

B. Answer in brief.

1. What are rabi crops?

Ans: Rabi crops are grown in the winter between October and November and harvested by March or April. Wheat, potato, and peas are some rabi crops.

2. What are the advantages of using a seed drill?

Ans: Seed drill deposits the seeds at regular intervals and at appropriate depths. This method is a more accurate method for sowing seeds as compared to broadcasting method, in which seeds are scattered over a field by hand. This results in uneven distribution of seeds.

3. Name some traditional methods of irrigation.

Ans: Some traditional methods of irrigation are the swing basket method, the Persian wheel method (*rahat*) and the rope and bucket with pulley system (moat).

C. Answer in detail.

1. Describe some developments in agricultural practices. Highlight the improvements over the earlier practices.

Ans: The quality of crops has been improved from the earlier varieties by making them more disease-resistant and high-yielding. For example, several high-yielding varieties of wheat have been developed in India. As water is a very important and a timely requirement, building dams and canals has reduced the dependency on nature, and irrigation systems like drip irrigation improve the efficiency to irrigate fields. Humans also made tools such as sickle, axe and so on to help them farm. In due course, machines like tractors, combine harvesters and threshers have improved the efficiency of agricultural practices and increased the output. Farmers are now provided with fertilisers and pesticides, ensuring proper nutrition and protection of crops, and they have a good knowledge of soil varieties.

2. How are animals useful to us?

Ans: Animals are useful to human beings in many ways:

- (i) We get meat from poultry, goats, sheep and so on.
- (ii) We get milk from cow, goat and buffalo.
- (iii) We get eggs from hens and ducks.
- (iv) We raise fish for food and bees for honey.
- (v) They are a source of clothing (leather, wool, fur and silk).
- (vi) They are used for transportation: horse and bullock drawn carriages. Animals like elephants and camels are used for carrying load. Bullocks are used in farming, such as ploughing and threshing.

D. Give one word or phrase for the following.

1. Crops that take two years to complete their life cycle
2. An old method of regenerating lost nutrients by leaving the land uncultivated for a season
3. A type of irrigation in which water is sprayed to copy natural rainfall
4. Stock of grain preserved to compensate for a shortage
5. Raising bees

Ans: 1. biennials 2. fallowing 3. sprinkler irrigation 4. buffer stock
5. apiculture