

Improving Crop Yields

Chapter 12: Improvement in Food Resources · Topic 1

Key Concept

High-yielding varieties (HYVs), central to the Green Revolution in India during the 1960s-70s, are bred to produce more grain, resist certain diseases, or mature faster than traditional varieties, dramatically increasing India's food production. However, HYVs often require more water and fertiliser than traditional varieties, meaning proper irrigation and nutrient management are essential companions to seed improvement, and modern approaches also emphasise sustainable farming to avoid soil degradation from overuse of chemical fertilisers.

Quick Revision Notes

- Crop yield improvement methods: HYV seeds, proper irrigation, fertilisers/manure, pest and weed management.
- HYV seeds were central to India's Green Revolution (1960s-70s), boosting food production.
- HYVs often require more water and fertiliser than traditional crop varieties.
- Sustainable farming practices help avoid soil degradation from overuse of chemical fertilisers.

Practice Questions

- 1 List two methods to improve crop yield.
- 2 Explain the significance of the Green Revolution for Indian agriculture.
- 3 Why is sustainable farming important when using high-yielding crop varieties?