

1. CROP PRODUCTION AND MANAGEMENT

1.1 Agricultural Practices

- * When plants of the same kind are cultivated at one place on a large scale, it is called a crop.
- * Crops are of different types like cereals, vegetables and fruits.
- * Crops are classified on the basis of the season in which they grow.
 - (i) **Kharif Crops** : The crops which are sown in the rainy season (June to September) are called kharif crops.
Examples :- Paddy, maize, soyabean, groundnut and cotton.
 - (ii) **Rabi Crops** : The crops grown in the winter season (October to March) are called rabi crops.
Examples: wheat, gram, pea, mustard and linseed.

1.2 Basic Practices of Crop Production

- * Cultivation of crops / Growing ornamentals plants involves **several activities** undertaken by farmers over a period of time. These activities or tasks are referred to as **agricultural practices** which are listed below:
 - (i) Preparation of soil
 - (ii) Sowing
 - (iii) Adding manure and fertilizers
 - (iv) Irrigation
 - (v) Protecting from weeds
 - (vi) Harvesting
 - (vii) Storage

1.3 Preparation of Soil

- It is first step/activity of cultivation.
- In this step soil is turned and loosen.

The process of loosening and turning of the soil is called **tilling or ploughing**.

Q : Why is soil turned/loosen ?/ Advantage of tilling or ploughing/ Benefits of preparation of soil/

- This allows the roots to penetrate deep into the soil for easy breathing.
- 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.
- It brings the nutrient-rich soil to the top so that plants can use these nutrients.
- It helps in proper mixing of manure with soil.

Q : What is “Lavelling” in agricultural practices ?

A : Breaking of big clumps of soil (crumbs) is called “Lavelling” in agricultural practices

Levelling the field is beneficial for sowing as well as for irrigation. Levelling of soil is done with the help of a leveller.

Agricultural Implements[Tools]

The main tools used for this purpose are the plough, hoe and cultivator.

Plough : This is being used since ancient times for

- tilling the soil,
- Adding fertilisers to the crop,
- removing the weeds and turning the soil.

: This is made of wood and is drawn by a pair of bulls or other animals (horses and camels).

: It contains a strong triangular iron strip called **ploughshare**.

: The main part of the plough is a long log of wood which is called a **ploughshaft**. There is a handle at one end of the **shaft**. The other end is attached to a beam which is placed on the bulls’ necks.

Hoe : It is a simple tool which is used for removing weeds and for loosening the soil.

: It has a long rod of wood or iron. A strong, broad and bent plate of iron is fixed to one of its ends and works like a blade.

: It is pulled by animals.

Cultivator : Nowadays ploughing is done by tractor-driven cultivator. The use of cultivator saves labour and time.

H.W : Learn all the above points

: Make well labeled diagram of a) Plough b) Hoe

: Make model of “Plough or Hoe”.

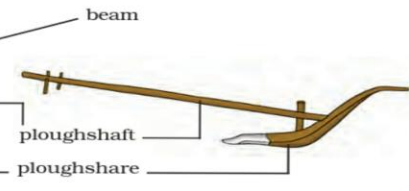


Fig. 1.1 (a) : The plough

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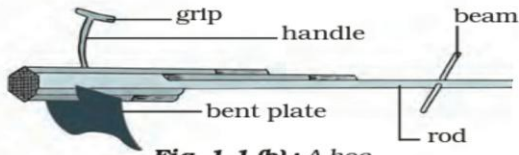


Fig. 1.1 (b) : A hoe



Fig. 1.1 (c) : Cultivator driven by a tractor

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