

SCIENCE

MERUVAMBAYI. M. U. P. SCHOOL

Reaping Gold From Soil



We have so far discussed modern methods of preparing quality planting materials. Even if we use quality planting materials, the yield may not be good if the soil is not fertile. Good quality soil ensures the health of a plant.

Activity 1

a. What is the benefit of depositing plant debris in the field after cultivation?

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b. What are the methods followed by farmers to ensure maximum diversity in agriculture.

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Intercrop-Short term crops cultivated among the main crop in such a way that they do not harm the main crop are called **intercrops**. They help in maintaining soil fertility.



Activity 2



a. Which are the intercrops cultivated in coconut fields?

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Crop rotation-Cultivating a different crop instead of the crop cultivated earlier is called **crop rotation**. The cultivation of pea, black gram etc at intervals in paddy fields are examples.

6. Does the cultivation of different crops bring about any increase in soil fertility?

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Nitrogen is an essential element for plant growth. Plants cannot absorb atmospheric nitrogen directly, but they absorb the nitrate salts dissolved in water. Some of the bacteria can convert atmospheric nitrogen to nitrate. Rhizobium is one such bacterium. They live in the roots of plants like **pea**, **mimosa** (touch-me-not), **common terphrosia** (kozhinjil), **Horse gram** and **black gram** and absorb atmospheric nitrogen. When these plants decay, the plant nutrients are added to the soil.

Observe the roots of **leguminous plants**. Don't you see **nodules** on their roots?



Activity 3

What are the benefits of cultivating leguminous plants?

Write all the important points in your science note book.....

Do all the activities and send to the teacher.....

All The Best