



Basic Practices of Crop Production

Introduction

To grow healthy crops and get a good yield, farmers follow several steps. These are called the basic practices of crop production.

i. Preparation of Soil

- Loosening and turning of the soil to make it airy and soft.
- Tools used: Plough, Hoe, Cultivator
- Helps roots to grow deep and mix nutrients well.

ii. Sowing

- Placing seeds into the prepared soil.
- Good quality, healthy seeds are used.
- Method: By hand or using a seed drill.

iii. Adding Manure and Fertilizers

- Plants need nutrients to grow.
- Manure: Natural and eco-friendly (made from animal waste)
- Fertilizers: Chemicals rich in nutrients (Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium)
- Helps increase soil fertility.

iv. Irrigation

- Supplying water to crops at the right time.
- Traditional methods: Canals, Wells, Tanks
- Modern methods: Sprinkler system, Drip irrigation

v. Weeding

- Removing unwanted plants (weeds) that grow with crops.
- Tools used: Khurpi, Hoe, Weedicides (like 2,4-D)
- Weeds take nutrients and space meant for crops.

vi. Harvesting

- Cutting and collecting mature crops from the field.



- Manual tools: Sickle
- Machines: Harvester, Combine
- Time varies based on crop type and season.

vii. Threshing and Winnowing

- Threshing: Separating grains from the harvested plant.
- Winnowing: Separating lighter chaff from heavier grain using wind.

viii. Storage

- Grains are dried and stored in jute bags, granaries, or silos.
- Protects crops from insects, rats, and moisture.



✳ Summary Table:

| Step | Purpose |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Preparation of Soil | Loosen soil and mix nutrients |
| Sowing | Place seeds in soil |
| Adding Manure/Fertilizer | Provide nutrients to crops |
| Irrigation | Supply water to crops |
| Weeding | Remove unwanted plants |
| Harvesting | Cut mature crops |
| Threshing & Winnowing | Separate grains from plants and chaff |
| Storage | Keep grains safe after harvesting |