

Multi-layer Farming

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- Multi-layer farming is mostly cash crop-based and it includes a combination of vegetables and fruits that can be grown together.
- In Multi-layer farming, the crops are grown at different heights on the same land.
- This farming cannot be done in open fields as shade is required.
- Multi-layer farming is also called multistoried cropping and multi-tier farming.
- It is one type of intercropping. Growing plants of different height in the same field at the same time is termed as Multilayer cropping.
- It is the practice of several crops of varying heights, rooting pattern and duration to cultivate together.
- The objective of this Multi-layer system of cropping is to utilize vertical space more effectively.

Basic principles of Multilayer farming

- Opportunities for crop diversification on scientific
- ecological and economic principles
- Maximize system productivity
- Utilization of resources with higher efficiency
- Intensive input use
- Sustainability of farm resources and environment on long term perspective.

Benefits of Multilayer farming

- Good utilization of soil and water
- Reduces weather the effect on the crop field
- Keep ecological balance in the environment.

- Prevent water evaporation from the soil; as an effect, 70% of water is saved.
- The income per unit area increases substantially
- Minimize risks of crop yield loss
- Generates jobs and provides better labor use patterns.
- Reduces the impacts of hazards such as high-intensity rainfall, soil erosion, and landslides.
- Effective utilization of leaching materials and helps in effective weed control.
- Reduces some pests and diseases, and weed does not come out. Increase biodiversity which can reduce pest and disease pressure.
- Provide micro-climate conditions that advantage crops underneath.