

INTRODUCTION

Untill 10,000 BC, people were wandering around to find out food for their livelihood. But after that they understood the importance of farming. So they started cultivation and production on land. Thats how agriculture started.

- * When plants of the same kind arecultivated at one place on a large scale,it is called a crop.
- * Cereals, vegetables and fruits are different types of crops.
- * Crops are cultivated under the basis of climatic conditions. There are mainly 2 types of crops: Kharif Crops & Rabi Crops.
- * **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.
Eg:- rice, maize, millet, ragi, pulses, soybean and groundnut.
- * **Rabi Crop** : The crops grown in the winter season . Generally from October to March.
Eg:- wheat, barley, oats, gram, mustard, linseed.

STEPS IN AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

- * Preparation of soil
- * Sowing
- * Adding manure and fertilisers
- * Irrigation
- * Protecting from weeds
- * Harvesting
- * Storage

- * Before sowing, **good quality**, clean and **healthy seeds** of a good variety—are selected.
- * Tools used for sowing seeds :-
 - Traditional tool** - The seeds are filled into the funnel, passed down through two or three pipes having sharp ends. These ends pierce into the soil and place seeds there.
 - Seed drill** - seed drill is used for sowing with the help of tractors.
 - This sows the seeds uniformly at equal distance and depth.
 - Covered soil protects seeds from being eaten by birds.

ADDING MANURE AND FERTILISERS

- * For the healthy growth of plants manure and fertilisers are required.
- * Continuous cultivation of crops makes the soil poor in nutrients. Therefore, farmers have to add manure to the fields to replenish the soil with nutrients. This process is called **manuring**.
- * Manure is an organic substance obtained from the decomposition of plant or animal wastes.
- * **Fertilisers** are chemicals which are rich in a particular nutrient which are produced in factories.
 - urea,
 - Eg :- ammonium sulphate, super phosphate, potash, NPK (Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium).
- * Excessive use of fertilisers will make the soil less fertile.
- * Therefore, in order to maintain the fertility of the soil, we have to substitute fertilisers with organic manure or leave the field uncultivated (fallow) in between two crops.
- * Another method of replenishing the soil with nutrients is through **crop rotation**.