

Don't kill the bee!

Legal insights to combat the biodiversity crisis

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POSTER PRESENTATION

Loss of Biological Diversity due to Invasive Alien Species (IAS) – Need for an International Regime to Combat this Menace

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Invasive alien species (IAS) are animals, plants or other organisms that are introduced at a particular place outside their natural habitat. This destructively impacts the native biodiversity, the ecosystem services are the major cause of biodiversity loss and species extinctions and are a global threat to food. IAS can reduce the resilience of natural habitats, agricultural systems and urban areas to climate change. Climate change aggravates the biological invasions in natural habitats. In the recent decades globalisation has increased human movement world over leading to a rise in introduction of alien species to areas outside their natural habitats. A study in 2020 predicts that the number of established alien species will increase by 36% between 2005- 2050. Few common invasive alien species are Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), rats, Argentine ant (*Linepithema humile*), Emerald Ash Borer beetle (*Agrilus planipennis*) and so on. In India there are 173 alien species. While looking at the contemporary circumstances and a world-wide influx of non-native species, it is necessitated that a new international law is synthesised for conserving native varieties of plants. Policies to grow indigenous plants should be drafted with an elaborate inventory of all the native plants, which can be grown in a particular terrain and instructions should be given to the municipalities, department of horticulture, nurseries and other plant sources of each and every zone, to grow and supply only native plants in their areas. With the help of extensive research work undertaken by the officials of the horticulture department and taxonomists a list of native plants must be published on the local websites of the respective zones, world over by the local governments.