

CHAPTER - AGRICULTURE

Agriculture → It is the branch of science that deals with the production of plants for food and other purposes. These plants are called crops.

Crop → Crops are the plants of one type that are grown in a particular region during a particular period of time.

Crops are grown in a field in a stepwise manner. The various steps involved are —

Stages of Agriculture

- ① Ploughing → Loosening and tilling of soil.
- ② Manuring → Adding nutrients to soil in the form of manures and fertilizers.
- ③ Sowing → Sowing healthy seeds in the soil to grow crops.
- ④ Irrigation → Supplying sufficient water to the crops.
- ⑤ Weeding → Removal of unwanted plants (weeds) from the field.

⑥ Spraying pesticides → Killing of pests and insects by spraying pesticides.

⑦ Harvesting → Cutting of Mature crops.

⑧ Threshing → Removal of grains from chaff.

After harvesting, grains are stored in granaries. Different crops grow in different types of seasons and soil.

For Example -

- * Wheat grows in alluvial soil which is rich in humus.
- * Jowar and Bajra grows well in sandy soil of Rajasthan.
- * Rice needs clayey soil that can hold plenty of water.

In India, farmers grow two types of crops:

- # Kharif crop
- # Rabi crop

Kharif crop

Crops that are grown in summer (from June to October) are called Kharif crop. They depend on rainfall.

Rice, maize, Jowar and Bajra are some Kharif crops. Litchi and muskmelon are also grown

in summer season.

Rabi Crop →

Crops that are grown in winter (from November to April) are called rabi crops.

Wheat, barley and peas are some rabi crops. Vegetables such as cauliflower, bean and turnip and fruits such as orange and apple grow well in winter season.

How to Protect and Store Crops

Farmers need to protect their crops while growing and when they are harvested.

Let us study how farmers protect their crops.

- * They protect crops from grazing animals by fencing their fields.
- * They protect crops from harmful insects such as grasshopper, locusts and pests such as rodents and squirrels by spraying chemicals called insecticides and pesticides which kill these organisms.
- * After harvesting, grains need to be stored in airtight containers. This protects crops from moisture, rodents and birds.

NOTE

- # Tilling means to prepare the field for raising a crop.
- # Chaff means the outer part of a grain like wheat.
- # Rodents → Any of the various animals (small mammals like rats and mice) which have large, sharp front teeth.

HOME ASSIGNMENT

* Tick (✓) the correct answer.

1. Which of the following is a rodent?
 (a) Mice () (b) Dog () (c) Cat ()
2. It is a kharif crop.
 (a) Barley () (b) Peas () (c) Jowar ()
3. It is a summer fruit
 (a) Orange () (b) Apple () (c) Litchi ()
4. It is a rabi crop
 (a) Rice () (b) wheat () (c) Maize ()
5. It is a winter vegetable.
 (a) Turnip () (b) Lady fingers () (c) Yam ()

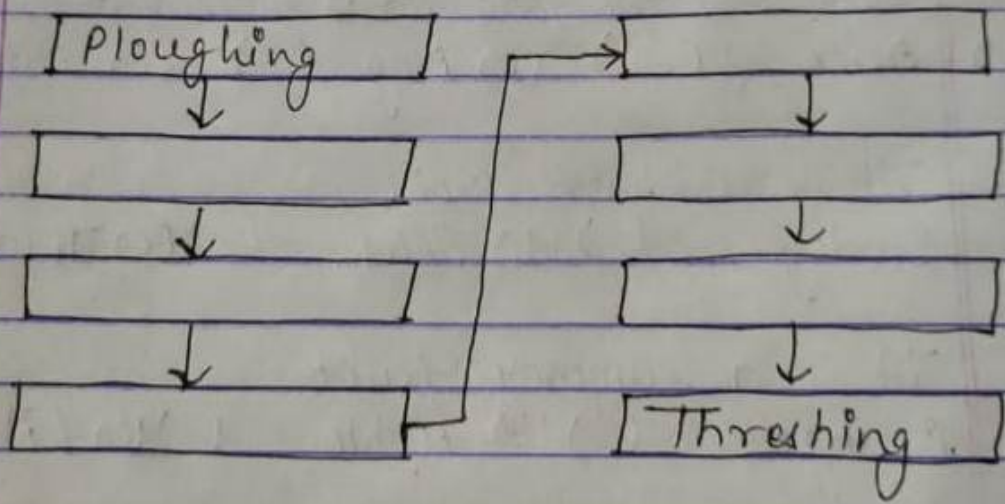
* Fill in the blanks -

1. _____ and _____ add nutrients to soil.
2. _____ is the outer part of grain.
3. _____ is the branch of science that deals with mass production of plants for food and other purposes.
4. _____ is an example of rabi crop.
5. _____ and _____ are used to kill insects and pest respectively.

Help Box

Insecticide	Chaff	Agriculture	Manure
_____	Pesticide	Fertilizers	Beans

Complete the flowchart:



Short answer question -

- ①. What do you understand by Crop?
- ②. Define Agriculture.
- ③. What is tilling?
- ④. Name two rabi and two kharif crop.
- ⑤. Name two winter and two summer

vegetables as well as fruits.

⑥

What do you mean by chaff?

⑦

Why is insecticides and pesticides used?

⑧

What are rabi crop?

⑨

What are Kharif crop?

⑩

Name all the stages involved in the process of agriculture.

#

Long answer question—

①

What is agriculture? Explain the various stages of agriculture.

②

Give difference between rabi and Kharif crop with example.

③

Name some crops and classify them on the basis of soil they grow in. Also explain the special characteristics of that soil type.

④

Explain few steps to protect and store crops.