

Points to Ponder:

- Farming has changed over the years.
 - Farmers keep aside some seeds from a good crop.
 - Seeds are protected from insects by putting neem leaves in them.
 - Undhiya is a vegetable dish, which is eaten with bajra roties.
 - Farmers grow many different kinds of crops –grains, and vegetables according to the season. During earlier times natural fertilizers like cow dung and dry leaves were used. Farmers now prefer to grow crops like wheat and cotton which get better prices in the market.
 - Equipment like tractors and electric motors are used for farming nowadays.
- With modern methods of farming, the number of people required to work on farms has reduced. Bajra and jowar are retired.
- Ploughing, Sowing, Manuring, Irrigation, Weeding, Harvesting, Threshing, and Storage are the various steps involved in agriculture.
 - Earthworms soften the soil as they keep digging underneath to make tunnels this makes the soil get air and water easily. Also, Earthworm eats dead plants and leaves and their droppings fertilize the soil that is why earthworms are called farmers friend.
 - Roots of the crotons do not go deep in the ground so when the top layer of the soil becomes dry the croton leaves bend and become limp. This indicates that the topsoil is dried.
 - Compost is the remains of plants and animal waste that is decomposed by small organisms.

-Vermicompost is a product of composting plant and animal waste using earthworms. Vermiculture is the rearing and cultivation of earthworms.

Undhiya –It is a special stew prepared in a clay pot. In this, all the vegetables are cut and put into a clay pot along with fresh spices. The pot is then sealed and kept upside down between hot coal. The vegetable gets cooked slowly with the spices. Thus Undhiya is ready to eat. It is served with hot Rotis.UNDHIYA in Gujrathi means Upside Down.

Fertilizer – It is a chemical substance used for enhancing soil fertility. Example Urea

Manure- It is an organic substance obtained from plant and animal waste. They improve the fertility of the soil. Example Cowdung.

Compost – It is dead and decayed plant and animal waste. It helps in improving the soil for agriculture and gardening.

The insecticide-The chemical used to kill insects is called Insecticide. An example is DDT.

Vermicompost: It is a product of composting plant and animal waste using earthworms. In this, the earthworm is put inside the compost pit. The dropping of earthworms is rich in humus and nutrients and thus adds nutrients to the soil.

Agriculture: The practice of growing plants on large scale for food and other purpose is called agriculture.

Write about the various steps involved in agriculture:

Ans: Different steps in agriculture To get a good crop, the farmers follow a number of steps in agriculture

1. **Ploughing**– it is the process of digging up the soil to prepare it for growing crops. It is done with the help of a plow which is pulled either by animals or by tractors.
2. **Sowing**– Once the soil is ready, healthy and ripe seeds of the best variety of seeds are selected and sown.
3. **Manuring**– It is the process of making the soil more fertile by adding manure and fertilizer. Manure is obtained from animal and plant waste.
4. **Irrigation**-It is the process of providing water to the fields for the crops to grow. It is necessary to supply the right amount of water to the crops at the right time.
5. **Weeding**– It is the process of removing the unwanted plants which grow along with the crops.
6. **Harvesting**- It is the process of cutting fully ripe crops. It is done either manually or by machines.
7. **Threshing**- It is the process of separating the grains from the crops.
8. **Storage**- It is the process of storing harvested crops. It is very important to store the harvested crops properly