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A Short Note Dry Land Farming

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DESCRIPTION

Dry land farming and dry farming are agricultural terms that refer to non-irrigated crop growing systems. Dry land farming is related with dry lands, which are defined by a cold rainy season (which supplies nearly all of the moisture required by the crops prior to harvest) followed by a warm dry season. They're also linked to arid climates, drought-prone locations, and areas with limited water resources. Dry land farming has evolved as a set of techniques and management practises used by farmers to adapt to the presence or absence of moisture throughout a crop cycle. In marginal areas, a farmer should be financially able to weather crop failures on a regular basis, possibly for several years in a row. As a dry land farmer, you must carefully regulate the moisture available to your crop and aggressively manage your expenses to avoid losses in bad years. Dry land farming entails constantly analyzing the quantity of moisture present or absent for each crop cycle and preparing appropriately. Dry land farmers understand that in order to be financially successful, they must be aggressive during the good years to compensate for the dry years. Dry land farming relies on natural rainfall, which can expose the ground to dust storms, especially if inadequate agricultural techniques are employed or if the storms occur at a particularly vulnerable time. Because a fallow season is required in the crop rotation, fields cannot always be protected by a cover crop, which would otherwise provide erosion protection. Some dry land farming theories established in the late 19th and early 20th centuries pretended to be scientific but were actually pseudoscientific and could not be empirically tested. Tillage, for example, was said to lock in moisture, but such "dust mulching" theories are based on what people think should happen or what they've been told, rather than what testing supports. Tillage, in fact, has been demonstrated to increase water losses due to evaporation. Dry farming is possible in areas with substantial annual rainfall during a wet season, such as the winter. Crops are cultivated during the next dry season, utilizing procedures that take use of the soil's retained moisture. In the United States, dry farming is done for a range of crops in California, Colorado, Kansas, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming. Grapes, tomatoes, pumpkins, beans, and other summer crops are examples of dry farmed crops. Drier grain crops include the wheat, corn, millet, rye, and other grain-producing grasses. Instead of relying on rainfall throughout the growing season, these crops thrive using the winter water stored in the soil. Winter wheat, maize, beans, sunflowers, and even watermelon are examples of drier farmed crops. With as little as 230 millimeters (9 inches) of precipitation per year, successful dry land farming is possible; higher rainfall expands the variety of crops available. Thousands of years ago, Native American tribes in the arid Southwest subsisted on dry land farming in locations with less than 250 millimeters (10 inches) of rain.