

A comprehensive package of practices (POP) for SALT farming as an alternative to Jhum farming system in the Jhum patches:

1. Contour Line Establishment:

Create an A-frame instrument for locating contour lines.
Locate and mark contour lines across the field to prevent soil erosion.
Maintain a vertical drop of no more than 1 m for effective erosion control.

2. Soil Preparation and Planting:

Prepare contour lines by ploughing and harrowing to a width of 1 m.
Single or double hedgerows with plant seeds of nitrogen-fixing trees and shrubs (NFTS/NFP) in one furrow of contour line or two furrows on each contour line.
Plant seasonal, short to medium-term crops between and among strips of permanent crops.

3. Integration of Livestock:

Incorporate small livestock such as goats, pigs, and local birds into the system for ensuring nutrient cycle.
Cultivate leguminous fodder (NFPs can be used as fodder) species as fodder banks to feed the animals.
Compost animal dung and apply it to the soil to maintain fertility.

4. Regular Maintenance:

Trim NFTS/NFP twice a year (February/ March and August/September) to a height of about 1 m from the ground.
Use pruned leaves and twigs for mulching to minimize erosion and as organic fertilizer.
Practice crop rotation to maintain soil fertility and good condition.

5. Green Terraces Building:

Gather and pile straw, stalks, twigs, branches, leaves, rocks, and stones at the base of the NFTS/NFP rows to build green terraces.
Build strong, sustainable, and erosion-resistant green terraces along the contour lines.

Advantages of SALT Farming:

- Simple and low-cost technology suitable for resource-poor farmers.
- Helps maintain soil structure and fertility, prevents erosion, and boosts productivity.
- Enables cultivation of varieties of crops year-round.
- Provides additional benefits such as firewood, raw materials, and potential for forest regeneration.
- It is permanent instead of shifting every year unlike jhum

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