IDENTIFICATION OF MAJOR AGRONOMIC CROPS AND STUDY OF THEIR LOCAL NAMES, ENGLISH NAMES, BOTANICAL NAMES AND FAMILIES

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Crop: A group of plant which are grown or harvested for obtaining yield, and has economic value, e.g. rice, wheat, chickpea, mustard, jute etc.

Classification of agronomic crops

According to use of crop plants and their products agronomic crops are grouped into the following classes:

(1) Cereal crop

Cereal crops are the cultivated grasses grown for their edible starch grains. In general, the larger grains used, as staple foods are cereals such as rice, wheat, maize, barley etc. They are belongs to Poaceae family.

Millet crops: Millet crops are the small grained cereals, which are the minor importance as food, and they have a single cover. e.g. fox tail millet, proso millet etc.

(2) Pulse crops

These are leguminous crops that seeds are used as '*dal*' on splitting and rich in protein. They are belongs to Fabaceae family. e.g. lentil, grass pea, mung bean (green gram), black gram, cowpea, soybean etc.

(3) Oil seed crops

Crops that seeds are reach in fatty acids, are used to extract vegetable oil to meet various requirements are known as oil seeds crops. e.g. rapeseed, mustard, sesame, safflower, sunflower, groundnut, linseed, soybean etc.

(4) Fiber crops

Crop plants those are grown for obtaining fiber. Fiber may be obtained from seed, such as cotton, stem or bark such as jute, kenaf, mesta, sunnhemp etc.

(5) Fodder crops

It refers to vegetative matter, fresh or preserved, utilized as feed for animals such as cow pea, maize, para grass, napier grass etc.

(6) Green manuring crops

The crops which are grown for incorporating plant materials in soil at green stage for improving the soil, are known as green manuring crops. e.g. dhaincha, cowpea, sunnhemp, green gram etc.

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(7) Fuel crops

These crops are used as fuel. e.g. dhaincha

(8) Sugar crops

Crops grown for the production of sugar and starch, such as sugarcane, sugar beet etc.

(9) Beverage crops

Crops that products are used for mild, agreeable and stimulating liqueurs meant for drinking such as tea, coffee, cocoa etc.

(10) Narcotic crops

Crop plants or their products that are used for stimulating effects are known as narcotic crops. e.g. tobacco, canabis etc.

Common
1. Cereal crops

Sl. No.	Local name	English name	Botanical name	Family
1.	Dhan	Rice	*Oryza sativa*	Poaceae (Gramineae)
2.	Gom	Wheat	*Triticum aestivum*	Poaceae (Gramineae)
3.	Bhutta	Maize	*Zea mays*	Poaceae (Gramineae)
4.	Sorghum	Sorghum	*Sorghum bicolor*	Poaceae (Gramineae)
5.	Kaon	Foxtail millet	*Setaria italica*	Poaceae (Gramineae)
6.	Cheena	Proso millet	*Pannicum miliaceum*	Poaceae (Gramineae)
7.	Jab	Barley	*Hordeum vulgare*	Poaceae (Gramineae)
8.	Bajra	Pearl millet	*Pennisetum glaucum*	Poaceae (Gramineae)
9.	Jai	Oat	*Avena sativa*	Poaceae (Gramineae)

II. Pulse crops:

Sl. No.	Local name	English name	Botanical name	Family
1.	Masur	Lentil	*Lens culinaris*	Fabaceae (Leguminosae)
2.	Mug	Mungbean	*Vigna radiata*	Fabaceae (Leguminosae)
3.	Khesari	Grasspea	*Lathyrus sativus*	Fabaceae (Leguminosae)
4.	Chhola	Chickpea	*Cicer arietinum*	Fabaceae (Leguminosae)
5.	Maskali	Blackgram	*Vigna mungo*	Fabaceae (Leguminosae)
6.	Matar	Fieldpea	*Pisum sativum*	Fabaceae (Leguminosae)
7.	Felon	Cowpea	*Vigna unguiculata*	Fabaceae (Leguminosae)
8.	Arahar	Pigeonpea	*Cajanas cajan*	Fabaceae (Leguminosae)
9.	Jhar Sheem	Bushbean	*Phaseolus vulgaris*	Fabaceae (Leguminosae)

III. Oil yielding crops:

Sl. No.	Local name	English name	Botanical name	Family
1.	Sarisha	Rapeseed	*Brassica rapa*	Brassicaceae (Cruciferae)
			Brassica napus	Brassicaceae (Cruciferae)
		Mustard	*Brassica juncea*	Brassicaceae (Cruciferae)
2.	Til	Sesame	*Sesamum indicum*	Pedaliaceae
3.	Surjamukhe	Sunflower	*Helianthus annuus*	Asteraceae (Compositae)
4.	Cheenababam	Ground nut	*Arachis hypogaea*	Fabaceae (Leguminosae)

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Sl. No.	Local name	English name	Botanical name	Family
5.	Tishi	Linseed	*Linum usitatissimum*	Linaceae
6.	Kusumful	Safflower	*Carthamus tinctorius*	Asteraceae (Compositae)
7.	Garjan til	Niger	*Guizotia abyssinica*	Asteraceae (Compositae)
8.	Soybean	Soybean	*Glycine max*	Fabaceae (Leguminosae)
9.	Venna	Castor	*Ricinus communis*	Euphorbiaceae

IV. Fiber crops:

Sl. No.	Local name	English name	Botanical name	Family
1.	Deshi pat	Jute	*Corchorus capsularis*	Malvaceae
2.	Tosa pat	Jute	*Corchorus olitorius*	Malvaceae
3.	Tula	Cotton	*Gossypium hirsutum*	Malvaceae (Sterculiaceae)
4.	Kenaf	Kenaf	*Hibiscus cannabinus*	Malvaceae (Sterculiaceae)
5.	Meshta	Mesta	*Hibiscaus sabdariffa*	Malvaceae (Sterculiaceae)
6.	San pat	Sunnhemp	*Crotalaria juncea*	Fabaceae (Leguminosae)

V. Fodder crops:

Sl. No.	Local name	English name	Botanical name	Family
1.	Napier ghash	Napier grass	*Pennisetum purpureum*	Poaceae (Gramineae)
2.	Para ghash	Para grass	*Panicum purpurascens*	Poaceae (Gramineae)
3.	Sorghum	Sorghum	*Sorghum bicolor*	Poaceae (Gramineae)
4.	Bajra	Pearl millet	*Pennisetum glaucum*	Poaceae (Gramineae)
5.	Bhutta	Maize	*Zea mays*	Poaceae (Gramineae)
6.	Jai	Oat	*Avena sativa*	Poaceae (Gramineae)
7.	Felon	Cowpea	*Vigna unguiculata*	Fabaceae (Leguminosae)

VI. Green manuring crops

Sl. No.	Local name	English name	Botanical name	Family
1.	Dhaincha	Dhaincha	*Sesbania aculeata*	Fabaceae (Leguminosae)
2.	Dhaincha (African)	Dhaincha (Wild)	*Sesbania rostrata*	Fabaceae (Leguminosae)
3.	Sanpat	Sunhemp	*Crotalaria juncea*	Fabaceae (Leguminosae)
4.	Felon	Cowpea	*Vigna unguiculata*	Fabaceae (Leguminosae)

VII. Fuel crops:

Sl. No.	Local name	English name	Botanical name	Family
1.	Dhaincha	Dhaincha	*Sesbania aculeata*	Fabaceae (Leguminosae)
2.	Dhaincha (African)	Dhaincha (Wild)	*Sesbania rostrata*	Fabaceae (Leguminosae)

VIII. Sugar crops:

Sl. No.	Local name	English name	Botanical name	Family
1.	Akh	Sugarcane	*Saccharum officinarum*	Poaceae (Gramineae)
2.	Beet	Sugarbeet	*Beta vulgaris*	Chenopodiaceae

IX. Beverage crops

Sl. No.	Common name	English name	Botanical name	Family
1.	Cha	Tea	*Camellia sinensis*	Theaceae
2.	Coffee	Coffee	*Coffea arabica*	Rubiaceae
3.	Coco	Cocoa	*Theobroma cacao*	Malvaceae (Byttnerioideae)

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X. Narcotic crops

Sl. No.	Common name	English name	Botanical name	Family
1.	Tamak	Tobacco	*Nicotiana tabacum*	Solanaceae
2.	Ganja	Canabis	*Cannabis sativa*	Cannabaceae

Some special purpose of agronomic crops

(i) Catch crops or emergency or contingent crops

These crops are cultivated to catch the forthcoming season. They replace a main crop that has failed due to biotic or climatic or management hazards and utilize the remaining period of the season. They are generally of very short duration, quick growing, fast bulking, harvestable or useable at any time of their field duration and adaptable to the season. soil and cultural practices. e.g. green gram, black gram, cow pea etc.

(ii) Cash crops

These crops plants are grown for sate to earn hand cash. e.g. jute, tobacco, cotton, sugarcane etc.

(iii) Cover crops

These crops plants are able to protect the soil surface from erosion (Wind, water or both) through their ground covering foliage and root mats. e.g. black gram, ground nut, etc.

(iv) Mulch crops

These crop plants are grown to conserve soil moisture form bare ground by their thick and multi layered foliage, trailing habit and sometimes self seeding nature. e.g. cowpea.

(v) Restorative corps

These are crops which provide a good harvest along with enrichment or restoration or amelioration of their soil such as legumes. They fix atmospheric nitrogen in root nodules, shed their leaves during ripening and thus restore soil condition.

(vi) Exhaustive crops

These are crop plants, which on growing leave the field exhausted because of a more aggressive nature. e.g. sesame, linseed etc.

Further Reading:

The New Oxford Book of Food Plants By J.G. Vaughan & C.A. Geissler
Oxford University Press

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