**Unit 4: Ecosystem**

**Important Definitions**

**Ecosystem:** An ecosystem is a network of interactions between all the *living* *organisms* and the *non-living things* around them.

**Habitat:** The place where an organism naturally lives. It provides the organism with food, water, shelter, and space.

**Food Chain:** A food chain is a linear sequence of organisms and simplified way to show the relationship of organisms that feed on each other.

**Food Web:** It represents how energy flows through various organisms, with multiple food chains linked together.

**Nocturnal**: Active at night.

**Ecology:** The study of an ecosystem is called ecology.

**Invasive species (intruders):** Species that enter and establish themselves in a new environment where they are not native.

**Native species:** The organisms that are living in their natural habitat.

**Extinct:** Organisms that are no longer in existence, having ended or died out.

**Bio accumulation:** The process by which harmful substances, such as DDT, insecticides or heavy metals, build up in an organism and can’t be broken down inside the body cells over time.

**Biomagnification:** Increase in the concentration of harmful substances, such as DDT, insecticides or heavy metals as we go up a food chain.

**Biodegradable:** Something that can be broken down naturally by bacteria and fungi.

**Persistent:** a substance which stays in the environment for a long time.