

4/11/2020

CLASS - 8th
Subject - Science

Page ①

Chapter-1 (Crop production & management)

Task-A : Read the chapters

Task-B : Write down these QPs in your fairnote-book.

Q1: What are crops? Give eg.

A: When plants of same kind are cultivated at one place on a large scale, these are called crops. eg. wheat, Rice, Pea etc.

Q2: What are Kharif crops? Give eg.

Ans: Try yourself.

Q3: What are Rabi crops? Give eg.

A: Try yourself.

Q4: Why paddy (kharif) can not be grown in the winter season?

A: Try yourself.

Q5: What are agricultural practices?

A: Try yourself.

tur
imj
of t
Thi
are
ver
plo
big
nec
Lev
sow
of s
soil
mix
moi
Agt
Befo
brea
is d
The
the]

Crop]

variety of crops grown in different parts of the country. Despite this diversity, two broad cropping patterns can be identified. These are:

(i) Kharif Crops : The crops which are sown in the rainy season are called kharif crops. The rainy season in India is generally from June to September. Paddy, maize, soyabean, groundnut and cotton are kharif crops.

(ii) Rabi Crops : The crops grown in the winter season (October to March) are called rabi crops. Examples of rabi crops are wheat, gram, pea, mustard and linseed.

Besides these, pulses and vegetables are grown during summer at many places.

1.2 Basic Practices of Crop Production



Why paddy can not be grown in the winter season?



Paddy requires a lot of water. Therefore, it is grown only in the rainy season.

Cultivation of crops involves several activities undertaken by farmers over a period of time. You may find that these activities are similar to those carried out by a gardener or even by you when you grow ornamental plants in your house. These activities or tasks are referred

to as **agricultural practices** which are listed below:

- (i) Preparation of soil
- (ii) Sowing
- (iii) Adding manure and fertilisers
- (iv) Irrigation
- (v) Protecting from weeds
- (vi) Harvesting
- (vii) Storage

1.3 Preparation of Soil

The preparation of soil is the first step before growing a crop. One of the most important tasks in agriculture is to turn the soil and loosen it. This allows the roots to penetrate deep into the soil. The loose soil allows the roots to breathe easily even when they go deep into the soil. Why does the loosening of soil allow the roots to breathe easily?

The loosened soil helps in the growth of earthworms and microbes present in the soil. These organisms are friends of the farmer since they further turn and loosen the soil and add humus to it. But why the soil needs to be turned and loosened?

You have learnt in the previous classes that soil contains minerals, water, air and some living organisms. In addition, dead plants and animals get decomposed by soil organisms. In this way, various nutrients in the dead organisms are released back into the soil. These nutrients are again absorbed by plants.

Since only a few centimetres of the top layer of soil supports plant growth, turning and loosening of soil brings the nutrient-rich soil to the top so that plants can use these nutrients. Thus,

CROP PRODUCTION AND MANAGEMENT

Paheli and Boojho went to their uncle's house during the summer vacation. Their uncle is a farmer. One day they saw some tools like *khurpi*, sickle, shovel, plough, etc., in the field.



I want to know where and how we use these tools.

You have learnt that all living organisms require food. Plants can make their food themselves. Can you recall how green plants synthesise their own food? Animals including humans can not make their own food. So, where do animals get their food from?

But, first of all why do we have to eat food?

You already know that energy from the food is utilised by organisms for carrying out their various body functions, such as digestion, respiration and excretion. We get our food from plants, or animals, or both.

Since we all need food, how can we provide food to a large number of people in our country?



Food has to be produced on a large scale.



In order to provide food for a large population—regular production, proper management and distribution is necessary.

1.1 Agricultural Practices

Till 10,000 B.C.E. people were nomadic. They were wandering in groups from place to place in search of food and shelter. They ate raw fruits and vegetables and started hunting animals for food. Later, they could cultivate land and produce rice, wheat and other food crops. Thus, was born 'Agriculture'.

When plants of the same kind are cultivated at one place on a large scale, it is called a **crop**. For example, crop of wheat means that all the plants grown in a field are that of wheat.

You already know that crops are of different types like cereals, vegetables and fruits. These can be classified on the basis of the season in which they grow.

India is a vast country. The climatic conditions like temperature, humidity and rainfall vary from one region to another. Accordingly, there is a rich