



## News

**Plant respiration could become a bigger feedback on climate than expected**

The new findings, published in the journal Nature Communications today [November 17th] are based on the comprehensive GlobResp database, which comprises over 10,000 measurements of carbon dioxide plant respiration from many plant species and from across the globe. Merging these data with existing computer models of global land carbon cycling shows that plant respiration has been a potentially underestimated source of carbon dioxide release to the atmosphere. The study shows that across the world, carbon release by plant respiration may be around 30% higher than previously predicted. As mean global temperature increases, the researchers also estimate that respiration will increase significantly. Such increases may lower the future ability of global vegetation to offset .... [Read more...](#)

**Date:** 17 November 2017**Source:** <https://www.sciencedaily.com/>**Bid to fight air pollution: NTPC to use crop stubble in fuel mix**

In an initiative to help curb increasing air pollution in Delhi and neighbouring states, the Centre has told NTPC BSE -1.02 % to procure farm stubble from states like Punjab and Haryana to be used in its fuel mix, power minister R K Singh has said. The state-run electricity producer will use 10% of straw pellets in their energy mix, Singh said on Thursday. "This will create a market for stubble for the farmers," he said. "NTPC will soon float a tender for procurement . of these pellets." The move comes even as a study by Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) said coal-based power plants continue to flout emission norms. NTPC is the largest thermal power generator in the country with coal-based installed capacity of 38,755 mw. The national capital region is fighting a pollution ..... [Read more...](#)

**Date:** 17 November 2017**Source:** <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/>**Why India continues to use lethal pesticides**

One more evil has reared its ugly head in Maharashtra's arid Vidarbha region, which has so far been infamous for farmer suicides. Some 35 farmers in the region have died of pesticide poisoning in last four months. Most of them were working in cotton and soybean fields and had inadvertently inhaled pesticides while spraying on crops. The death toll is highest in Yavatmal district, where 18 farmers died between July and the first week of November. Similar incidents have also been reported from Nagpur, Akola and Amravati districts. B S Yelke, head of the medicine department at Shri Vasantnao Naik Government Medical College in Yavatmal, says, some 479 poisoning cases have been referred to the hospital since July. Most of them complained of giddiness, vomiting, ..... [Read more...](#)

**Date:** 20 November 2017**Source:** <http://www.downtoearth.org.in/>**Chocolate makers agree to stop cutting down forests in West Africa for cocoa**

At COP23, the UN climate talks in Bonn, Germany that wrapped up last week, top cocoa-producing countries in West Africa announced new commitments to end the massive deforestation for cocoa that is occurring within their borders. Ivory Coast and Ghana are the number one and number two cocoa-producing nations on Earth, respectively. Together, they produce about two-thirds of the world's cocoa, but that production has been tied to high rates of deforestation as well as child labor and other human rights abuses. The so-called "Frameworks for Action" that were announced by the two countries last Thursday not only aim to halt the clearing of forests for cocoa production, especially in national parks and other protected areas, but to restore forest areas that have..... [Read more...](#)

**Date:** 21 November 2017**Source:** <https://news.mongabay.com/>**Meadows beat out shrubs when it comes to storing carbon**

Excess carbon dioxide, emitted by burning fossil fuels like coal and petroleum, is one of the most important factors in driving global warming. While the world is focused on controlling global warming by limiting these emissions, less attention has been paid to the capacity of vegetation and soils to take up and store carbon. One of the most popular approaches to carbon storage is protecting tropical rainforests. If a rainforest is cut down, the carbon stored in the trunks and leaves will be released to the atmosphere. But plants in alpine communities in Norway also have a role to play in storing -- or releasing -- carbon dioxide. "We don't think about how much carbon is actually stored right in our own backyard," says Mia Vedel Sørensen, a PhD candidate at NTNU's Department of ..... [Read more...](#)

**Date:** 23 November 2017**Source:** <https://www.sciencedaily.com/>

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