

Water Hyacinth

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Why in news?

Farming in Kuttanad, Kerala is affected by water hyacinth (*Eichhorniacrassipes*), locally known as Pola or Kullavazha.

About the species:

- Water hyacinth is a free-floating and flowering **invasive aquatic plant originated from Amazon Basin, South America.**
- The reproduction systems of water hyacinth are both sexual and asexual reproduction.
- The invasive plant **doubles itself within 5–15 days.**
- Water hyacinth **affects the lake hydrology** by increasing the evapotranspiration of lake water.
- It creates a **favorable environment for the production of snails and mosquitoes.**
- The mat of water hyacinth **affects recreation and tourism facilities in large water bodies** (e.g. VembanadLake in Kerala), **impacts fishing and transportation, irrigation, and hydropower infrastructures.**
- Now water hyacinth has been used by scientists to produce carbon nanoparticles which can be used for detecting a commonly used herbicide named pretilachlor.