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Q59

**With reference to the circumstances in Indian agriculture, the concept of "Conservation Agriculture" assumes significance. Which of the following fall under the Conservation Agriculture?**  
**1. Avoiding the monoculture practices 2. Adopting minimum tillage 3. Avoiding the cultivation of plantation crops 4. Using crop residues to cover soil surface 5. Adopting spatial and temporal crop sequencing/crop rotations** Select the correct answer using the code given below: (a) 1, 3 and 4 (b) 2, 3, 4 and 5 (c) 2, 4 and 5 (d) 1, 2, 3 and 5 Official key: C.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2018 · General Studies · 2 marks · Environment and Ecology

Environment, ecology, climate, biodiversity - Prelims GS Paper I.

**Explanation****(a)**

(a) 1, 3 and 4. Avoiding monoculture (1) is not itself a **FAO** Conservation Agriculture pillar, and avoiding **plantation crops** (3) is not a CA rule at all. Residue cover (4) is a genuine pillar, but this mix is wrong. This option is not the key.

**(b)**

(b) 2, 3, 4 and 5. Minimum tillage, residue mulch and rotations (2, 4, 5) are CA, but statement 3 (avoiding **plantation crops**) does not belong. This option is not the key.

**(c) Official key**

(c) 2, 4 and 5. Conservation Agriculture is defined by minimum soil disturbance, permanent organic cover (including crop residues), and crop rotations / spatial-temporal sequencing. Those are items 2, 4 and 5. Avoiding plantations is irrelevant; "avoid monoculture" is only a loose cousin of rotation, not a listed CA principle here. This option is the official key.

**(d)**

(d) 1, 2, 3 and 5. It includes the false plantation ban and omits residue cover. This option is not the key.

**Summary**

Official key is (c) 2, 4 and 5. **FAO** Conservation Agriculture rests on three practices: minimum tillage, soil cover with residues, and diversified rotations or sequencing. Those map to statements 2, 4 and 5. Avoiding **plantation crops** is not a CA requirement. Avoiding monoculture is not listed as a separate pillar in the question's accepted set. The WRAP letter is therefore (c).

**Related possible facts**

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

**CA three principles**

Minimum disturbance, permanent cover, crop diversification

**FAO**

Leads the global Conservation Agriculture framing

**Zero tillage**

Extreme form of minimum tillage used with residue retention

**Happy Seeder**

In-situ rice-residue sowing tool in north-west India

**Plantation crops**

Tea, coffee, rubber-not excluded by CA doctrine

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