AGRONOMIC MEASURES IN DRYLANDS

Dr. G. M. SUJITH

**UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES,BANGALORE
KARNATAKA**

AGRONOMIC MEASURES IN DRYLANDS

Soil & Water conservation – agronomical + mechanical measures

Agronomical methods are supported with mechanical measures where land slope exceeds permissible limits and run - off gains erosive velocities

**Agronomic methods are used in
inter – bunded areas and mechanical
practices complement to help boost crop
yields in rainfed drylands**

CONTOUR TILLAGE

All agricultural operations are to be done on the contour/across the direction of slope where holdings are very small

Even though the operation is very simple, it plays a major role in retarding the process of soil erosion through run-off

It also conserves soil and due to increased time of concentration, more rain water seeps through the soil profile to recharge water

DEAD FURROWS

When all tillage operations are complete, it is advisable to leave a dead furrow at every 10m interval. This should remain in position until the crop is harvested

Even though the operation is very simple, it plays a major role in retarding the process of soil erosion through run-off

DEAD FURROWS

Dead furrows 'aid' in reducing the run-off velocity and they also conserve water

ORGANIC MATTER

Adding organic manures, such as farm yard manure and compost every year as basal application to soil, improves the soil physical condition of the soil considerably.

Organic matter improves the activities of soil micro organisms and also provides the much needed micro plant nutrients of all kinds, besides nitrogen, phosphorus and potash

ORGANIC MATTER

CHOICE OF VARIETIES

Drought –resistant varieties

Varieties with proven genetic character to withstand longer periods of drought

Varieties perform well in situations where the intervals between rainy days are long

Early maturing varieties

Varieties with shorter duration life cycle(seed to seed) be chosen so as to cut down water requirements of the crop

Success rate of short duration crops is greater than long duration crops