

## 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.

**(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, cannabis etc.

**Common****1. Cereal crops**

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

**II. Pulse crops:**

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



## III. Oil yielding crops:

| Sl. No. | Local name  | English name | Botanical name              | Family                    |
|---------|-------------|--------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1.      | Sarisha     | Rapeseed     | <i>Brassica campestris</i>  | Brassicaceae (Cruciferae) |
|         |             |              | <i>Brassica napus</i>       | Brassicaceae (Cruciferae) |
|         |             | Mustard      | <i>Brassica juncea</i>      | Brassicaceae (Cruciferae) |
| 2.      | Til         | Sesame       | <i>Sesamum indicum</i>      | Pedaliaceae               |
| 3.      | Surjamukhe  | Sunflower    | <i>Helianthus annuus</i>    | Asteraceae (Compositae)   |
| 4.      | Cheenababam | Ground nut   | <i>Arachis hypogaea</i>     | Fabaceae (Leguminosae)    |
| 5.      | Tishi       | Linseed      | <i>Linum usitatissimum</i>  | Linaceae                  |
| 6.      | Kusumful    | Safflower    | <i>Carthamus tinctorius</i> | Asteraceae (Compositae)   |
| 7.      | Garjan til  | Niger        | <i>Guizotia abyssinica</i>  | Asteraceae (Compositae)   |
| 8.      | Soybean     | Soybean      | <i>Glycine max</i>          | Fabaceae (Leguminosae)    |
| 9.      | Venna       | Castor       | <i>Ricinus communis</i>     | Euphorbiaceae             |

## IV. Fibre crops:

| Sl. No. | Local name | English name | Botanical name              | Family                    |
|---------|------------|--------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1.      | Deshi pat  | Jute         | <i>Corchorus capsularis</i> | Tiliaceae                 |
| 2.      | Tosa pat   | Jute         | <i>Corchorus olitorius</i>  | Tiliaceae                 |
| 3.      | Tula       | Cotton       | <i>Gossypium hirsutum</i>   | Malvaceae (Sterculiaceae) |
| 4.      | Kenaf      | Kenaf        | <i>Hibiscus cannabinus</i>  | Malvaceae (Sterculiaceae) |
| 5.      | Meshta     | Mesta        | <i>Hibiscus sabdariffa</i>  | Malvaceae (Sterculiaceae) |
| 6.      | San pat    | Sunn hemp    | <i>Crotalaria juncea</i>    | Fabaceae (Leguminosae)    |

## V. Fodder crops:

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

## VI. Green manuring crops

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

## VII. Fuel crops:

| Sl. No. | Local name         | English name    | Botanical name           | Family                 |
|---------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1.      | Dhaincha           | Dhaincha        | <i>Sesbania aculeata</i> | Fabaceae (Leguminosae) |
| 2.      | Dhaincha (African) | Dhaincha (Wild) | <i>Sesbania rostrata</i> | Fabaceae (Leguminosae) |

## VIII. Sugar crops:

| Sl. No. | Local name | English name | Botanical name               | Family              |
|---------|------------|--------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1.      | Akh        | Sugarcane    | <i>Saccharum officinarum</i> | Poaceae (Gramineae) |
| 2.      | Beet       | Sugarbeet    | <i>Beta vulgaris</i>         | Chenopodiaceae      |

**IX. Beverage crops**

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

**X. Narcotic crops**

| Sl. No. | Common name | English name | Botanical name           | Family      |
|---------|-------------|--------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| 1.      | Tamak       | Tobacco      | <i>Nicotiana tabacum</i> | Solanaceae  |
| 2.      | Ganja       | Canabis      | <i>Cannabis sativa</i>   | 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. cow pea.

**(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

