



News

The fingerprints of coastal carbon sinks: Improved technique measures carbon storage in wet mangroves

Blue carbon refers to the carbon in oceans and coastal areas. These ecosystems are excellent carbon sinks -- they can efficiently absorb and store carbon from the atmosphere. And with global emissions of carbon dioxide topping 35 billion tons in 2016, carbon sinks are more important than ever. A new study highlights a technique that could be used to accurately measure levels of soil carbon in coastal carbon sinks, such as mangrove forests. "Being able to measure soil carbon levels accurately and economically is vital for mangrove restoration projects and other conservation initiatives," says Gabriel Nobrega, an author of the new study. In the past, researchers have used the technique -- diffuse reflectance spectroscopy, or DRS -- to measure carbon in dry soils. "Few studies have tested it.... [Read more...](#)

Date: 01 November 2017

Source: <https://www.sciencedaily.com/>

These 20 Plants can Guzzle Pollutants, Finds DU Study

At a time when air quality in the national Capital has worsened, Delhi University's Department of Environment Science has come out with a research suggesting that a few trees/plants can absorb rising values of higher concentration of Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM). The research taking into account the Knowledge of Air Pollution Tolerance Index (APTI) value of 20 flora species recommended that *Azadirachta Indica* (neem), *Ricinus Communis* (castor bean), *Prosopis Juliflora* (kabuli kikar, vilayati babul), *Dalbergia Sisoo* (sheesham) and *Delonix Regia* (gulmohar) are tolerant species and can be used for green belt planning. "As tolerant species can play a vital role in absorption and detoxification of toxic air, our research work with students has computed APTI at different [Read more...](#)

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Source: <http://www.dailypioneer.com/>

Indigenous forests could be a key to averting climate catastrophe

A new study finds the world's tropical forests may no longer be carbon sinks, with a net loss of 425 million tons of carbon from 2003 to 2014. Also, 1.1 billion metric tons of carbon is emitted globally from forested areas and land use annually — 4.4 billion metric tons are absorbed by standing forests on managed lands, but 5.5 billion metric tons are released via deforestation and degradation. As a result, curbing deforestation and degradation is now seen by scientists as a vital strategy for nations to meet the carbon reduction goals set in Paris in 2015, and of averting a catastrophic 2 degree Celsius rise in temperatures by the end of the century. Other new research finds that indigenous and traditional community management of forests could offer a key to curbing emissions, and give the [Read more...](#)

Date: 06 November 2017

Source: <https://news.mongabay.com/>

Pest attacks on rise across India, yet no discussion on spurious pesticides

After a series of farmer suicides in Odisha's Bargarh district over pest attack, the state government finally acknowledged that there are nearly 200,000 hectares of area, on which paddy is grown, has been damaged across nine districts. According to farmers, spurious pesticides were in use which proved ineffective to control Brown Plant Hopper, which first wilted lush green crops and then turned them into rust. To prevent further spread of the pest, farmers burnt their crops, but it was not effective. The state government is yet to take call on whether to send samples of pesticides to lab for testing. No one in the government is ready to talk about spurious pesticides. "Hybrid paddy, high density plantation, high-urea and ammonium content in fertilisers, more pesticide usage and favourable [Read more...](#)

Date: 07 November 2017

Source: <http://www.downtoearth.org.in/>

Punjab agriculture experts seek effective ban on stubble burning as pollution spikes

Agriculture experts in Punjab have sought an effective ban on stubble burning in the wake of air pollution reaching alarming levels in northern states. During a meeting organised by the Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) at the instance of the Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) on Saturday, the participants discussed effectiveness and economics of various machines used this season for straw management by the farmers. It was observed that super straw management system on combine harvesters must be made compulsory so that farmers could easily manage the harvested straw. A number of farmers, who have been sowing wheat without paddy straw burning, participated in the meeting and shared their experiences and informed that the straw management technologies ... [Read more...](#)

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