

### Introduction:

Erosion is a natural process in which top soil is removed by the action of water and wind. Under normal conditions, plant growth provides the soil with an adequate cover from the forces of erosion. Farming methods can increase the rate of erosion:

- 1. Deforestation** is the removal of hedge rows, overgrazing and over cropping.
- 2. Monoculture:** it is the continuous use of land for a single crop which leads to a build-up of plants, diseases and pollution due to an increased use of inorganic fertilizers and pesticides. But even more important is the loss of soil structure which renders the soil vulnerable to erosion.
- 3. Removal of top soil by water flow:** different erosion occurs: slow, even flow of water results in sheet erosion. An increased speed causes cuts in the surface of the soil. This is rill erosion. A third type is gully erosion, where the rapid moving water wears deep groves into the soil.
- 4. Contour Ploughing:** if ploughing is done along the contours of the land it reduces water runoff.
- 5. Terracing:** making banks on slopes which further reduces erosion.
- 6. Planting of trees:** can break the wind and reduce wind erosion.
- 7. Strip cropping:** arranging narrow strips of two or more crops grown alternately along contours. Usually each alternate strip is planted with biennial or perennial plants, so that only alternate strips are borne at one time. Therefore any erosion that may start in one strip is checked by the crop next to it.