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Q51

How is the permaculture farming different from conventional chemical farming? 1. Permaculture farming discourages monocultural practices but in conventional chemical farming, monoculture practices are (a) 1 and 3 (b) 1, 2 and 4 (c) 4 only (d) 2 and 3 Official key: B.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2021 · General Studies · 2 marks · Environment and Ecology
Environment, ecology, climate, biodiversity - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation

(a)

1 and 3. Statement 3 (permaculture hard in semi-arid; chemical easy) is the miss.

(b) Official key

1, 2 and 4. Permaculture avoids monoculture, does not salinise the way chemical farming can, and leans on mulch. It is workable in semi-arid tracts; statement 3 fails.

(c)

4 only. Under-counts 1 and 2.

(d)

2 and 3. Keeps the false semi-arid limb.

Summary

Official key is (b) 1, 2 and 4. Permaculture is diverse, mulch-heavy and kinder to soil than chemical monoculture. It is not barred from semi-arid land - that is the false contrast.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Permaculture

Mollison/Holmgren; closed loops, polyculture, mulch.

Salinisation

A chemical-irrigation neighbour of statement 2.