

Science. Class -8<sup>th</sup> lesson -1 Crop production and management

**Keywords**

- **Agricultural practices** = The activities undertaken by farmers over a period of time for cultivation of crops.
- **Animal husbandry** = The study of the care of animals.
- **Crop** = crops are plants of the same kind grown in large quantities for food.
- **Fertilizer** = These are man made inorganic salts.
- **Granaries** = A building or store room for storing threshed grain, farm seed etc.
- **Harvesting** = It is the cutting of the crop after it is mature.
- **Irrigation** = The supply of water to crops in the fields at different intervals.
- **Kharif** = The crops which are sown in the rainy season and harvested in September/October.
- **Manure** = Organic substances obtained from dead plants and animal wastes.
- **Plough** = It is a tool used for loosening and turning of the soil.
- **Rabi** = The crops which are grown in the winter and harvested in March/April.
- **Seeds** = The unit of reproduction of a flowering plant, capable of developing into another such plant.
- **Silo** = A tall tower like structure for storing bulk materials.
- **Sowing** = It is the process of putting seeds in the soil.
- **Storage** = proper storage of food grain is important to protect against moisture, microorganisms and insects.
- **Threshing** = It is the process of separating the grain from the cut crop.
- **Weeds** = unwanted plants which usually grow with the crop and take up most of the nutrients required for the crop.
- **Weedicide** = These are the chemicals used for killing the weeds.
- **Winnowing** = After threshing, the grain is separated from the chaff, with the help of wind.

**Questions**

**1. Fill in the blanks**

- (a) The same kind of plants grown and cultivated on a large scale at a place is called **crops**.
- (b) The first step before growing crop is **preparation** of the soil.
- (c) Damaged seeds would **float** on top of water.
- (d) For growing a crop, sufficient sunlight and **nutrients** and **water** from the soil are essential.

**2. Matching**

1. Kharif crops = paddy and maize
2. Rabi crops = wheat, gram, pea
3. Chemical fertilizers = urea and super phosphate.
4. Organic manure = animal excreta, cow dung, urine and plant waste.

**3. Give two examples of each**

**Kharif crop**-groundnut and cotton

**Rabi crop** -pea and mustard.

**4. Write a paragraph in your own words on each of the following.**

**Preparation of soil** :: it involves loosening and turning the soil. This process known as ploughing is done by using a wooden or iron plough which is pulled either by an animal or by tractors. Loose soil is then level by using a wooden or iron leveler.

**Sowing**:: seeds are sown after preparation of the soil. Seeds can be run manually or by seed drills by the process called broadcasting. Seeds should be sown at the correct depth and at correct distance.

**Wedding**:: The process of removing weeds from a field is called weeding. Weeding can be done manually by pulling the weeds out by hand or by using a harrow to uproot them. Weeding can also be done by spraying special chemicals.

**Threshing**:: it is the process of separating the grain from the cut crop. It can be done manually by making oxen or buffaloes trample over the cut crop or by using a machine.

**5. Explain how fertilizers are different from manure.**

<b>Fertilizer</b>	<b>Manure</b>
It is an inorganic salt	It is a natural substance obtained by decomposition of plant and animal waste
It is prepared in factories	It is prepared in fields
Does not provide any humus	Provides a lot of humus
Very rich in plant nutrients like nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium	Not very rich in plant nutrients

**6. What is irrigation? Describe two methods of irrigation which conserve water.**

Supply of water to crops at appropriate intervals is called irrigation.

**Two methods.**

**Sprinkler system**: where water is sprinkled on the cross as if it is raining.

**Drip system**: the water falls drop by drop just at the position of the roots.

**7. If wheat is sown in the kharif season, what would happen? Discuss.**

Farmers will not get a good crop because wheat should be sown in winter season.

**8. explain how soil gets affected by the continuous plantation of crops in a field.**

When the crops are planted continuously in a field, the soil becomes deficient in nutrients.

**9. What are weeds? How can we control them?**

Weeds are unwanted plants in the fields. It can be controlled by

- During tilling they are removed
- By removing them manually
- By using weedicides.

**10. Arrange the following boxes in proper order to make a flow chart of sugarcane crop production.**

1. Sending crop to sugar factory
2. Irrigation
3. harvesting.
4. sowing
5. preparation of soil
6. ploughing the field
7. manuring

**Proper order is** preparation of soil, ploughing the field, sowing, manuring, irrigation, harvesting, sending crop to sugar factory.

**11. complete the following.**

**Down**

1. Providing water to the crops – **irrigation**
2. Keeping crop grains for a long time under proper conditions – **storage**
5. Certain plants of the same kind grown on a large scale-**crop**

**Across**

3. A machine used for cutting the mature crop- **harvester**
4. Ravi crop that is also one of the pulses- **gram**
5. A process of separating The grain from **chaff-winnowing**