



## Agriculture and Crop Production

### What is Agriculture?

Agriculture is the practice of growing crops and raising animals for food, clothing, and other human needs.

### Types of Crops in India

Crops are classified based on the season in which they grow:

Crop Type	Season	Examples
Kharif	Rainy (June–Oct)	Rice, Maize, Cotton, Groundnut
Rabi	Winter (Nov–Apr)	Wheat, Barley, Mustard, Peas
Zaid	Summer (Mar–June)	Watermelon, Muskmelon, Cucumber

### Basic Practices of Crop Production

#### i. Preparation of Soil

- Loosening the soil using tools like plough or hoe.
- Improves air, water, and nutrient absorption.



#### ii. Sowing

- Placing seeds into the soil.
- Done using traditional tools or seed drills.



#### iii. Adding Manure and Fertilizers

- **Manure:** Natural, organic matter.
- **Fertilizers:** Chemical substances rich in nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus.



#### iv. Irrigation

- Supplying water to crops.
- **Methods:** Canals, Tube wells, Sprinklers, Drip irrigation





#### v. Weeding

- Removing unwanted plants (weeds).
- **Tools:** Khurpi, Weedicides like 2, 4-D



#### vi. Harvesting

- Cutting and collecting mature crops.
- Can be done manually (sickle) or by machines (harvester).



#### vii. Threshing and Winnowing

- **Threshing:** Separating grain from chaff.
- **Winnowing:** Using wind to remove lighter chaff.



#### viii. Storage

- Grains are stored in jute bags, granaries, or silos to protect from insects and moisture.



### Tools and Machines in Agriculture

**Plough** – for tilling

**Hoe** – for loosening soil and removing weeds

**Seed drill** – for sowing

**Sprinkler/Drip system** – for irrigation

**Harvester** – for cutting crops

**Combine** – harvester + thresher

### Improving Crop Yield

- Use of high-yield variety (HYV) seeds
- Proper irrigation and fertilizers
- Pest control
- Use of modern machines