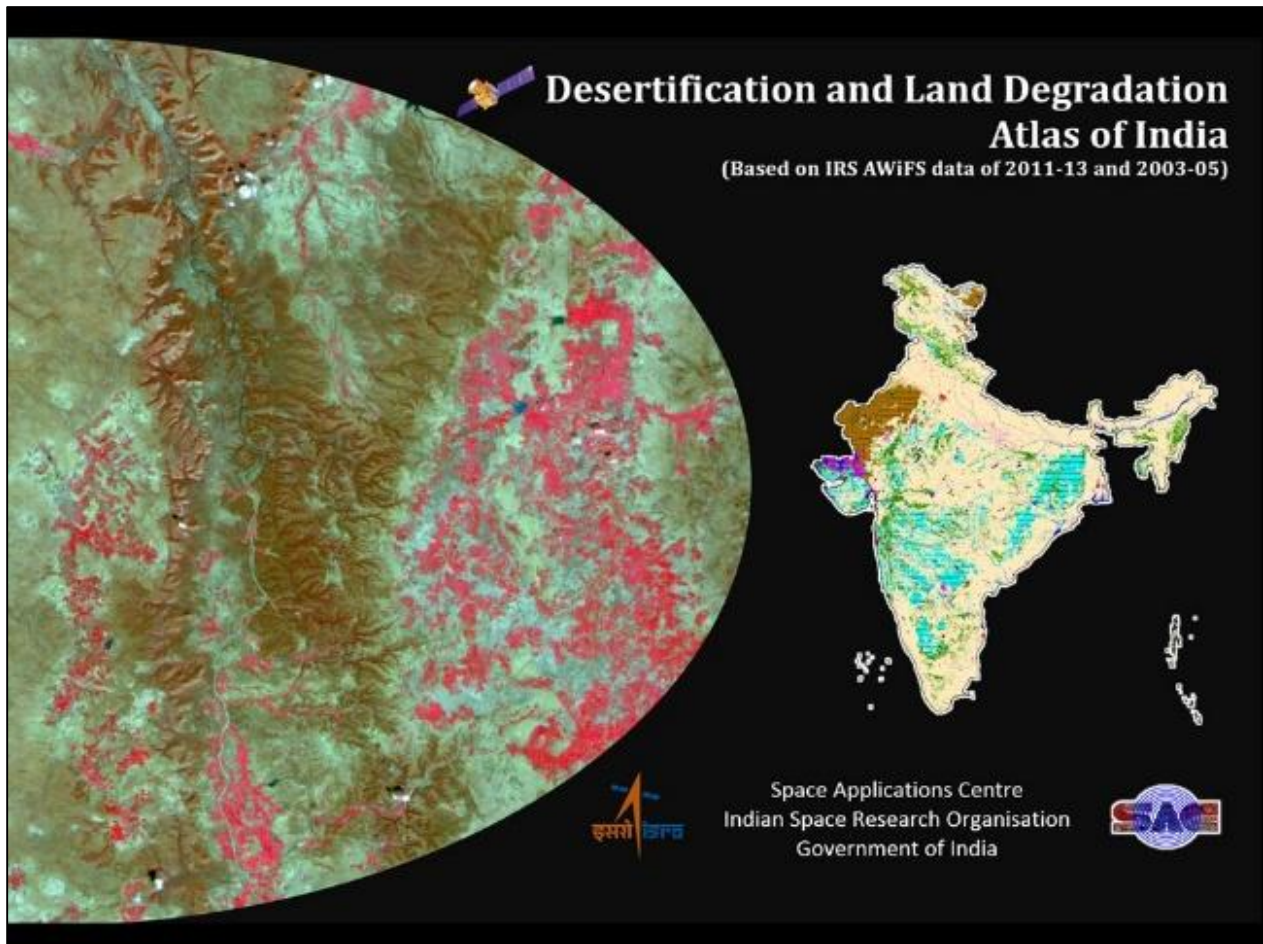


Release of “Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India”

[Space Applications Centre \(SAC\)](#), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Ahmedabad has published “Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India (Based on IRS AWiFS data of 2011-13 and 2003-05)”. The Atlas has been released on the occasion of “**World Day to Combat Desertification**”, on **June 17, 2016** jointly organised by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India, New Delhi and Arid Zone Forest Research Institute (AFRI) at Jodhpur, Rajasthan. Theme of the “*World Day to Combat Desertification – 2016*” is “*Inclusive Cooperation for Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality*”, with Slogan “*Protect Earth, Restore Land, Engage People*”.

This Atlas is one of the outcomes of an ongoing national project entitled, “Desertification Status Mapping of India”, sponsored by the MoEF&CC under Standing Committee on Bio-resources & Environment of National Natural Resources Management System (NNRMS SC-B). The project is being executed by SAC along with 19 concerned Central/State government departments and academic institutes.

This Atlas presents Desertification and Land Degradation Status Maps depicting Land Use, Process of Degradation and Severity Level along with area statistics consolidated for entire country as well individual states for 2011-13 and 2003-05-time frame and reports the changes. The Atlas along with the geospatial database created for two timeframes along with corresponding Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS), Advanced Wide Field Sensor (AWiFS) images has also been put on SAC Web Portal “[Visualization of Earth Data and Archival System](#)” (VEDAS). This geospatial database is extremely useful for identifying vulnerable areas of desertification and land degradation and easy updation in future. Further work on Desertification and land degradation mapping, vulnerability modelling and preparing action plans for combating desertification using high resolution IRS LISS-III, LISS-IV and Cartosat data for selected vulnerable districts and micro watersheds is in progress. The status of India’s desertification and land degradation along with the changes can be used for India’s reporting to United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD) by [Desertification Cell of MoEF&CC](#). The maps and salient findings compiled in the form of Atlas can also be used as a ready reference by concerned policy makers, regional planners and researchers.



[Click here](#) to download the Atlas

**Glimpses of the Program on “World Day to Combat Desertification – 2016”, on June 17, 2016
at Arid Forest Research Institute (AFRI), Jodhpur**



Address by Shri Prakash Javadekar, Honorable Minister of State (Independent Charge), MoEF&CC, GOI through video



*Release of Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas
from left to right (Dr. Y.V.N. Krishnamurthy, Scientific Secretary, ISRO, Shri Rajani Ranjan Rashmi, IAS, Additional Secretary, MoEF&CC, Chief Guest Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Honorable Member of Parliament, Jodhpur, Shri Surendra Singh Chaudhary, PCCF & HOFF, Rajasthan and Shri N.K. Vasu, IFS, Director, AFRI)*



Release of Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas DVD

from left to right (Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, IAS, Joint Secretary, MoEF&CC, Dr. Y.V.N. Krishnamurthy, Scientific Secretary, ISRO, Shri Rajani Ranjan Rashmi, IAS, Additional Secretary, MoEF&CC, Chief Guest Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Honorable Member of Parliament, Jodhpur)



Technical Session of the Workshop on “Desertification and Land Degradation: Assessment and Rehabilitation Measures”, Chaired by Dr. L.N. Harsh, former Vice-Chancellor Jodhpur Agriculture University and Co-Chaired by Shri D.K. Das, Associate Director, SAC



Dr. A.S. Rajawat, Project Director, DSM, briefing about the Atlas



Shri Shashikant A. Sharma, Group Head, VRG, briefing about SAC Web Portal "Visualization of Earth Data and Archival System" (VEDAS)"