**Unit 4: Ecosystem**

**Important Definitions**

1. **Ecosystem:** An ecosystem is a network of interactions between all the *living* *organisms* and the *non-living things* around them.
2. **Habitat:** The place where an organism naturally lives. It provides the organism with food, water, shelter, and space.
3. **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.
4. **Food Web:** It represents how energy flows through various organisms, with multiple food chains linked together.
5. **Nocturnal**: Active at night.
6. **Ecology:** The study of an ecosystem is called ecology.
7. **Invasive species (intruders):** Species that enter and establish themselves in a new environment where they are not native.
8. **Native species:** The organisms that are living in their natural habitat.
9. **Extinct:** Organisms that are no longer in existence, having ended or died out.
10. **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.
11. **Biomagnification:** Increase in the concentration of harmful substances, such as DDT, insecticides or heavy metals as we go up a food chain.
12. **Biodegradable:** Something that can be broken down naturally by microorganisms (bacteria and fungi).
13. **Persistent:** a substance which stays in the environment for a long time and does not break down or excrete from the body.
14. **Adaptations:** features of organisms that help them to live or survive in their habitat.
15. **Eradicate:** completely get rid of.
16. **Insecticides:** Chemicals that kills insects.
17. **Toxic**: poisonous