

Economic Importance of Bacteria and Fungi

Chapter 9: Economic Importance of Bacteria and Fungi · Topic 1

Key Concept

Bacteria help decompose organic matter, recycle nutrients in ecosystems, and are used in producing foods like yogurt and cheese.

Certain bacteria fix nitrogen in soil, making it available for plants, significantly benefiting agriculture and soil fertility.

Fungi, like yeast, are used in baking bread and brewing beverages, while others, like Penicillium, are sources of important antibiotics.

Understanding the economic importance of bacteria and fungi helps us appreciate their essential roles beyond just causing diseases.

Quick Revision Notes

- Bacteria decompose organic matter.
- They recycle nutrients in ecosystems.
- Bacteria are used in yogurt and cheese production.
- Nitrogen-fixing bacteria benefit agriculture.
- Yeast (a fungus) is used in baking and brewing.
- Penicillium (a fungus) produces antibiotics.
- Bacteria and fungi have essential beneficial roles.
- These roles go beyond causing diseases.

Practice Questions

- 1 Research how bacteria are used in food production.
- 2 Discuss nitrogen-fixing bacteria's benefit to agriculture.
- 3 Research Penicillium and antibiotics.
- 4 Explain how yeast is used in baking.
- 5 Discuss why bacteria are important for decomposition.
- 6 List three beneficial uses of bacteria or fungi.