

Soil conservation measures

1. Contour ploughing

Ploughing along the contour lines can decelerate the flow of water down the slopes.



2. Terrace farming

Steps can be cut out on the slopes making terrace.
Terrace cultivation restricts soil erosion.



Strip Cropping

This involves planting broad strips of several crops in the field. Each strip is 3–9 m wide. On slopes, the strips can be laid out along the contour to prevent erosion. The next year, the farmer can rotate crops by planting each strip with a different crop. Strip cropping has many of the advantages of intercropping: it produces a variety of crops, the legume improves the soil fertility, and rotation helps reduce pest and weed problems. The residues from one strip can be used as soil cover for neighbouring strips. At the same time, strip cropping avoids some of the disadvantages of intercropping: managing the single crop within the strip is easy, and competition between the crops is reduced.



