



17 JUNE

WORLD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

"The desert is a spreading cancer...we have decided to join in this titanic battle."
- Abdoulaye Wade -



Why do We Mark This Day?

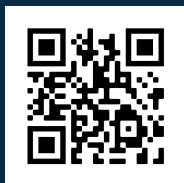


Have you heard of desertification? Desertification is not a natural process. It refers to land degradation that resulted from climate change and humans' irresponsible use of land. According to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), one-fifth of the Earth's land area is degraded, including more than half of all agricultural land. Every year, more than 12 million hectares of land are lost to desertification, land degradation, and drought, which threaten human well-being and global food security.

To emphasize the importance of restoring and maintaining soil fertility and mitigating the effects of drought, the UN declared June 17, the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought to promote public awareness and international cooperation to fight against desertification. This declaration also promotes the implementation of the UNCCD in countries that are most at risk of desertification.



Questions for Discussion



<Desertification>

- ✓ After watching the video, what lesson can we learn about the causes of desertification and soil degradation?
- ✓ What are the threats of desertification and soil degradation to mankind?
- ✓ Why do desertification and soil degradation further magnify food hunger and poverty? Explain.



Meet Today's Global Citizens



John D. Liu

He is a cameraman and ecologist who has been travelling the world to promote the restoration of ecosystems, and he has been inspiring government leaders and farmers through his films and knowledge.

<Regreening the desert>



Chico Mendes

He is an environmentalist and union organizer in Brazil who formed a worker's union that fights against deforestation in his home country.

<Chico Mendes and the Fight to Save the Amazon Rainforest>

