

## **Worksheet**

**Class 8<sup>th</sup> ( science)**

**Chapter 1<sup>st</sup> Crop production and Management**

### **5. Protection from weeds**

**Weed :-** In a field many other undesirable plants may grow naturally along with the crop. These undesirable plants are called weeds.

**Weeding :-** The removal of weeds is called weeding.

#### **Necessity of weeding :-**

- weeding is necessary since weeds compete with the crop plants for water, nutrients, space, and light. Thus they affect the growth of the crop.
- Some weeds interfere even in harvesting and may be poisonous for animals and human beings.

#### **Ways of removing weeds and control their growth**

- (i) Tilling before sowing of crops helps in uprooting and killing of weeds.
- (ii) The best time for removal of weeds is before they produce flowers and seeds. The manual removal includes physical removal of weeds by uprooting or cutting them close to the ground, from time to

time. This is done with the help of a khurpi. A seed drill is also used to uproot weeds.

(iii) Weeds are also control by using certain chemicals, called **weedicides**. These are sprayed in the field to kill the weeds. They do not damage the crops.

## **6. Harvesting**

The cutting of crop after it is mature is called harvesting.

- In harvesting, crops are pulled out or cut close to the ground.
- It usually takes 3 to 4 months for a cereal crop to mature.
- Harvesting in our country is either done manually by sickle or by a machine called harvester.

**Threshing** :- In the harvested crop, the grain seeds need to be separated from the chaff. This process is called threshing.

- Threshing is carried out with the help of a machine called 'combine' which is in fact a harvester as well as a thresher.

**Winnowing :-** Farmers with small holdings of land do the separation of grain and chaff by winnowing.



*Fig. 1.8 : Combine*



*Fig. 1.9 : Winnowing machine*

### **Harvest Festivals**

After three or four months of hard work there comes the day of the harvest. The sight of golden fields of standing crop, laden with grain, fills the hearts of farmers with joy and a sense of well-being. The efforts of the past season have borne fruit and it is time to relax and enjoy a little. The period of harvest is, thus, of great joy and happiness in all parts of India. Men and women celebrate it with great enthusiasm. Special festivals associated with the harvest season are Pongal, Baisakhi, Holi, Diwali, Nabanya and Bihu.