

Week 9

Soil nutrient

Nutrient is essential for plant growth and the maintenance of fertility of soils.

Soil exhaustion can be avoided by

- (i) Adding natural fertilizers
Example, animal manure or artificial fertilizer such as potash and sulphate
- (ii) Adapting crop rotation method example, certain ingredient of the soil extracted by one crop in one year may be replaced by cultivating a different crop in the next year.
- (iii) Using fallow- leaving an area of plantation fallow or not planted
- (iv) Practice Shifting Agriculture
After a piece of land is exhausted the cultivation moves on to return to its natural vegetative cover.
- (v) Strip cropping of different crops in strips along the contours
- (vi) Mulching- the use of mulching and composting
- (vii) Inter- cropping of different crops in the same field

Soil Erosion

- Is the removal part of or all of the top layers of soil due to the action of wind and water.
- Extensive human activities and misuse of the land have caused the erosion of the soil

Causes of Erosion

- (i) Lack of vegetative cover
- (ii) Overgrazing
- (iii) Shifting Agriculture-the land is left abandoned after its fertility have deteriorated, has no vegetative cover against erosion, example India
- (iv) Monoculture

Short Answers

1. What are some causes of soil erosion?

2. Define:

Crop rotation

Mulching

Intercropping
