

Q1: What are the practices of sustainable agriculture?

Ans: Sustainable agriculture refers to the practice of producing food, fiber or other plant or animal products in a way that protects the environment, public health & social & economic well-being. Some of the key practices of sustainable agriculture include:

(1) Crop Rotation:

Planting different crops in a sequence to improve soil fertility, reduce pests & diseases & maintain a balanced ecosystem.

(2) Cover Crops:

Planting specific crops between main crops to protect & enrich the soil, prevent erosion & provide habitat for beneficial organisms.

(3) Integrated Pest Management (IPM):

Utilizing a combination of biological, mechanical & chemical methods to manage pests & diseases while minimizing environmental impact.

(4) Agroforestry:

Intercropping trees with crops to enhance biodiversity, conserve water & improve soil fertility.

(5) Conservation Tillage:

Reducing or eliminating plowing to minimize soil erosion & maintain soil structure.

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(6) Organic Farming:

Using natural methods & avoiding synthetic chemicals & genetically modified organisms (GMOs) to promote soil health & biodiversity.

Q1: Can organic farming sustain Indian agriculture?

Ans: Yes, organic farming has the potential to sustain Indian agriculture & offer numerous benefits. Organic farming promotes the use of natural methods & avoids the use of synthetic chemicals & GMOs, which can have harmful effects on the environment, soil health & human health. India's diverse agro-climatic conditions make it suitable for organic farming practices.

Q2: What is organic farming or Eco-friendly farming?

Ans: Organic farming, also known as eco-friendly farming, is an agricultural system that emphasizes the use of natural processes & materials to enhance soil fertility, control pests & diseases & promote sustainable practices. It avoids the use of synthetic chemical fertilizers, pesticides, growth regulators, etc.

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Q4: How were ancient agricultural methods eco-friendly?

Ans: Ancient agricultural methods were eco-friendly by necessity, as societies relied on the land's productivity to sustain their livelihoods. Some eco-friendly aspects of ancient agricultural practices include:

(1) Organic Farming:

Ancient civilizations relied on natural processes like composting, manure & crop rotation to maintain soil fertility.

(2) Traditional Irrigation:

Ancient farmers used simple & efficient irrigation systems to manage water resources effectively such as canals & water tanks.

(3) Agroforestry:

farmers intercropped trees with crops, creating agroforestry systems that conserved water, protected against soil erosion & provided additional food resources.

(4) Seed Saving:

Ancient farmers saved seeds from one harvest to use for the next planting season, preserving crop diversity.

(5) Terracing:

In hilly & mountainous areas, terracing was practiced to prevent soil erosion & utilize land effectively for agriculture.

Q6. List the eco-friendly approaches for the farming system.

Ans = Eco-friendly approaches for farming aim to promote sustainability, conserve resources & minimize negative impacts on the environment. Some of these approaches include:

(1) Organic Farming:

Avoiding synthetic chemicals & GMO's & focusing on natural methods to promote soil health & biodiversity.

(2) Agroecology:

Applying ecological principles to farming, emphasizing biodiversity & minimizing external inputs.

(3) Precision Agriculture:

Designing agricultural systems that mimic natural eco-systems & maximise resource efficiency.

(4) Use of Renewable Energy:

Adopting renewable energy sources for farm operations, such as solar-powered irrigation systems.

(5) Livestock management:

Integrating livestock with crop production to recycle nutrients & improve soil fertility.