A forest is basically an edaphic ecosystem consisting of flora and providing shelter to animals. Forest is the source of fresh water, rich soil which are the essential aspects of agriculture.

In Agriculture, forests:
- Protect water by conservation of water, reduce the tendency towards landslides by protecting soil with roots of trees.
- Provide resources for the improvement of agricultural crops and animals like a green pool.
- Increase yield in agriculture by pollination of insects and other animals.
- Provide alternate host plants for pests which damage crops.
- Provides trees for the making of furniture etc. and firewood for fuel.
- Provide shade, neatness and beauty to the environment.
- Supply food, clothes and bring mental calmness.

The natural assortment of plants in a forest is a good model for agricultural activities.

Forests provide medicines for diseases, forest food products such as mushrooms and fruits.

In Agriculture, forests:
- Provide manure in agriculture:
  - Forests provide medicines for diseases, forest food products such as mushrooms and fruits.
  - They provide manure for use in agriculture.

Fact Sheet No 7

Leaf manure for the farmer from the forest
- All parts of the tree are in the natural protection of humans in the production of plant leaves and tender leaf parts to be used for manure. The leaves of trees are used extensively as manure for the farm.
- "Vela\(\text{\textregistered}\), wild sun flower, "ner\(\text{\textregistered}\), "kada\(\text{\textregistered}\), "nadan\(\text{\textregistered}\), "mal\(\text{\textregistered}\), "mari\(\text{\textregistered}\), "nala\(\text{\textregistered}\)."

Forests of Sri Lanka and Agriculture

Forests of Sri Lanka:
- Sri Lanka has 6 types of forests,即
  - Wet forest
  - Dry tropical forest
  - Intermediate forest
  - Thorny bush forest
  - Mangrove forests
  - Thorny forests

Chena cultivation:
A system of farming associated with forests and coming from the ancient past. In chena cultivation, only rain water is used to cultivate crops like green gram, maize, pumpkins etc. The system of chena cultivation was subjected to control recently since it has severely affected the environment of the forest.

Advantages of chena cultivation:
- The system of chena cultivation is a very important aspect of the movement for the protection of forests.

Disadvantages of chena cultivation:
- The system of chena cultivation, although better for the environment, is less profit-making and has several disadvantages.

Agro forest cultivation:
A methodology which plays an important role in the protection of forests and animals.

When the forest is cleared, the soil is exposed to erosion and becomes less fertile. To control erosion, the forest is replaced with crops and animals. The land is left fallow for a certain period of time to allow the soil to regenerate.

Forest zones in Sri Lanka:

- Wet forest
- Dry tropical forest
- Intermediate forest
- Thorny bush forest
- Mangrove forests
- Thorny forests

Central Environmental Authority

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