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STUDY NOTES

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CLASS- VII (All Section)

DATE: 15-07-2020

SCIENCE

CHAPTER: 9 Soil

Today's Topic: Soil type and crops

Soil type and crops:

Soil is affected by climatic factors such as wind, rainfall, temperature, light and humidity. Hence, just as different parts of India have different climates, similarly the soil types found in different parts also vary. For example, the type of soil found in the plains of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal is different from the type of soil found in the southern states of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, and that found in Rajasthan and Gujarat. In some parts, the soil is clayey, in others it is loamy, while in some other parts it is sandy.

The type of crops that can be grown in a particular area depends on climatic factors, as well as the type of soil found there. For example, cereals, such as wheat and gram, grow well in clayey and loamy soils, which are rich in humus and retain water well. Soils rich in clay and organic matter have a good capacity to retain water and are ideal for growing paddy because paddy cultivation needs standing water in the field. Loamy soils, that drain water easily, are

good for growing pulses. Sandy loam or loam that drains water easily and can hold plenty of air is suitable for growing cotton.

Soil erosion:

The earth's surface is being worn away continuously by the action of water and wind, a process known as **erosion**. Soil erosion takes place only when the soil is bare and exposed and has no vegetation cover on it. Plant roots firmly bind the soil. In the absence of plants, soil becomes loose and is easily blown away by wind or washed away by water. When trees and forests are cut, especially on hillsides, the bare land is susceptible to soil erosion.

During rains, soil from the bare hillsides is washed down into the rivers below, which silt up and cause floods downstream. That is why it is important that forests are not cut and more trees are planted wherever possible. Damage to the soil can disturb nature's balance and can disturb nature's balance and can be life threatening.

Erosion: the process of wearing away of the earth's surface by the action of water and wind.

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