



TRINITY COLLEGE FOR WOMEN NAMAKKAL

Department of Mathematics

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

-EVEN Semester

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WHAT IS AN ECOSYSTEM?

The ecosystem is the structural and functional unit of ecology where the living organisms interact with each other and the surrounding environment. In other words, an ecosystem is a chain of interactions between organisms and their environment. The term “Ecosystem” was first coined by A.G.Tansley, an English botanist, in 1935.

TYPES OF ECOSYSTEM

An ecosystem can be as small as an oasis in a desert, or as big as an ocean, spanning thousands of miles. There are two types of ecosystem:

- Terrestrial Ecosystem
- Aquatic Ecosystem

TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS

Terrestrial ecosystems are exclusively land-based ecosystems. There are different types of terrestrial ecosystems distributed around various geological zones. They are as follows:

- Forest Ecosystems
- Grassland Ecosystems
- Tundra Ecosystems
- Desert Ecosystem

FOREST ECOSYSTEM

A forest ecosystem consists of several plants, animals and microorganisms that live in coordination with the abiotic factors of the environment. Forests help in maintaining the temperature of the earth and are the major carbon sink.

GRASSLAND ECOSYSTEM

In a grassland ecosystem, the vegetation is dominated by grasses and herbs. Temperate grasslands, savanna grasslands are some of the examples of grassland ecosystems.

TUNDRA ECOSYSTEM

Tundra ecosystems are devoid of trees and are found in cold climates or where rainfall is scarce. These are covered with snow for most of the year. The ecosystem in the Arctic or mountain tops is tundra type

DESERT ECOSYSTEM

Deserts are found throughout the world. These are regions with very little rainfall. The days are hot and the nights are cold.

WHICH ECOSYSTEM DO WE LIVE IN?

We live in a terrestrial ecosystem. This is the ecosystem where organisms interact on landforms. Examples of terrestrial ecosystems include tundra, taigas, and tropical rainforests. deserts, grasslands and temperate deciduous forests also constitute terrestrial ecosystems.

THANK YOU

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