



Step Farming: A New Fundamental in the Rising World

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India is one of the country, with the largest terrace area in the world. Both dry and irrigated agriculture is practiced in India. Great efforts are being made to make the country's agriculture self-sufficient. However, excessive population growth poses threats to the environment, as population growth increases demand for consumer goods and reinforces the tendency to over exploit environmental resources. Existing agricultural practices are inadequate to meet the needs of a growing population.

In addition to existing agricultural practices, many parameters need to be considered such as, Crop type, soil characteristics, climate etc. Depending on various factors, farmers decide which types of crops to grow in the area. Also, soil, climate and season are not enough to get a quality product. It requires a lot of steps. Growing crops requires many agricultural practices. Viz. From Soil preparation to Harvesting.

Annual agricultural practices in the region cause soil degradation, reduce water-holding capacity and degrade soil conditions. As, a result of these activities, soil erosion and landslides occur in these areas.

To address these problems and meet the demands of a growing population, Hill farming, also known as terrace farming or Step farming, has become popular.

Hill Farming/ Step Farming

Hill farming can be considered one of the best and most feasible solutions to solve the above problems. It is already practiced in China, Japan, the Philippines, the rest of Oceania, Southeast Asia, and other parts of the world. It is also practiced in many hilly areas in India, but it is not as popular as other forms of farming.

Hill Farming offers to relocate farmland or build special ridge platforms to turn hills into farmland. These platforms are called terraces. In hill farming, excavating and moving top soil to form arable land and furrows is very important. When the upper platform is full, water flows to the lower platform. As a result, it contributes to the even distribution of water. Farming in the hills is labour intensive but it helps prevent heavy rains from washing away soil from the mountain farms.

Hill Farming has many advantages. Soil cover and fertility are maintained as nutrients are not washed away from the soil surface by water flow, ensuring food security and increasing crop yields through water and soil conservation.

Through this form of agriculture, farmers can grow high yielding crops with minimal losses and earn enough income to support their livelihoods.