



Answers- Why Soil Matters

1. The Soil
2. (i) enhance production, (ii) reduce costs (iii) improve the quality of food (iv) support a vast array of plants and animals (v) filter and rescue water pollutants (vi) protect against erosion, drought and flooding
3. Through carbon capture or carbon sequestration - converting gas (CO₂) into solids (organic matter)
4. About 1000 years
5. Intensive farming practices
6. Overuse of chemical fertilisers and sprays
Poaching of the soil due to poor grazing planning and overstocking
Soil compaction due to heavy machinery
Monocultures and limited plant diversity
Leaving the soil uncovered
Inversion ploughing
7. Minimise the use of artificial fertilisers and sprays
Increase the number of legumes in the pasture
Diversify grass species
Reduce soil disturbance
Reduce the use of heavy machinery on the land to minimise soil compaction
Consider grazing practices to minimise poaching and over-grazing
Incorporate trees into the grassland via silvopasture or agroforestry system
Compost Farmyard before spreading
8. Incorporate crop rotations
Use diverse cover crops
Use composted manure to build organic matter
Ensure the soil is covered throughout the seasons
Minimise the use of artificial fertilisers and sprays
Utilise low disturbance crop establishment methods
9. Soil degradation
10. The farm, the farmer, the community, the planet and the generations to come