**Possible Causes**

1. **Soil Health Issues**:
   * Depletion of nutrients from continuous cropping without replenishment.
   * Acidic or overly saline soil.
   * Soil compaction hindering root growth and water absorption.
2. **Pests and Diseases**:
   * Infestation of insects or rodents that harm crops.
   * Spread of plant diseases caused by fungi, bacteria, or viruses.
3. **Climate and Environmental Factors**:
   * Changes in rainfall patterns or prolonged droughts.
   * Extreme temperatures affecting growth cycles.
   * Increased competition from weeds.
4. **Farming Practices**:
   * Use of low-quality seeds with poor germination rates.
   * Inadequate irrigation or water management.
   * Overuse of chemicals leading to resistant pests or soil degradation.

**How to Investigate**

* **Soil Testing**: Collect soil samples and have them analyzed at an agricultural lab to determine nutrient levels, pH balance, and salinity.
* **Crop Assessment**: Observe plants for signs of pests, diseases, or stress (e.g., yellowing leaves, stunted growth). Check for unusual patterns across affected areas.
* **Environmental Monitoring**: Analyze rainfall and temperature data from recent seasons to identify adverse weather conditions.
* **Review Practices**: Reflect on changes to farming methods, seed quality, or chemical usage over the seasons. Compare them to periods of better yield.

**Addressing the Issue**

1. **Enhance Soil Health**:
   * Add organic matter like compost or manure to replenish nutrients.
   * Rotate crops to maintain soil fertility.
   * Use lime or gypsum to amend soil pH or salinity.
2. **Combat Pests and Diseases**:
   * Implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM), combining biological controls (e.g., beneficial insects) and targeted pesticides.
   * Plant resistant crop varieties.
3. **Adapt to Climate Challenges**:
   * Introduce drought-tolerant or heat-resistant crop varieties.
   * Use irrigation systems such as drip irrigation for efficient water use.
   * Apply mulching to retain soil moisture.
4. **Optimize Farming Practices**:
   * Use certified, high-quality seeds.
   * Diversify crops to reduce risk.
   * Seek advice from agricultural extension officers or local experts.