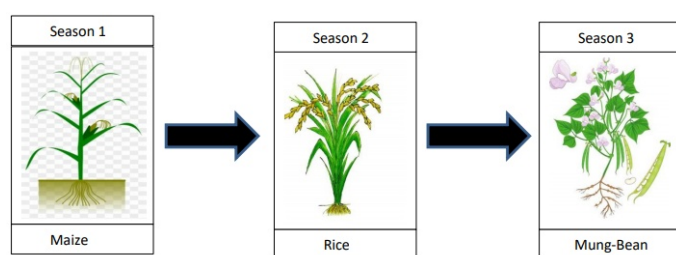


rotation changes the soil and crop environment in each season, reducing the chances of specific pests and disease outbreaks. Thus, crop rotation prevents the establishment of crop-specific pests, diseases, or weeds, which deduct the usage of chemicals. As an example, Cucurbit flies are the most common pest which attacks the Cucurbitaceae family, which includes Pumpkin, Melon, Cucumber, Snake Gourd, and Bitter Gourd. It concentrates solely on Cucurbit. The fly will be set up permanently in the same spot if the farmer leaves the Cucurbit in the same spot all year. So, rotating another crop with cucurbits will reduce the risk of a pest outbreak.

Crop rotation will enhance the efficient use of water and land. Including deep-rooting crops in the crop rotation helps to retain



A crop combination for crop rotation

groundwater, which shallow-rooted crops can utilize. There are evidence for the considerable improvement of soil health thus yields by the practice of crop rotation.

Different crop rotations can be observed in different agro-ecological regions in Sri Lanka. A farmer can practice different combinations of crops in crop rotation to suit the soil, climatic condition, and economic factors. Sri Lankan farmers practice annual rotation, including maize and legume, two-year rotation with maize, potato, sugarcane, and mung bean, three-year rotation with root crops, cabbage and pumpkins, and four-year rotation with root crop, cabbage, legume, potatoes. Though crop rotation is beneficial, the majority of farmers in Sri Lanka practice mono-cropping. So, it's time to think wisely and switch from the mono-cropping system to crop rotation to achieve high productivity to cater to the increasing food requirements while sustaining the soil productivity and the environment.

#### References:

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