

Program- B.Sc.(Agriculture)
Semester- Ist
Session- 2020-21
Course- PRINCIPLES OF AGRONOMY
Course code- BSCAG-111

D+2

Topic- Crops and their classification

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Crops

Crop is plant cultivated for economic purposes. An alternative crop is either a plant new to a region such as chickpea, canola, or a minor crop such as millet or buckwheat, which shows increased production or economic promise.

Definitions:

‘When plants of known economic values are grown in a community then the entire population is known as a crop’.

‘A crop refers to group of plants sown and harvested by man for some definite economic purpose’.

‘Field Crops: Herbaceous plants grown on cultivated fields’.

‘The group of plants of cereals, fodders, fruits or flower etc. grown in an agricultural fields according to a certain program and planning for their utilization by the human beings are collectively known as crop plants or simply crop’

Classification of crops: Crops are classified based on various factors.

- A. **Classification on the basis of season.** Crops are grouped under the season in which their major field duration falls.
 - **Kharif Crops-** In this group, the plant required more temperature and humidity at the time of sowing and dry atmosphere at the time of maturity like- Maize, Bajra, Red gram etc.
 - **Rabi Crops-** In this group, the plant required low temperature at the time of sowing and more temperature and dry weather at the time of maturity like- Wheat, Barley, Pea, Green gram etc.
 - **Zaid Crops-** In this group, the plant can tolerate from severe sunshine and wind. More humidity and precipitation is harmful for this group of crops like- muskmelon, Watermelon etc.
- B. **Classification on the basis of life cycle of plants.**
 - **Annuals-** Those crops, which own life cycle finished within year are called annuals e.g., Wheat, soybean, barley etc.
 - **Biennials-** Those crops, which require two years, in first year vegetative growth and in 2nd year seed production e.g., Sugar beet etc.
 - **Perennial-** Those plants which survive more than two years are called perennial e.g., Lucerne, sugarcane.
- C. **Classification on the basis of soil suitability.**
 - **Light soil crops-** Those crops, which grow sufficiently in light soil like- Bajra, Moong, Peanut etc.
 - **Solid soil crops-** Which crops more production in this type of soil like- Cotton, Rice etc.
 - **Middle soil crops-** Mostly vegetable grow in middle soil and give more production.
- D. **Taxonomical classification of crops-**
 - **Poaceae (Gramineae)-**
 - Festucoideae(sub family)-** Barley, Oats, Bread wheat.
 - Panicoideae-** Maize, Sugarcane, Sorghum etc.
 - Oryzoideae-** Rice
 - **Euphorbiaceae-** Castor, Tapioca

- **Liliaceae**- Onion, Garlic.
- **Asteraceae (Compositae)**- Sunflower, Safflower etc.
- **Brassicaceae (Cruciferae)**- Rape, Mustard etc.
- **Cannabaceae**- Hemp.
- **Chenopodiaceae**- Sugarbeet.
- **Fabaceae (Grain legumes)**- Groundnut, Field bean, Garden bean, Redgram, Pigeonpea, Chickpea, Sudan grass, Sorghum grass, Sweet Sorghum, Finger millet, Pearl millet.
- **Linaceae**- Flax/linseed.
- **Malvaceae**- Bhendi/okra, Roselle, Kenaf, Combodia cotton.
- **Solanaceae**- Chillies, Tobacco, Potato.
- **Agavaceae**- Sisal.
- **Musaceae**- Banana, Plantain.
- **Palmae**- Coconut, oil palm, Betel palm (Areca nut)
- **Pedaliaceae**- Sesame.
- **Tiliaceae**- Tossa jute, White jute.
- **Utricaceae**- Ramie.
- **Zingiberaceae**- Turmeric, Ginger.
- **Apiaceae**- Carrot, Celery.
- **Cucurbitaceae**- Cucumber, Pumpkin, Watermelon.
- **Lamiaceae**- Mint.