

# Global methane assessment

May 11, 2021

**In news:** A Global Methane Assessment by the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has been released.

## **Highlights-**

- More than half of global methane emissions stem from **human activities in three sectors: fossil fuels** (35 percent of human-caused emissions), **waste** (20 percent) and **agriculture** (40 percent).
- Currently available measures could reduce emissions from these major sectors by approximately 180 Mt/yr, or as much as 45 per cent, by 2030.
- Such reductions would **avoid nearly 0.3°C of global warming by 2045.**
- This would be consistent with keeping the **Paris Climate Agreement's goal** to limit global temperature rise to **1.5°C** within reach.
- Mitigation potential from all measures is expected to increase between 2030 and 2050, especially in the fossil fuel and waste sectors.
- The **potential strategies** that would be adopted include-
  - Reduce emissions from the oil and gas sector by promoting renewables
  - Improved treatment and disposal of solid waste
  - Reducing food waste and loss, improving livestock management, and the adoption of healthy diets.

## **About methane-**

- Methane, a **short-lived climate pollutant (SLCP)** is a potent greenhouse gas **tens of times more powerful than carbon dioxide** at warming the atmosphere.
- Methane's atmospheric concentration has more than doubled since pre-industrial times and is second only to

carbon dioxide in driving climate change during the industrial era.

- It contributes to the **formation of ground-level ozone**, a dangerous air pollutant.
- Methane's short atmospheric lifetime means taking action now can quickly reduce atmospheric concentrations and result in rapid reductions in ozone pollution.