**SOIL**

* **Soil** is one of the world's most important natural resources. Together with air and water it is the basis for life on planet earth.
* Most life on earth depends on **soil** as a direct or indirect source of food.
* Soil is important for growing trees for shelter, plants for clothing like flax or cotton and for growing industrial raw materials like rubber, bean oils, corn for ethanol, etc.
* Soil plays a major role in recycling of air, water, nutrients, and maintaining a number of natural cycles, thereby ensuring that there will be a basis for life in generations to come.
* **Soil** is made up of air, water, minerals and organic material
* Soil greatly reduces the risk of flood by storing up to 9,200 tons of water per acre.
* A handful of healthy soil has more living organisms than there are people on earth. The number of bacteria in one spoonful of soil ranges from thousands to several billion 5 to 7 thousand different species. Some bacterial microbes are used to make medicines: antibiotics, antidepressants, anticancer, and antifungal.
* Soil acts as a filter for underground water, filtering out pollutants and absorbing wastes.
* About 10 percent of the world’s carbon dioxide emissions are stored in soil.
* Soil provides shelter for lots of creatures: earthworms, ants, termites, gophers, turtles, snakes, rabbits, slugs, snails, beetles, spiders, moles, ground hogs.