

RADHA GOVIND UNIVERSITY
RAMGARH, JHARKHAND

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES



CHOICE BASED CREDIT SYSTEM CURRICULUM SYLLABUS
FOR MASTER OF SCIENCE IN AGRONOMY PROGRAMME
SUBJECT CODE = 22

**FOR MASTER COURSE IN AGRONOMY UNDER
RADHA GOVIND UNIVERSITY**

Implemented w.e.f.
Academic Session 2026-27 & onwards

Academic Regulations for PG Programme as per ICAR

1. Academic Year and Registration

1.1 An academic year shall be normally from July to June of the following calendar year otherwise required under special situations. It shall be divided into two academic terms known as semesters. Dates of registration, commencement of instructions, semester end examination, end of semester and academic year, etc. The Academic Calendar shall be developed by the concerned University from time to time and notified accordingly by the Registrar in advance.

2. Credit requirements

2.1 Framework of the courses

The following nomenclature and Credit Hrs need to be followed while providing the syllabus for all the disciplines:

Masters' Programme	
(i) Course	
work	20
Major courses	
Minor courses	08
Supporting	06
courses	
Common courses	05
Seminar	01
(ii) Thesis Research	30
Total	70

Major courses: From the Discipline in which a student takes admission. Among the listed courses, the core courses compulsorily to be taken may be given *mark

Minor courses: From the subjects closely related to a student's major subject

Supporting courses: The subject not related to the major subject. It could be any subject considered relevant for student's research work (such as Statistical Methods, Design of Experiments, etc.) or necessary for building his/ her overall competence.

Common Courses: The following courses (one credit each) will be offered to all students undergoing Master's degree programme:

1. Library and Information Services
2. Technical Writing and Communications Skills
3. Intellectual Property and its management in Agriculture
4. Basic Concepts in Laboratory Techniques
5. Agricultural Research, Research Ethics and Rural Development Programmes

Some of these courses are already in the form of e-courses/ MOOCs. The students may be allowed to register these courses/ similar courses on these aspects, if available online on SWAYAM or any other platform. If a student has already completed any of these courses during UG, he/ she may be permitted to register for other related courses with the prior approval of the Head of Department (HoD)/ Board of Studies (BoS).

2.2 Supporting Courses

The following courses are being offered by various disciplines (The list is only indicative). Based on the requirement, any of the following courses may be opted under the supporting courses. The syllabi of these courses are available in the respective disciplines. If required, the contents may be modified to suit the individual discipline with approval of the concerned BoS:

Course Code	Course Title	Credit Hours
STAT 501	Mathematics for Applied Sciences	2+0
STAT 502	Statistical Methods for Applied Sciences	3+1
STAT 511	Experimental Designs	2+1
STAT 512	Basic Sampling Techniques	2+1
STAT 521	Applied Regression Analysis	2+1
STAT 522	Data Analysis Using Statistical Packages	2+1
MCA 501	Computers Fundamentals and Programming	2+1
MCA 502	Computer Organization and Architecture	2+0
MCA 511	Introduction to Communication Technologies, Computer Networking and Internet	1+1
MCA 512	Information Technology in Agriculture	1+1
BIOCHEM 501	Basic Biochemistry	3+1
BIOCHEM 505	Techniques in Biochemistry	2+2

2.3 Syllabus of Common Courses for PG programmes

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES (0+1)

Objective

To equip the library users with skills to trace information from libraries efficiently, to apprise them of information and knowledge resources, to carry out literature survey, to formulate information search strategies, and to use modern tools (Internet, OPAC, search engines, etc.) of information search.

Practical

Introduction to library and its services; Role of libraries in education, research and technology transfer; Classification systems and organization of library; Sources of information- Primary Sources, Secondary Sources and Tertiary Sources; Intricacies of abstracting and indexing services (Science Citation Index, Biological Abstracts, Chemical Abstracts, CABI Abstracts, etc.); Tracing information from reference sources; Literature survey; Citation techniques/ Preparation of bibliography; Use of CD-ROM Databases, Online Public Access Catalogue and other computerized library services; Use of Internet including search engines and its resources; e- resources access methods.

TECHNICAL WRITING AND COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS (0+1)

Objective

To equip the students/ scholars with skills to write dissertations, research papers, etc. To equip the students/ scholars with skills to communicate and articulate in English (verbal as well as writing).

Practical (Technical Writing)

- Various forms of scientific writings- theses, technical papers, reviews, manuals, etc.;
- Various parts of thesis and research communications (title page, authorship contents page, preface, introduction, review of literature, material and methods,

- experimental results and discussion);
- Writing of abstracts, summaries, précis, citations, etc.;
 - Commonly used abbreviations in the theses and research communications;
 - Illustrations, photographs and drawings with suitable captions; pagination, numbering of tables and illustrations;
 - Writing of numbers and dates in scientific write-ups;
 - Editing and proof-reading;
 - Writing of a review article;
 - Communication Skills - Grammar (Tenses, parts of speech, clauses, punctuation marks);
 - Error analysis (Common errors), Concord, Collocation, Phonetic symbols and transcription;
 - Accentual pattern: Weak forms in connected speech;
 - Participation in group discussion;
 - Facing an interview;
 - Presentation of scientific papers.

Suggested Readings

1. Barnes and Noble. Robert C. (Ed.). 2005. *Spoken English: Flourish Your Language*.
2. *Chicago Manual of Style*. 14th Ed. 1996. Prentice Hall of India.
3. *Collins' Cobuild English Dictionary*. 1995.
4. Harper Collins. Gordon HM and Walter JA. 1970. *Technical Writing*. 3rd Ed.
5. Holt, Rinehart and Winston. Hornby AS. 2000. *Comp. Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English*. 6th Ed. Oxford University Press.
6. James HS. 1994. *Handbook for Technical Writing*. NTC Business Books.
7. Joseph G. 2000. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 5th Ed. Affiliated East-West Press.
8. Mohan K. 2005. *Speaking English Effectively*. MacMillan India.

9. Richard WS. 1969. *Technical Writing*.
10. Sethi J and Dhamija PV. 2004. *Course in Phonetics and Spoken English*. 2nd Ed. Prentice Hall of India.
11. Wren PC and Martin H. 2006. *High School English Grammar and Composition*.
S. Chand & Co.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND ITS MANAGEMENT IN AGRICULTURE (1+0)

Objective

The main objective of this course is to equip students and stakeholders with knowledge of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) related protection systems, their significance and use of IPR as a tool for wealth and value creation in a knowledge-based economy.

Theory

Historical perspectives and need for the introduction of Intellectual Property Right regime; TRIPs and various provisions in TRIPS Agreement; Intellectual Property and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), benefits of securing IPRs; Indian Legislations for the protection of various types of Intellectual Properties; Fundamentals of patents, copyrights, geographical indications, designs and layout, trade secrets and traditional knowledge, trademarks, protection of plant varieties and farmers' rights and biodiversity protection; Protectable subject matters, protection in biotechnology, protection of other biological materials, ownership and period of protection; National Biodiversity protection initiatives; Convention on Biological Diversity; International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; Licensing of technologies, Material transfer agreements, Research collaboration Agreement, License Agreement.

Suggested Readings

1. Erbisch FH and Maredia K. 1998. *Intellectual Property Rights in Agricultural Biotechnology*. CABI.
2. Ganguli P. 2001. *Intellectual Property Rights: Unleashing Knowledge Economy*. McGraw-Hill.
3. *Intellectual Property Rights: Key to New Wealth Generation*. 2001. NRDC and Aesthetic Technologies.
4. Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India. 2004. *State of Indian Farmer*. Vol. V. Technology Generation and IPR Issues. Academic Foundation.
5. Rothschild M and Scott N. (Ed.). 2003. *Intellectual Property Rights in Animal Breeding and Genetics*. CABI.
6. Saha R. (Ed.). 2006. *Intellectual Property Rights in NAM and Other Developing Countries: A Compendium on Law and Policies*. Daya Publ. House.

The Indian Acts - Patents Act, 1970 and amendments; Design Act, 2000; Trademarks Act, 1999; The Copyright Act, 1957 and amendments; Layout Design Act, 2000; PPV and FR Act 2001, and Rules 2003; The Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

BASIC CONCEPTS IN LABORATORY TECHNIQUES (0+1)

Objective

To acquaint the students about the basics of commonly used techniques in laboratory.

Practical

- Safety measures while in Lab;
- Handling of chemical substances;
- Use of burettes, pipettes, measuring cylinders, flasks, separatory funnel, condensers, micropipettes and vaccumets;

- Washing, drying and sterilization of glassware;
- Drying of solvents/ chemicals;
- Weighing and preparation of solutions of different strengths and their dilution;
- Handling techniques of solutions;
- Preparation of different agro-chemical doses in field and pot applications;
- Preparation of solutions of acids;
- Neutralisation of acid and bases;
- Preparation of buffers of different strengths and pH values;
- Use and handling of microscope, laminar flow, vacuum pumps, viscometer, thermometer, magnetic stirrer, micro-ovens, incubators, sandbath, waterbath, oilbath;
- Electric wiring and earthing;
- Preparation of media and methods of sterilization;
- Seed viability testing, testing of pollen viability;
- Tissue culture of crop plants;
- Description of flowering plants in botanical terms in relation to taxonomy.

Suggested Readings

1. Furr AK. 2000. *CRC Hand Book of Laboratory Safety*. CRC Press.

2. Gabb MH and Latchem WE. 1968. *A Handbook of Laboratory Solutions*.
Chemical Publ. Co.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, RESEARCH ETHICS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES (1+0)

Objective

To enlighten the students about the organization and functioning of agricultural research systems at national and international levels, research ethics, and rural development programmes and policies of Government.

Theory

UNIT I History of agriculture in brief; Global agricultural research system: need, scope, opportunities; Role in promoting food security, reducing poverty and protecting the environment; National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) and Regional Agricultural Research Institutions; Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR): International Agricultural Research Centres (IARC), partnership with NARS, role as a partner in the global agricultural research system, strengthening capacities at national and regional levels; International fellowships for scientific mobility.

UNIT II Research ethics: research integrity, research safety in laboratories, welfare of animals used in research, computer ethics, standards and problems in research ethics.

UNIT III Concept and connotations of rural development, rural development policies and strategies. Rural development programmes: Community Development Programme, Intensive Agricultural District Programme, Special group – Area Specific Programme, Integrated Rural Development

Programme (IRDP) Panchayati Raj Institutions, Co-operatives, Voluntary

Agencies/ Non-Governmental Organisations. Critical evaluation of rural development policies and programmes. Constraints in implementation of rural policies and programmes.

Suggested Readings

1. Bhalla GS and Singh G. 2001. *Indian Agriculture - Four Decades of Development*. Sage Publ.
2. Punia MS. *Manual on International Research and Research Ethics*. CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar.
3. Rao BSV. 2007. *Rural Development Strategies and Role of Institutions - Issues, Innovations and Initiatives*. Mittal Publ.
4. Singh K. 1998. *Rural Development - Principles, Policies and Management*. Sage Publ.

2.4 Mandatory requirement of seminars

- It has been agreed to have mandatory seminars one in Masters (One Credit) and two in Doctoral programmes (two Credits).
- The students should be encouraged to make presentations on the latest developments and literature in the area of research topic. This will provide training to the students on preparation for seminar, organizing the work, critical analysis of data and presentation skills.

3. Residential requirements

- The minimum and maximum duration of residential requirement for Masters'

P.G. Degree Programmes Duration of Residential Requirement

	Minimum	Maximum
Masters' Degree	2 Academic Years (4 Semesters)	5 Academic Years (10 Semesters)

*Student may be allowed to discontinue temporarily only after completion of course work

In case a student fails to complete the degree programme within the maximum duration of residential requirement, his/ her admission shall stand cancelled. The requirement shall be treated as satisfactory in the cases in which a student submits his/ her thesis any time during the 4th of his/ her residency at the University for Masters' programme, respectively.

4. *Evaluation of course work and comprehensive examination*

- For M.Sc., multiple levels of evaluation (First Test, Midterm and Final semester) is desirable. However, it has been felt that the comprehensive examination is redundant for M.Sc. students.

5. *Advisory System*

5.1 Advisory Committee

- There shall be an Advisory Committee for every student consisting of not fewer than three members in the case of a candidate for Masters' degree with the Advisor as Chairperson. The Advisory Committee should have representatives from the major and minor fields amongst the members of the Post-

graduate faculty accredited for appropriate P.G. level research. However, in those departments where qualified staff exists but due to unavoidable reasons Post-graduate degree programmes are not existing, the staff having Post-graduate teaching experience of two years or more may be included in the Advisory Committee as member representing the minor.

- At any given time, a P.G. teacher shall not be a Chairperson, Advisory Committee (for Master's programmes) for more than five students.

❖ Compliance with the National Education Policy-2020

- While implementing the course structure and contents recommended by the BSMA Committees, the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are required to comply with the provisions of National Education Policy-2020, especially the following aspects:
- Given the 21st century requirements, quality higher education must aim to develop good, thoughtful, well-rounded, and creative individuals. It must enable an individual to study one or more specialized areas of interest at a deep level, and also develop character, ethical and Constitutional values, intellectual curiosity, scientific temper, creativity, spirit of service, and 21st century capabilities across a range of disciplines including sciences, social sciences, arts, humanities, languages, as well as professional, technical, and vocational subjects. A quality higher education must enable personal accomplishment and enlightenment, constructive public engagement, and productive contribution to the society. It must prepare students for more meaningful and satisfying lives and work roles and enable economic independence (9.1.1. of NEP-2020).
- At the societal level, higher education must enable the development of an enlightened, socially conscious, knowledgeable, and skilled nation that can find and implement robust solutions to its own problems. Higher education must form the basis for knowledge creation and innovation thereby contributing to a growing national economy. The purpose of quality higher education is, therefore, more than the creation of greater opportunities for individual employment. It represents the key to more vibrant, socially engaged, cooperative communities and a happier, cohesive, cultured, productive, innovative, progressive, and prosperous nation (9.1.3. of NEP-2020).
- Flexibility in curriculum and novel and engaging course options will be on offer to students, in addition to rigorous specialization in a subject or subjects. This will be encouraged by increased faculty and institutional autonomy in setting curricula. Pedagogy will have an increased emphasis on communication, discussion, debate, research, and opportunities for cross-disciplinary and interdisciplinary thinking (11.6 of NEP-2020).
- As part of a holistic education, students at all HEIs will be provided with opportunities for

internships with local industry, businesses, artists, crafts persons, etc., as well as research internships with faculty and researchers at their own or other HEIs/ research institutions, so that students may actively engage with the practical side of their learning and, as a by-product, further improve their employability (11.8 of NEP-2020).

- HEIs will focus on research and innovation by setting up start-up incubation centres; technology development centres; centres in frontier areas of research; greater industry-academic linkages; and interdisciplinary research including humanities and social sciences research (11.12. of NEP-2020).
- Effective learning requires a comprehensive approach that involves appropriate curriculum, engaging pedagogy, continuous formative assessment, and adequate student support. The curriculum must be interesting and relevant, and updated regularly to align with the latest knowledge requirements and to meet specified learning outcomes. High-quality pedagogy is then necessary to successfully impart the curricular material to students; pedagogical practices determine the learning experiences that are provided to students, thus directly influencing learning outcomes. The assessment methods must be scientific, designed to continuously improve learning and test the application of knowledge. Last but not least, the development of capacities that promote student wellness such as fitness, good health, psycho-social well-being, and sound ethical grounding are also critical for high-quality learning (12.1. of NEP-2020).

Course title with credit load M.Sc. in Agronomy

Course Code	Course Title	Credit Hours
Agron 501*	Modern Concepts in Crop Production	3+0
Agron 502*	Principles and practices of soil fertility and nutrient management 2+1	
Agron 503*	Principles and Practices of Weed Management	2+1

Agron 504*	Principles and Practices of Water Management	2+1
Agron 505	Conservation Agriculture	1+1
Agron 506	Agronomy of major Cereals and Pulses	2+0
Agron507	Agronomy of oilseed, fibre and sugar crops	2+1
Agron 508	Agronomy of medicinal, aromatic & underutilized crops	2+1
Agron 509	Agronomy of fodder and forage crops	2+1
Agron 510	Agrostology and Agro- Forestry	2+1
Agron 511	Cropping System and Sustainable Agriculture	2+0
Agron 512	Dryland Farming and Watershed Management	2+1
Agron 513	Principles and practices of organic farming	2+1
Agron-550	Master's Seminar	(1+0)
Agron -560	Master's research	30

*Indicates core course which is Compulsory course for M.Sc. (Agri)

Course Contents

I. Course Title : Modern Concepts in Crop Production

II. Course Code : Agron 501

III. Credit Hours : 3+0

IV. Aim of the course

To teach the basic concepts of soil management and crop production.

v. Theory

Unit I

Crop growth analysis in relation to environment; geo-ecological zones of India.

Unit II

Quantitative agro-biological principles and inverse yield nitrogen law; Mitscherlich yield equation, its interpretation and applicability; Baule unit.

Unit III

Effect of lodging in cereals; physiology of grain yield in cereals; optimization

of plant population and planting geometry in relation to different resources, concept of ideal plant type and crop modeling for desired crop yield.

Unit IV

Scientific principles of crop production; crop response production functions; concept of soil plant relations; yield and environmental stress, use of growth hormones and regulators for better adaptation in stressed condition.

Unit V

Integrated farming systems, organic farming, and resource conservation technology including modern concept of tillage; dry farming; determining the nutrient needs for yield potentiality of crop plants, concept of balance nutrition and integrated nutrient management; precision agriculture. Modern crop production concepts: soil less cultivation, Aeroponic, Hydroponic, Robotic and terrace farming. use of GIS, GPS and remote sensing in modern agriculture, precision farming and protected agriculture.

VI. Teaching methods/activities

Classroom teaching with AV aids, group discussion, assignment and class discussion

VII. Learning outcome

Basic knowledge on soil management and crop production

VIII. Suggested Reading

- Balasubramaniyan P and Palaniappan SP. 2001. *Principles and Practices of Agronomy*. Agrobios.
- Fageria NK. 1992. *Maximizing Crop Yields*. Marcel Dekker.
- Havlin JL, Beaton JD, Tisdale SL and Nelson WL. 2006. *Soil Fertility and Fertilizers*. 7th Ed. Prentice Hall.
- Paroda R.S. 2003. *Sustaining our Food Security*. Konark Publ.
- Reddy SR. 2000. *Principles of Crop Production*. Kalyani Publ.

- Sankaran S and Mudaliar TVS. 1997. *Principles of Agronomy*. The Bangalore Printing & Publ.
- Singh SS. 2006. *Principles and Practices of Agronomy*. Kalyani.
- Alvin PT and kozlowski TT (ed.). 1976. *Ecophysiology of Tropical Crops*. Academia Pul., New York.
- Gardner PP, Pearce GR and Mitchell RL. 1985. *Physiology of Crop Plants*. Scientific Pub. Jodhpur.
- Lal R. 1989. *Conservation tillage for sustainable agriculture: Tropics versus Temperate Environments*. *Advances in Agronomy* 42: 85-197.
- Wilsie CP. 1961. *Crop Adaptation and Distribution*. Euresia Pub., New Delhi.

I. Course Title : Principal and Practices of Soil Fertility and Nutrient Management

II. Course Code : Agron 502

III. Credit Hours : 2+1

IV. Aim of the course

To impart knowledge of fertilizers and manures as sources of plant nutrients and apprise about the integrated approach of plant nutrition and sustainability of soil fertility.

V. Theory

Unit I

Soil fertility and productivity - factors affecting; features of good soil management; problems of supply and availability of nutrients; relation between nutrient supply and crop growth; organic farming - basic concepts and definitions.

Unit II

Criteria of essentiality of nutrients; Essential plant nutrients – their functions, nutrient deficiency symptoms; transformation and dynamics of major plant nutrients.

Unit III

Preparation and use of farmyard manure, compost, green manures, vermicompost, biofertilizers and other organic concentrates their composition, availability and crop responses; recycling of organic wastes and residue management. Soil less cultivation.

Unit IV

Commercial fertilizers; composition, relative fertilizer value and cost; crop response to different nutrients, residual effects and fertilizer use efficiency;

agronomic, chemical and physiological, fertilizer mixtures and grades; methods of increasing fertilizer use efficiency; nutrient interactions.

Unit V

Time and methods of manures and fertilizers application; foliar application and its concept; relative performance of organic and inorganic nutrients; economics of fertilizer use; integrated nutrient management; use of vermincompost and residue wastes in crops.

VI. Practical

- Determination of soil pH and soil EC
- Determination of soil organic C
- Determination of available N, P, K and S of soil
- Determination of total N, P, K and S of soil
- Determination of total N, P, K, S in plant
- Computation of optimum and economic yield

VII. Teaching methods/activities

Classroom teaching with AV aids, group discussion, assignment and class discussion

VIII. Learning outcome

Basic knowledge on soil fertility and management

IX. Suggested Reading

- Brady NC and Weil RR. 2002. *The Nature and Properties of Soils*. 13th Ed. Pearson Edu.
- Fageria NK, Baligar VC and Jones CA. 1991. *Growth and Mineral Nutrition of Field Crops*. Marcel Dekker.
- Havlin JL, Beaton JD, Tisdale SL and Nelson WL. 2006. *Soil Fertility and*

Fertilizers. 7th Ed. Prentice Hall.

- Prasad R and Power JF. 1997. *Soil Fertility Management for Sustainable Agriculture*. CRC Press.
- Yawalkar KS, Agrawal JP and Bokde S. 2000. *Manures and Fertilizers*. Agri-Horti Publ.

I. Course Title : Principles and Practices of Weed Management

II. Course Code : Agron 503

III. Credit Hours : 2+1

IV. Aim of the course

To familiarize the students about the weeds, herbicides and methods of weed control.

V. Theory

Unit I

Weed biology, and ecology and classification, crop-weed competition including allelopathy; principles and methods of weed control and classification management; weed indices, weed shift in different eco-systems

Unit II

Herbicides introduction and history of their development; classification based on chemical, physiological application and selectivity; mode and mechanism of action of herbicides.

Unit III

Herbicide structure - activity relationship; factors affecting the efficiency of herbicides; herbicide formulations, herbicide mixtures, sequential application of herbicides, rotation; weed control through use of nano-herbicides and bio-herbicides, myco-herbicides bio-agents, and allelochemicals; movement of herbicides in soil

and plant, Degradation of herbicides in soil and plants; herbicide resistance, residue, persistence and management; development of herbicide resistance in weeds and crops and their management, herbicide combination and rotation.

Unit IV

Weed management in major crops and cropping systems; alien, invasive and parasitic

weeds and their management; weed shifts in cropping systems; aquatic and perennial weed control; weed control in non-crop area.

Unit V

Integrated weed management; recent development in weed management- robotics, use of drones and aeroplanes, organic etc., cost: benefit analysis of weed management.

VI. Practical

- Identification of important weeds of different crops, Preparation of a weed herbarium, Weed survey in crops and cropping systems, Crop-weed competition studies, Weed indices calculation and interpretation with data, Preparation of spray solutions of herbicides for high and low-volume sprayers, Use of various types of spray pumps and nozzles and calculation of swath width, Economics of weed control, Herbicide resistance analysis in plant and soil,
- Bioassay of herbicide resistance residues,
- Calculation of herbicidal herbicide requirement

VII. Teaching methods/activities

Classroom teaching with AV aids, group discussion, field visit to identify weeds.

VIII. Learning outcome

Basic knowledge on weed identification and control for crop production

IX. Suggested Reading

- Böger, Peter, Wakabayashi, Ko, Hirai, Kenji (Eds.). 2002. *Herbicide Classes in Development. Mode of Action, Targets, Genetic Engineering, Chemistry*. Springer.
- Chauhan B and Mahajan G. 2014. *Recent Advances in Weed Management*. Springer.
- Das TK. 2008. *Weed Science: Basics and Applications*, Jain Brothers (New Delhi).
- Fennimore, Steven A and Bell, Carl. 2014. *Principles of Weed Control*, 4th Ed, California Weed Sci. Soc.
- Gupta OP. 2007. *Weed Management: Principles and Practices*, 2nd Ed.
- Jugulan, Mithila (ed). 2017. *Biology, Physiology and Molecular Biology of Weeds*. CRC Press
- Monaco TJ, Weller SC and Ashton FM. 2014. *Weed Science Principles and Practices*, Wiley
- Powles SB and Shaner DL. 2001. *Herbicide Resistance and World Grains*, CRC Press.
- Walia US. 2006. *Weed Management*, Kalyani.
- Zimdahl RL. (ed). 2018. *Integrated Weed Management for Sustainable Agriculture*, B. D. Sci. Pub.

I. Course Title : Principles and Practices of Water Management

II. Course Code : Agron 504

III. Credit Hours : 2+1

IV. Aim of the course

To teach the principles of water management and practices to enhance the water productivity

v. Theory

Unit I

Water and its role in plants; Irrigation: Definition and objectives, water resources and irrigation development in of India and concerned state, major irrigation projects, extent of area and crops irrigated in India and in different states.

Unit II

Field water cycle, water movement in soil and plants; transpiration; soil-water-plant relationships; water absorption by plants; plant response to water stress, crop plant adaptation to moisture stress condition. Water availability and its relationship with nutrient availability and loses.

Unit III

Soil, plant and meteorological factors determining water needs of crops, scheduling, depth and methods of irrigation; micro irrigation systems; deficit irrigation; fertigation; management of water in controlled environments and polyhouses. Irrigation efficiency and water use efficiency.

Unit IV

Water management of crop and cropping system, Quality of irrigation water and management of saline water for irrigation, water use efficiency, Crop water requirement- estimation of ET and effective rainfall; Water management of the major crops and cropping systems. Automated irrigation system.

Unit V

Excess of soil water and plant growth; water management in problem soils, drainage requirement of crops and methods of field drainage, their layout and spacing; rain water management and its utilization for crop production.

Unit VI

Quality of irrigation water and management of saline water for irrigation, water management in problem soils

Unit VII

Soil moisture conservation, water harvesting, rain water management and its utilization for crop production.

Unit VIII

Hydroponics,

Unit IX

Water management of crops under climate change scenario.

VI. Practical

- Determination of Field capacity by field method
- Determination of Permanent Wilting Point by sunflower pot culture technique
- Determination of Field capacity and Permanent Wilting Point by Pressure Plate Apparatus
- Determination of Hygroscopic Coefficient
- Determination of maximum water holding capacity of soil
- Measurement of matric potential using gauge and mercury type tensiometer
- Determination of soil-moisture characteristics curves
- Determination of saturated hydraulic conductivity by constant and falling head method
- Determination of hydraulic conductivity of saturated soil below the water table by auger hole method
- Measurement of soil water diffusivity
- Estimation of unsaturated hydraulic conductivity
- Estimation of upward flux of water using tensiometer and from depth ground water table
- Determination of irrigation requirement of crops (calculations)
- Determination of effective rainfall (calculations)
- Determination of ET of crops by soil moisture depletion method¹⁶.

Determination of water requirements of crops

- Measurement of irrigation water by volume and velocity-area method
- Measurement of irrigation water by measuring devices and calculation of irrigation efficiency
- Determination of infiltration rate by double ring infiltrometer

VII. Teaching methods/activities

Classroom teaching with AV aids, group discussion, assignment and field visit

VIII. Learning outcome

Basic knowledge on water management for optimization of crop yield

IX. Suggested Reading

- Majumdar DK. 2014. *Irrigation Water Management: Principles and Practice*. PHL Learning private publishers
- Mukund Joshi. 2013. *A Text Book of Irrigation and Water Management Hardcover*, Kalyani publishers
- Lenka D. 1999. *Irrigation and Drainage*. Kalyani.
- Michael AM. 1978. *Irrigation: Theory and Practice*. Vikas Publ.
- Paliwal KV. 1972. *Irrigation with Saline Water*. IARI Monograph, New Delhi.
- Panda SC. 2003. *Principles and Practices of Water Management*. Agrobios.
- Prihar SS and Sandhu BS. 1987. *Irrigation of Food Crops - Principles and Practices*. ICAR.
- Reddy SR. 2000. *Principles of Crop Production*. Kalyani.
- Singh Pratap and Maliwal PL. 2005. *Technologies for Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture*. Agrotech Publ.

I. Course Title : Conservation Agriculture

II. Course Code : Agron 505

III. Credit Hours : 1+1

IV. Aim of the course

To impart knowledge of conservation of agriculture for economic development.

V. Theory

Unit I

Conventional and conservation agriculture systems, sustainability concerns, conservation agriculture: Historical background and present concept, global experiences, present status in India.

Unit II

Nutrient management in CA, water management, weed management, energy use, insect-pest and disease management, farm machinery, crop residue management, cover crop management.

Unit III

Climate change mitigation and CA, C-sequestration, soil health management, soil microbes and CA.

Unit IV

CA in agroforestry systems, rainfed / dryland regions

Unit V

Economic considerations in CA, adoption and constraints, CA: The future of agriculture

VI. Practicals

- Study of long-term experiments on CA,
- Evaluation of soil health parameters,
- Estimation of C-sequestration,
- Machinery calibration for sowing different crops, weed seedbank estimation under CA, energy requirements, economic analysis of CA.

VII. Teaching methods/activities

Classroom teaching with AV aids, group discussion, oral presentation by students.

VIII. Learning outcome

Experience on the knowledge of various types of conservation of agriculture.

IX. Suggested Reading

- Arakeri HR and Roy D. 1984. *Principles of Soil Conservation and Water Management*. Oxford & IBH.
- Bisht JK, Meena VS, Mishra PK and Pattanayak A. 2016. Conservation Agriculture-An approach to combat climate change in Indian Himalaya. Publisher: Springer Nature. Doi: 10/1007/978-981-10-2558-7.
- Dhruvanarayana VV. 1993. *Soil and Water Conservation Research in India*. ICAR.
- FAO. 2004. *Soil and Water Conservation in Semi-Arid Areas*. *Soils Bull.*, Paper 57.
- Gracia-Torres L, Benites J, Martinez-Vilela A and Holgado-Cabera A. 2003. Conservation Agriculture- Environment Farmers experiences, innovations Socio-economic policy.
- Muhammad F and Kamdambot HMS. 2014. Conservation Agriculture. Publisher: Springer Cham Heidelberg, New York Dordrecht London. Doi: 10.1007/978-3-319-11620-4.
- Yellamanda Reddy T and Sankara Reddy GH. 1992. *Principles of Agronomy*. Kalyani.

I. Course Title : Agronomy of Major Cereals and Pulses

II. Course Code : Agron 506

III. Credit Hours : 2+0

IV. Aim of the course

To impart knowledge of crop husbandry of cereals and pulse crops.

V. Theory

Origin and history, area and production, classification, improved varieties, adaptability, climate, soil, water and cultural requirements, nutrition, quality components, handling and processing of the produce for maximum production of:

Unit I: *Rabi* cereals. **Unit II:** *Kharif* cereals. **Unit III:** *Rabi* pulses. **Unit IV:** *Kharif* pulses.

VI. Practical

- Phenological studies at different growth stages of crop
- Estimation of crop yield on the basis of yield attributes
- Formulation of cropping schemes for various farm sizes and calculation of cropping and rotational intensities
- Working out growth indices (CGR, RGR, NAR, LAI, LAD, LAR, LWR, SLA, SLW etc)
- Assessment of land use and yield advantage (Rotational intensity, Cropping intensity, Diversity Index, Sustainable Yield Index Crop Equivalent Yield, Land Equivalent ration, Aggressiveness, Relative Crowding Coefficient, Competition Ratio and ATER etc)
- Estimation of protein content in pulses
- Planning and layout of field experiments
- Judging of physiological maturity in different crops
- Intercultural operations in different crops
- Determination of cost of cultivation of different crops
- Working out harvest index of various crops
- Study of seed production techniques in selected crops
- Visit of field experiments on cultural, fertilizer, weed control and water management aspects
- Visit to nearby villages for identification of constraints in crop production

VII. Teaching methods/activities

Classroom teaching with AV aids, group discussion, assignment and class discussion

VIII. Learning outcome

Basic knowledge on cereals and pulse growing in the country .

IX. Resources

- Das NR. 2007. *Introduction to Crops of India*. Scientific Publ.

- Hunsigi G and Krishna KR. 1998. *Science of Field Crop Production*. Oxford & IBH.
- Jeswani LM and Baldev B. 1997. *Advances in Pulse Production Technology*. ICAR.
- Khare D and Bhale MS. 2000. *Seed Technology*. Scientific Publ.
- Kumar Ranjeet and Singh NP. 2003. *Maize Production in India: Golden Grain in Transition*. IARI, New Delhi.
- Pal M, Deka J and Rai RK. 1996. *Fundamentals of Cereal Crop Production*. Tata McGraw Hill.
- Prasad Rajendra. 2002. *Text Book of Field Crop Production*. ICAR.
- Singh C, Singh P and Singh R. 2003. *Modern Techniques of Raising FieldCrops*. Oxford & IBH.
- Singh SS. 1998. *Crop Management*. Kalyani.
- Yadav DS. 1992. *Pulse Crops*. Kalyani.

I. Course Title : Agronomy of Oilseed, Fibre and Sugar Crops

II. Course Code : Agron 507

III. Credit Hours : 2+1

IV. Aim of the course

To teach the crop husbandry of oilseed, fiber and sugar crops

V. Theory

Origin and history, area and production, classification, improved varieties,

adaptability, climate, soil, water and cultural requirements, nutrition, quality component, handling and processing of the produce for maximum production of:

Unit I

Rabi oilseeds – Rapeseed and mustard, Linseed and Niger

Unit II

Kharif oilseeds - Groundnut, Sesame, Castor, Sunflower, Soybean and Safflower

Unit III

Fiber crops - Cotton, Jute, Ramie and Mesta.

Unit IV

Sugar crops – Sugar-beet and Sugarcane.

VI. Practical

- Planning and layout of field experiments
- Cutting of sugarcane setts, its treatment and methods of sowing, tying and propping of sugarcane
- Determination of cane maturity and calculation on purity percentage, recovery percentage and sucrose content in cane juice phenological studies at different growth stages of crop
- Intercultural operations in different crops
- Cotton seed treatment
- Working out growth indices (CGR, RGR, NAR, LAI, LAD, LAR, LWR, SLA, SLW etc)
- Assessment of land use and yield advantage (Rotational intensity, Cropping intensity, Diversity Index, Sustainable Yield Index Crop Equivalent Yield, Land Equivalent ration, Aggressiveness, Relative Crowding Coefficient, Competition Ratio and ATER etc)

- Judging of physiological maturity in different crops and working out harvest index
- Working out cost of cultivation of different crops
- Estimation of crop yield on the basis of yield attributes
- Formulation of cropping schemes for various farm sizes and calculation of cropping and rotational intensities
- Determination of oil content in oilseeds and computation of oil yield
- Estimation of quality of fibre of different fibre crops
- Study of seed production techniques in various crops
- Visit of field experiments on cultural, fertilizer, weed control and water management aspects
- Visit to nearby villages for identification of constraints in crop production

VIII. Teaching methods/activities

Classroom teaching with AV aids, group discussion, assignment and class discussion

IX. Learning outcome

Basic knowledge on production of oil seed, sugar and fibre crops.

X. Suggested Reading

- Das NR. 2007. *Introduction to Crops of India*. Scientific Publ.
- Das PC. 1997. *Oilseed Crops of India*. Kalyani.
- Lakshmikantam N. 1983. *Technology in Sugarcane Growing*. 2nd Ed. Oxford & IBH.
- Prasad Rajendra. 2002. *Text Book of Field Crop Production*. ICAR.
- Singh C, Singh P & Singh R. 2003. *Modern Techniques of Raising FieldCrops*. Oxford & IBH.
- Singh SS. 1998. *Crop Management*. Kalyani.

I. Course Title : Agronomy of Medicinal, Aromatic and Under Utilized Crops

II. Course Code : Agron 508/PSMA 503

III. Credit Hours : 2+1

IV. Aim of the course

To acquaint students about different medicinal, aromatic and underutilized field crops, their package of practices and processing.

v. Theory

Unit I

Importance of medicinal and aromatic plants in human health, national economy and related industries, classification of medicinal and aromatic plants according to botanical characteristics and their uses, export potential and indigenous technical knowledge.

Unit II

Climate and soil requirements; cultural practices; yield and important constituents of medicinal plants (Mulhati, Isabgol, Rauwolfia, Poppy, *Aloe vera*, Satavar, *Stevia*, Safed Musli, Kalmegh, Asaphoetida, *Nuxvomica*, Rosadle, etc).

Unit III

Climate and soil requirements; cultural practices; yield and important constituents of aromatic plants (Citronella, Palmarosa, Mentha, Basil, Lemon grass, Rose, Patchouli, Geranium).

Unit IV

Climate and soil requirements; cultural practices; yield of under-utilized crops (Rice bean, Lathyrus, Sesbania, Clusterbean, French bean, Fenugreek, Grain Amaranth, Coffee, Tea and Tobacco).

Unit V

Post harvest handling –drawing, processing, grading, packing and storage, value addition and quality standards in herbal products.

VI. Practical

- Identification of crops based on morphological and seed characteristics
- Raising of herbarium of medicinal, aromatic and under-utilized plants
- Quality characters in medicinal and aromatic plants
- Methods of analysis of essential oil and other chemicals of importance in medicinal and aromatic plants.

VII. Teaching methods/activities

Classroom teaching with AV aids, group discussion, assignment and field visit

VIII. Learning outcome

Acquainted with various MAP and their commercial base for developing entrepreneurship.

IX. Suggested Reading

- Chadha KL and Gupta R. 1995. *Advances in Horticulture*. Vol. II. *Medicinal and Aromatic Plants*. Malhotra Publ.
- Das NR. 2007. *Introduction to Crops of India*. Scientific Publ.
- Handa SS. 1984. *Cultivation and Utilization of Medicinal Plants*. RRL, CSIR, Jammu.
- Hussain A. 1984. *Essential Oil Plants and their Cultivation*. CIMAP, Lucknow.
- Hussain A. 1993. *Medicinal Plants and their Cultivation*. CIMAP, Lucknow.
- ICAR 2006. *Hand Book of Agriculture*. ICAR, New Delhi.
- Kumar N, Khader Md. Abdul, Rangaswami JBM & Irulappan 1997. *Introduction to Spices, Plantation Crops, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants*. Oxford & IBH.
- Prajapati ND, Purohit SS, Sharma AK and Kumar T. 2003. *A Hand Book of Medicinal Plants: A Complete Source Book*. Agrobios.
- Sharma R. 2004. *Agro-Techniques of Medicinal Plants*. Daya Publ. House.

I. Course Title : Agronomy of Fodder and Forage Crops

II. Course Code : Agron 509

III. Credit Hours : 2+1

IV. Aim of the course

To teach the crop husbandry of different forage and fodder crops along with their processing.

V. Theory

Unit I

Adaptation, distribution, varietal improvement, agro-techniques and quality aspects

including anti-quality factors of important fodder crops like sorghum, maize, *bajra*, *guar*, cowpea, oats, barley, berseem, *senji*, lucerne, etc.

Unit II

Adaptation, distribution, varietal improvement, agro-techniques and quality aspects including anti-quality factors of important forage crops/grasseslime, Napier grass, *Panicum*, *Lasiurus*, *Cenchrus*, etc.

Unit III

Year-round fodder production and management, preservation and utilization of forage and pasture crops.

Unit IV

Principles and methods of hay and silage making; chemical and biochemical changes, nutrient losses and factors affecting quality of hay and silage; use of physical and chemical enrichments and biological methods for improving nutrition; value addition of poorquality fodder. Fodder production through hydroponics. Azolla cultivation.

Unit V

Economics of forage cultivation uses and seed production techniques of important fodder crops.

VI. Practical

- Practical training of farm operations in raising fodder crops;
- Canopy measurement, yield, Leaf: Stem ratio and quality estimation, viz. crude protein, NDF, ADF, lignin, silica, cellulose and IVDMD, etc. of various fodder and forage crops

- Anti-quality components like HCN in sorghum and such factors in other crops
- Hay and silage making and economics of their preparation.

VII. Teaching methods/activities

Classroom teaching with AV aids, group discussion, assignment and field visit

VIII. Learning outcome

Acquainted with various fodder and forage crops and their commercial base for developing entrepreneurship.

IX. Suggested Reading

- Chatterjee BN. 1989. *Forage Crop Production - Principles and Practices*. Oxford & IBH.
- Das NR. 2007. *Introduction to Crops of India*. Scientific Publ.
- Narayanan TR and Dabadghao PM. 1972. *Forage Crops of India*. ICAR.
- Singh P and Srivastava AK. 1990. *Forage Production Technology*. IGFRI, Jhansi.
- Singh C, Singh P and Singh R. 2003. *Modern Techniques of Raising Field Crops*. Oxford & IBH.
- Tejwani KG. 1994. *Agroforestry in India*. Oxford & IBH.

I. Course Title : Agrostology and Agro-forestry
(To be taught jointly by Agronomy and Forestry)

II. Course Code : Agron 510

III. Credit Hours : 2+1

IV. Theory

V. Aim of the course

To teach crop husbandry of different forage, fodder and agroforestry crops/trees

along with their processing.

Unit I

Agrostology: definition and importance; principles of grassland ecology: grassland ecology – community, climax, dominant species, succession, biotype, ecological status of grasslands in India, grass cover of India; problems and management of grasslands.

Unit II

Importance, classification (various criteria), scope, status and research needs of pastures; pasture establishment, their improvement and renovation-natural pastures, cultivated pastures; common pasture grasses.

Unit III

Agroforestry: definition and importance; agroforestry systems, agrisilviculture, silvipasture, agrisilvipasture, agrihorticulture, aquasilviculture, alley cropping and energy plantation.

Unit IV

Crop production technology in agro-forestry and agrostology system; silvipastoral system: meaning and importance for wasteland development; selection of species, planting methods and problems of seed germination in agro-forestry systems; irrigation and manuring in agro-forestry systems, associative influence in relation to above ground and underground interferences; lopping and coppicing in agro-forestry systems; social acceptability and economic viability, nutritive value of trees; tender operation; desirable tree characteristics.

VI. Practical

- Preparation of charts and maps of India showing different types of pastures and agro-forestry systems
- Identification of seeds and plants of common grasses, legumes and trees of economic importance with reference to agro-forestry
- Seed treatment for better germination of farm vegetation
- Methods of propagation/ planting of grasses and trees in silvipastoral system
- Fertilizer application in strip and silvipastoral systems
- After-care of plantation
- Estimation of protein content in loppings of important fodder trees
- Estimation of calorie value of wood of important fuel trees
- Estimation of total biomass and fuel wood
- Economics of agro-forestry
- Visit to important agro-forestry research stations

VII. Teaching methods/activities

Classroom teaching with AV aids, group discussion, assignment and field visit

VIII. Learning outcome

Basic knowledge on agro forestry, forage crops and their utility

IX. Suggested Reading

- Chatterjee BN and Das PK. 1989. *Forage Crop Production. Principles and Practices*. Oxford & IBH.
- Dabadghao PM and Shankaranarayan KA. 1973. *The Grass Cover in India*. ICAR.
- Dwivedi AP. 1992. *Agroforestry- Principles and Practices*. Oxford & IBH.
- Indian Society of Agronomy. 1989. *Agroforestry System in India. Research and Development*, New Delhi.

- Narayan TR and Dabadghao PM. 1972. *Forage Crop of India*. ICAR, New Delhi.

I. Course Title : Cropping Systems and Sustainable Agriculture

II. Course Code : Agron 511

III. Credit Hours : 2+0

IV. Aim of the course

To acquaint the students about prevailing cropping systems in the country and practices to improve their productivity.

V. Theory

Unit I

Cropping systems: definition, indices and its importance; physical resources, soil and water management in cropping systems; assessment of land use.

Unit II

Concept of sustainability in cropping systems and farming systems, scope and objectives; production potential under monoculture cropping, multiple cropping, alley cropping, sequential cropping and intercropping, mechanism of yield advantage in intercropping systems.

Unit III

Above and below ground interactions and allelopathic effects; competition relations; multi-storied cropping and yield stability in intercropping, role of non-monetary inputs and low cost technologies; research need on sustainable agriculture.

Unit IV

Crop diversification for sustainability; role of organic matter in maintenance of soil fertility; crop residue management; fertilizer use efficiency and concept of fertilizer use in intensive cropping system. Advanced nutritional tools for big data analysis and interpretation.

Unit V

Plant ideotypes for drylands; plant growth regulators and their role in sustainability.

Unit VI

Artificial Intelligence- Concept and application.

VII. Teaching methods/ activities

Classroom teaching with AV aids, group discussion, assignment.

VIII. Learning outcome

Basic knowledge on cropping system for sustainable agriculture.

IX. Suggested Reading

- Panda SC. 2017. *Cropping Systems and Sustainable Agriculture*. Agrobios (India)
- Panda SC. 2018. *Cropping and Farming Systems*. Agrobios.
- Palaniappan SP and Sivaraman K. 1996. *Cropping Systems in the Tropics; Principles and Management*. New Age.
- Panda SC. 2003. *Cropping and Farming Systems*. Agrobios.
- Reddy SR. 2000. *Principles of Crop Production*. Kalyani.
- Sankaran S and Mudaliar TVS. 1997. *Principles of Agronomy*. The Bangalore Printing & Publ. Co.
- Singh SS. 2006. *Principles and Practices of Agronomy*. Kalyani.
- Tisdale SL, Nelson WL, Beaton JD and Havlin JL. 1997. *Soil Fertility and Fertilizers*. Prentice Hall.

I. Course Title : Dryland Farming and Watershed Management

II. Course Code. : Agron 512

III. Credit Hours : 2+1

IV. Aim of the course

To teach the basic concepts and practices of dry land farming and soil moisture conservation.

V. Theory

Unit I

Definition, concept and characteristics of dry land farming; dry land versus rainfed farming; significance and dimensions of dry land farming in Indian agriculture.

Unit II

Soil and climatic parameters with special emphasis on rainfall characteristics; constraints limiting crop production in dry land areas; types of drought, characterization of environment for water availability; crop planning for erratic and aberrant weather conditions.

Unit III

Stress physiology and resistance to drought, adaptation of crop plants to drought,

drought management strategies; preparation of appropriate crop plans for dry land areas; mid contingent plan for aberrant weather conditions.

Unit IV

Tillage, tith, frequency and depth of cultivation, compaction in soil tillage; concept of conservation tillage; tillage in relation to weed control and moisture conservation; techniques and practices of soil moisture conservation (use of mulches, kinds, effectiveness and economics); antitranspirants; soil and crop management techniques, seeding and efficient fertilizer use.

Unit V

Concept of watershed resource management, problems, approach and components.

VI. Practical

- Method of Seed Priming
- Determination of moisture content of germination of important dryland crops
- Determination of Relative Water Content and Saturation Deficit of Leaf
- Moisture stress effects and recovery behaviour of important crops
- Estimation of Potential ET by Thornthwaite method
- Estimation of Reference ET by Penman Monteith Method
- Classification of climate by Thornthwaite method (based on moisture index, humidity index and aridity index)
- Classification of climate by Koppen Method
- Estimation of water balance by Thornthwaite method
- Estimation of water balance by FAO method
- Assessment of drought
- Estimation of length of growing period
- Estimation of probability of rain and crop planning for different drought condition

- Spray of anti-transpirants and their effect on crops
- Water use efficiency
- Visit to dryland research stations and watershed projects

VII. Teaching methods/activities

Classroom teaching with AV aids, group discussion, assignment.

VIII. Learning outcome

Basic knowledge on dry land farming and soil moisture conservation.

IX. Suggested Reading

- Reddy TY. 2018. *Dryland Agriculture Principles and Practices*, Kalyani publishers
- Das NR. 2007. *Tillage and Crop Production*. Scientific Publ.
- Dhopte AM. 2002. *Agrotechnology for Dryland Farming*. Scientific Publ.
- Dhruv Narayan VV. 2002. *Soil and Water Conservation Research in India*. ICAR.
- Gupta US. (Ed.). 1995. *Production and Improvements of Crops for Drylands*. Oxford & IBH.
- Katyaj JC and Farrington J. 1995. *Research for Rainfed Farming*. CRIDA.
- Rao SC and Ryan J. 2007. *Challenges and Strategies of Dryland Agriculture*. Scientific Publ.
- Singh P and Maliwal PL. 2005. *Technologies for Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture*. Agrotech Publ. Company.
- Singh RP. 1988. *Improved Agronomic Practices for Dryland Crops*. CRIDA.
- Singh RP. 2005. *Sustainable Development of Dryland Agriculture in India*. Scientific Publ.
- Singh SD. 1998. *Arid Land Irrigation and Ecological Management*. Scientific Publ.
- Venkateshwarlu J. 2004. *Rainfed Agriculture in India. Research and*

Development Scenario. ICAR.

I. Course Title : Principles and Practices of Organic Farming

II. Course Code : Agron 513

III. Credit Hours : 2+1

IV. Aim of the course

To study the principles and practices of organic farming for sustainable crop production.

V. Theory

Unit I

Organic farming - concept and definition, its relevance to India and global agriculture and future prospects; principles of organic agriculture; organics and farming standards; organic farming and sustainable agriculture; selection and conversion of land, soil and water management - land use, conservation tillage; shelter zones, hedges, pasture management, agro-forestry.

Unit II

Organic farming and water use efficiency; soil fertility, nutrient recycling, organic residues, organic manures, composting, soil biota and decomposition of organic residues, earthworms and vermicompost, green manures, bio-fertilizers and biogas technology.

Unit III

Farming systems, selection of crops and crop rotations, multiple and relay cropping systems, intercropping in relation to maintenance of soil productivity.

Unit IV

Control of weeds, diseases and insect pest management, biological agents and pheromones, bio-pesticides.

Unit V

Socio-economic impacts; marketing and export potential: inspection, certification, labeling and accreditation procedures; organic farming and national economy.

VI. Practical

- Method of making compost by aerobic method
- Method of making compost by anaerobic method
- Method of making vermicompost
- Identification and nursery raising of important agro-forestry trees and trees for shelter belts
- Efficient use of biofertilizers, technique of treating legume seeds with *Rhizobium* cultures, use of *Azotobacter*, *Azospirillum*, and PSB cultures in field
- Visit to a biogas plant
- Visit to an organic farm
- Quality standards, inspection, certification and labeling and accreditation procedures for farm produce from organic farms

VII. Teaching methods/activities

Classroom teaching with AV aids, group discussion, assignment. exposure visit

VIII. Learning outcome

Basic knowledge on organic farming for sustainable agriculture and development of entrepreneurship on organic inputs.

IX. Suggested Reading

- Ananthakrishnan TN. (Ed.). 1992. *Emerging Trends in Biological Control of Phytophagous Insects*. Oxford & IBH.
- Gaur AC. 1982. *A Manual of Rural Composting*, FAO/UNDP Regional Project Document, FAO.
- Joshi M. 2016. *New Vistas of Organic Farming*. Scientific Publishers
- Lampin N. 1990. *Organic Farming*. Press Books, Ipswich, UK.
- Palaniappan SP and Anandurai K. 1999. *Organic Farming – Theory and Practice*. Scientific Publ.
- Rao BV Venkata. 1995. *Small Farmer Focused Integrated Rural Development: Socio-economic Environment and Legal Perspective*: Publ.3, ParisaraprajnaParishtana, Bangalore.
- Reddy MV. (Ed.). 1995. *Soil Organisms and Litter Decomposition in the Tropics*. Oxford & IBH.
- Sharma A. 2002. *Hand Book of Organic Farming*. Agrobios.
- Singh SP. (Ed.). 1994. *Technology for Production of Natural Enemies*. PDBC, Bangalore.
- Subba Rao NS. 2002. *Soil Microbiology*. Oxford & IBH.
- Trivedi RN. 1993. *A Text Book of Environmental Sciences*, Anmol Publ.
- Veeresh GK, Shivashankar K and Suiglachar MA. 1997. *Organic Farming and Sustainable Agriculture*. Association for Promotion of Organic Farming, Bangalore.
- WHO. 1990. *Public Health Impact of Pesticides Used in Agriculture*. WHO.
- Woolmer PL and Swift MJ. 1994. *The Biological Management of Tropical Soil Fertility*. TSBF & Wiley.