

## **Part II. Topical Vocabulary (The Environment)**

- 1. chemical fertilizers**
- 2. cover crops**
- 3. crop yields**
- 4. ground cover**
- 5. land degradation**
- 6. mono-cropping**
- 7. soil nutrients**
- 8. terrace farming on slopes**
- 9. water runoff**
- 10. weed growth**

- 1. Chemical fertilizers:** noun /'kɛmɪkəl 'fɜːdəˌlaɪzərz/): Chemical substances that are added to soil to provide essential nutrients to plants.  
**Example:** The use of *chemical fertilizers* has been linked to environmental pollution.
- 2. Cover crops:** noun /'kʌvər krɒps/): Crops that are grown to protect the soil from erosion, improve soil fertility, and suppress weed growth.  
**Example:** The farmer planted *cover crops* to enrich the soil and prevent soil erosion.
- 3. Crop yields:** noun /krɒp jiːldz/): The amount of agricultural production harvested per unit of land area.  
**Example:** The *crop yields* in the region have been declining due to soil degradation.
- 4. Ground cover:** noun /graʊnd 'kʌvər/): Plants that are grown to cover the soil surface and protect it from erosion.  
**Example:** *Ground cover* plants such as creeping thyme and sedum can add color and texture to a garden.
- 5. Land degradation:** noun, /lænd dɪˌɡreɪ'deɪʃən/): The deterioration or loss of the productive capacity of the soil due to human activities such as deforestation, overgrazing, and monoculture farming.  
**Example:** The government has implemented measures to prevent *land degradation* and promote sustainable land use.

- 6. Mono-cropping:** noun /'mɑnəʊ kɹɒpɪŋ/): The practice of growing a single crop on a large area of land.  
**Example:** *Mono-cropping* can lead to soil depletion and increased vulnerability to pests and diseases.
- 7. Soil nutrients:** noun /sɔɪl 'nʌtriənts/): Essential elements such as nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium that are required for plant growth and development.  
**Example:** The soil nutrients in the field were depleted due to overuse of *chemical fertilizers*.
- 8. Terrace farming on slopes:** noun /'terəs 'fɑːmɪŋ ɒn sləʊps/): A method of farming on steep slopes that involves creating flat areas on the slope to prevent soil erosion and improve water retention.  
**Example:** *Terrace farming on slopes* is a traditional farming method that has been used for centuries in many parts of the world.
- 9. Water runoff:** noun /'wɔːtər 'rʌn,ɒf/): The flow of water over the surface of the land that occurs when the soil is unable to absorb all the water.  
**Example:** The farmer used ground cover to reduce **water runoff** and improve soil quality.
- 10. Weed growth:** noun /wiːd grəʊθ/): The growth of unwanted plants that compete with crops for nutrients, water, and sunlight.  
**Example:** The farmer used **cover crops** to suppress weed growth and improve soil fertility.