

Learning Objectives

After completing this lesson, students will be able to

- know about horticulture and floriculture.
- classify biomanures and know their importance.
- differentiate between hydroponics, aquaponics and aeroponics.
- know the importance of dairy farming and cattle breeds.
- gain knowledge on the aspects of aquaculture and pisciculture.
- gain awareness on vermicomposting methods and the benefits of vermicompost.
- identify the commercial products obtained from apiculture.



Introduction

The gift of nature is almost unlimited and thus a variety of useful products are obtained from plants. Economic uses of plants are varied and therefore the scope for improvement and their cultivation is immense. Floriculture and horticulture have gained considerable public attraction. In recent scenario more emphasis is given to the progress of economic aspects of zoology like aquaculture (culture of fish, prawn, crabs, pearl and edible oysters), vermiculture, apiculture and dairy farming which are gaining more importance as animal-based farming due to their economic and commercial values. Animal farming has now become an agrobased entrepreneurship and is beneficial to rural farmers. We will study about them elaborately in this lesson.

23.1 Horticulture

Horticulture is a branch of agriculture that deals with cultivation of fruits, vegetables, and ornamental plants. The word horticulture is

derived from the latin words 'hortus' meaning garden and 'colere' meaning to cultivate. Horticulture is both a science and an art of growing plants with improved growth, quality, yield, and with resistance to diseases, insects, stress etc. There are four main classes of horticulture: (i) Pomology (fruit farming), (ii) Olericulture (vegetable farming), (iii) Floriculture (flower farming), (iv) Landscape gardening.

23.1.1 Pomology or Fruit Farming

The term pomology is derived from the latin word 'pomum' means fruit and 'logy' means study. It deals with development, enhancement of fruit quality, cultivation techniques, regulation of production periods and reduction of production cost of fruits.

23.1.2 Olericulture or Vegetable Farming

Olericulture is the science of growing vegetables. Vegetable farming can be classified