

Interference of Invasive Species on Achieving SDGs in India

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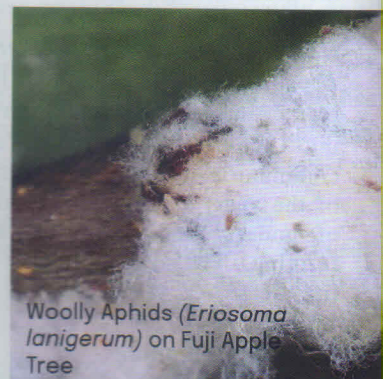
ALL the United Nations Member States unanimously adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) proposed by the UN in 2015 in New York City, USA. We are almost in the Ninth year, and it is time to evaluate ourselves on the progress achieved to implement the SDGs. In particular, we need to know more about major challenges such as no poverty, zero hunger, clean water and sanitation, life on land and below water, and climate change.

It is evident that for the past three years, COVID-19 events have redirected the progress to a large extent. However, the UN was not happy with the pre-pandemic day's progress too. Apparently, the UN asked the member state to gear up the process on a war foot. Pertaining to India, NITI Aayog plays a crucial role in monitoring the progress of the states and UTs in achieving the SDGs. Moreover, NITI Aayog is in a position to prepare the national review and present it at the UN High-Level Political Forum.

Recently (20-21), progress has been released by NITI Aayog, and the report says that all the states of India have crossed 50 points in the implementation of the SDGs. Interestingly, the report highlighted that 15 states are the front-runner category and announced a significant improvement across the nation in implementing SDGs. NITI Aayog also mentioned that some SDGs



Fall armyworm



Woolly Aphids (*Eriosoma lanigerum*) on Fuji Apple Tree



Water hyacinth (*Pontederia crassipes*)



Coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*)

are still in the aspirant category (e.g. gender equality and zero hunger). NITI Aayog also pointed out that we need to go the mile to achieve some of the SDGs, particularly climate action. In addition, NITI Aayog registered its concern that this lacuna will affect the country's overall performance,

Invasive Alien Species (IAS) have been identified as one of the main drivers of global biodiversity loss; further, they grimly affect food security by damaging agriculture and aquaculture production.



Prosopis juliflora