

## UNIT

## 21

CROP PRODUCTION AND  
MANAGEMENT

## Learning Objectives



After the completion of this lesson, students will be able to:

- ◆ know about agricultural practices.
- ◆ understand the basic practices of crop production.
- ◆ know about the importance of rotation of crops.
- ◆ recognise the importance of seed bank, seed balls and preservation of seeds.
- ◆ know about the role of agriculture research institutions IARI, ICAR and KVK.
- ◆ list out the importance of bio control methods.

## Introduction

All over the human history, we have been motivated to search and seek food. Green plants make their own food using a process called **photosynthesis**. Animals and humans cannot make their own food. Thus, humans and animals are directly or indirectly dependent on plants. Energy from the food is used by the organisms for carrying out their various body functions. Plants and animals are the main source of food for all the organisms. In order to provide food for a larger population, production, proper planning, management and distribution of food is needed. But, farmers are faced with the challenge of producing sufficient crops to meet the growing demand while maintaining the quality and quantity of resources for future generations. Agriculture research institutions are developing new technologies to help the farmers to increase productivity both in terms of quality or quantity. In this lesson we are going to learn about agricultural practices, rotation of crops, seeds, bio-fertilisers and the functions of agricultural research institutions.

## 21.1 Agricultural Practices

Agriculture has always been the backbone of our country's economy. Ever since the Green Revolution, we have been cultivating different types of crops to cater the increasing demand. In our country the following three categories of crops are grown.

## Kharif Crops

The crops which are sown in the rainy season (i.e., from June to September) are called kharif crops. Paddy, maize, soya bean, groundnut and cotton are kharif crops.

## Rabi Crops

The crops grown in winter season (i.e., from October to March) are called rabi crops. Examples of rabi crops are wheat, gram, pea, mustard, linseed.

## Zaid Crops (Summer Crops)

The crops which are grown in summer season are called zaid crops. Muskmelon, watermelon and cucumber are examples for zaid crops.