

Soil Erosion



Soil erosion is the gradual removal or wearing away of the Earth's soil surface by natural agents such as running water, wind, waves and snow. It takes away the fertile topsoil, making the soil infertile and unsuitable for plant growth.



Causes of Soil Erosion:

- The loss of protective vegetation through deforestation, overgrazing, ploughing, over cultivation and forest fire makes the soil susceptible to being swept away by strong wind and running water.
- Inappropriate farming techniques such as deep ploughing the land two or three times a year to produce annual crops can lead to soil erosion.



Prevention of Soil Erosion:

- The force of wind and flowing water can be reduced by growing cover crops. A cover crop is grown to cover the land after harvesting the main crop. Cover crops prevent soil from being exposed to wind and flowing water.
- The force of wind and water can also be reduced by growing trees and shrubs on the boundaries of fields. Rows of plants on the boundaries of field are known as shelter belts.
- Preventing overgrazing, afforestation, step farming and constructing river embankment.