

ASSIGNMENT : ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

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Roll no - 48

Sec - B



Checked
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Submitted to,

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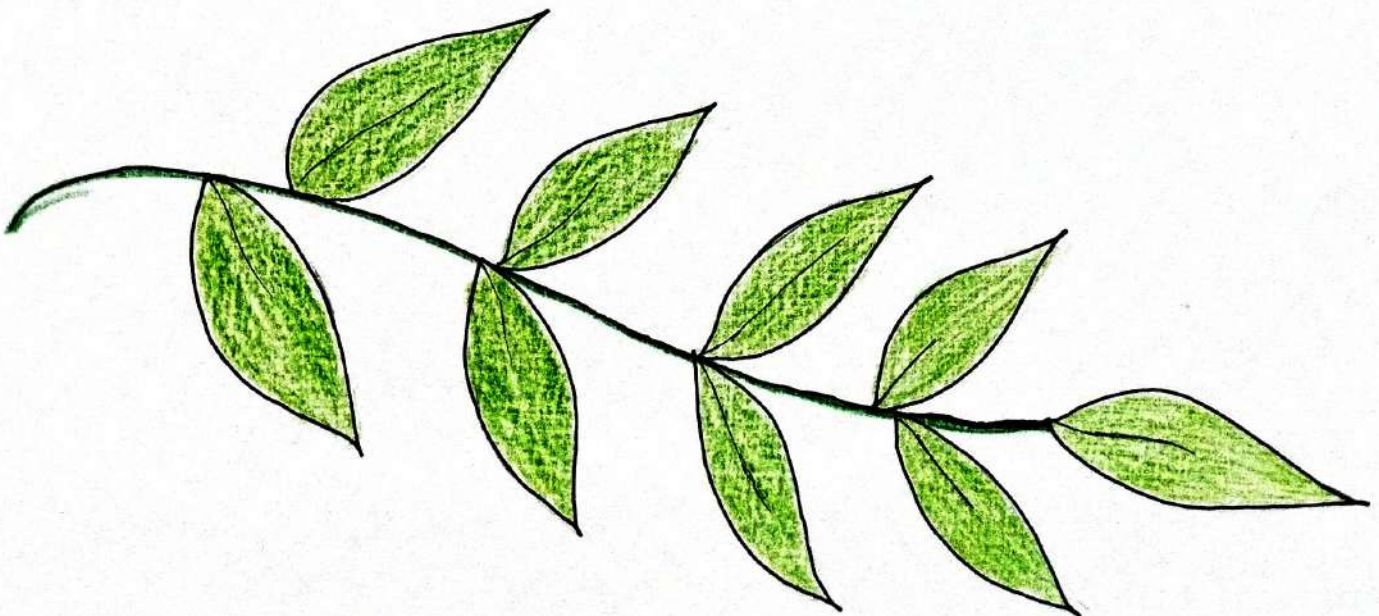
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Topic :

Agricultural practices
(Jhum / terrace cultivation)
and its impact on
the environment in
your village.

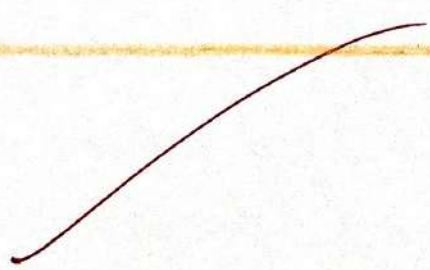


Acknowledgement:

I would like to express my gratitude to Miss. Medoseno Genevieve Thapo for giving us the opportunity to learn more about our agricultural system and its impact on the environment.

I am also very thankful to the people who helped me in the process of making this project.

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Introduction:

Terrace and Jhum cultivation of paddy are widely practiced by the tribal communities in the hill regions of Nagaland. Jhum cultivation is the traditional farming system in the state. The Angami and Chakesang tribes of Nagaland have terrace cultivation of paddy wherever water is available for irrigation.

Agriculture is the main stay of economy in Nagaland and Rice is their staple food. The indigenous farming has been in practice by the Nagas since time immemorial. In this process, they have developed skills and ideas on how best to grow their crops and enhance its productivity. There also exist variation in the region in terms of soil, climatic conditions, geographical terrain, etc. which in a way is responsible for diversity in rice cultivation among the people.

A terrace is a piece of sloped plane that has been cut into a series of successively receding flat surfaces or platforms, which resemble steps, for the purpose of more effective farming. Terrace fields both decrease erosion and surface runoff and may be used to support growing crops that require irrigation such as rice. Terrace agriculture means lots of work in any case.

Since machines can't be used on the small fields, everything has to be done by hand. Agriculture in mountainous areas is a battle against nature. Terrace cultivation demands a very time-consuming planting and harvesting procedure that is not exactly competitive in today's world.

Terrace Cultivation in my Village :

In my village, which is 'Kohima Village', almost every household practices terrace cultivation and it can be referred to as the most widely practiced form of cultivation.

Whether one starts the cultivation early or late, depends solely on the quantity and availability of water. If there is no good source of water, farmers solely depend on rainwater, which can sometimes be a huge problem, like last year when the rain was delayed and our entire state faced a drought like situation. Farmers suffered a lot especially the one's who solely depend on it for their livelihood.

Fields are ploughed from the month of January to February.

This is done by the people themselves mostly but in some cases, small ploughing tractors or cows/buffaloes are also used. Rice is sprouted in another dry field during the month of March or April. Places where the availability of water is good, fields are already filled with water during these months. The field is ploughed once again and preparation starts for the sowing season during the month of May.

Rice plants which were left to sprout are plucked and sown into the water filled fields during the months of June to July. Finally, harvesting takes place in the month of October or November.

• ADVANTAGE of Terrace Farming - 1.

1. Terrace farming prevents the washing away of soil nutrients by the rains which leads to the growth of healthy crops.
2. It prevents the carrying away of plants by the heavy flowing rivers.
3. Terraces help in reduction of soil erosion and water loss.
4. It has made the ideal hillside land become productive.
5. Terraces trap rainwater, allowing people to engage in cultivation of water-intensive crops.

Terrace farming is an important method that has made farming in mountainous parts of the world possible.

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• DISADVANTAGES of Terrace Farming -

1. Terrace farming can lead to water saturation.
2. It is dangerous since it causes overflow of water during the rainy season.
3. The overflowing of water causes more dangerous water runoff.
4. Terraces may also result in mudslides if not well managed.
5. Another limitation of terrace farming is that there's need for huge inputs of labor to construct and maintain the terraces.
6. It is expensive as it is labour intensive.
7. Terrace farming also leads to the reduction in soil quality due to the leaching process.

Conclusion:

Terrace farming may be an old practice but it still occupies a special place in the life of Naga farmers. It has become a part of the custom and all their festivals and ceremonies revolve around it. Technological advancements in many parts of the world have enable people to indulge in double cropping and become self-sufficient. Incorporation of such advanced technologies to manage water would help the Naga farmers carry out double or winter cropping.

~~Signature~~

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