TOPIC -12

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Which of the following practice reduces soil erosion, evapotranspiration, kinetic energy impact of Raindrops? (IBPS AFO 2019-20)

- **Crop rotation**
- **Intercropping**
- **Mulching**
- **Strip cropping**
- **Multiple cropping**

Ans:- Mulching



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Mulching

- **Mulching improves nutrient and water retention in the soil, encourages favourable soil microbial activity and worms, and suppresses weed growth.**
- **When properly executed, mulching can significantly improve the well-being of plants and reduce maintenance as compared to bare soil culture.**
- **Mulched plants have better vigour and, consequently, have improved resistance to pests and diseases.**
- **Mulching helps prevent soil erosion**
- Mulch is a **layer of material applied to the surface of an area of soil.**
- Mulch **prevents rain from hitting the soil directly, reducing the impact of the water drops. (IBPS AFO 2019-20)**

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- Water soaks into the soil gradually instead washing the soil away.

Mulching adds organic matter to the soil

- Soil that is **high in organic matter is very much alive.**
- In just one pinch of soil, there are about a billion individual living organisms, perhaps ten thousand distinct species of microbes.
- As these microbes decompose organic matter, it supplies nutrients needed by growing plants. The beauty of this natural nutrient cycle is that nutrients are released in harmony with the needs of the plants.
- When environmental conditions are favourable for rapid plant growth, the same conditions favour a rapid release of nutrients from the organic matter.

- **Mulch decreases water loss due to evaporation**
- **Mulching also feeds soil life and improves soil structure**
- **Mulching adds nutrients to the soil**

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