Micropropagation

Definition

Micropropagation is the rapid multiplication of plants using tissue culture techniques under controlled lab conditions.

It produces large numbers of genetically identical (clonal) plants in a short time.

Steps

- Selection of Explant Choose a small part of the plant (leaf, stem, bud, root tip).
- Sterilization Remove all microorganisms from the explant.
- Culture in Nutrient Medium Place explant in a sterile medium containing nutrients + plant hormones.
- Shoot Multiplication Shoots develop from the explant.
- Root Formation Shoots are transferred to root-inducing medium.
- Acclimatization Young plantlets are slowly adapted to natural conditions.

Advantages

- Rapid production of many plants.
- Disease-free plants.
- Year-round production.
- Preservation of rare or endangered species.

Examples

Banana, sugarcane, potato, orchids.