Principles of Soil Science 3(2+1)

Theory-

Nature and origin of soil; soil forming rocks and minerals, their classification and composition, soil forming processes, classification of soils – soil taxonomy orders; important soil physical properties; and their importance; soil particle distribution; soil inorganic colloids – their composition, properties and origin of charge; ion exchange in soil and nutrient availability; soil organic matter – its composition and decomposition, effect on soil fertility; soil reaction – acidic, saline and sodic soils; quality or irrigation water; essential plants nutrients – their functions and deficiency symptoms in plants; important inorganic fertilizers and their reactions in soils. Use of saline and sodic water for crop production, Gypsum requirement for reclamation of sodic soils and neutralising RSC; Liquid fertilisers and their solubility and compatibility.

Practical-

Identification of rocks and minerals; Examination of soil profile in the field; Collection of Soil Sample; Determination of bulk density; particle density and porosity of soil; Determination of organic carbon of soil; Determination of Nitrogen, Determination of Phosphorus and Determination of Potassium; Identification of nutrient deficiency symptoms of crops in the field; Determination of gypsum requirement of sodic soils; Determination of water quality parameters.

Suggested Readings-

- Brady Nyle C and Ray R Well. 2002. Nature and properties of soils. Pearson Education Inc., New Delhi.
- Indian Society of Soil Science. 1998. Fundamentals of Soil Science. IARI, New Delhi.
- Sehgal J.. A. Textbook of Pedology Concepts and Applications. Kalyani Publishers, New Delhi.
- Hillel D. 1982. Introduction to Soil Physics. Academic Press, London.