



## A Picture Book of Best Practices for Subsistence Farmers: South Asian version

June 2016

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## About the Author



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## About the Illustrator



Lisa J. Smith graduated from the Graphic Design Diploma program at Conestoga College in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada in 2014, with her main focus in illustration. In early 2015, Lisa was selected as part of a national competition onto the SAKGlobal team as the illustrator for the picture book along with other illustrated materials. She has created illustrations related to microbiology, genetics, botany, agriculture and international development for scientific journals and presentations during her time with the University of Guelph.

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## **Acknowledgements**

We thank Rachana Devkota (University of Guelph), Roshan Pudasaini (LI-BIRD, Nepal) and especially women farmers associated with LI-BIRD for conducting and enabling extensive participatory editing of this picture book. We thank Kamal Khadka (University of Guelph) for translating English captions into Nepali captions. We thank Dr. Tejendra Chapagain (University of Guelph) for assistance with the lessons and for Nepali translation editing. We thank Myla Manser (University of Guelph) for technical assistance during editing. This book was made possible because of generous funding from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC, Ottawa) and Global Affairs Canada as part of the CIFSRF program. Dr. Raizada dedicates this book to the memory of his father, Mahesh N. Raizada, an Indian scientist who went to Nigeria in the 1960s to teach a young nation – a man who treated all peoples, rich or poor, with equal respect and dignity.

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MN Raizada and L Smith (2016) A Picture Book of Best Practices for Subsistence Farmers: South Asian Edition. eBook, University of Guelph Sustainable Agriculture Kit (SAK) Project, June 2016, Guelph, Canada. Available online at: [www.SAKBook.org](http://www.SAKBook.org)

## Table of Contents

<b>Chapter 1 - Scientific method</b>	1
1.1 Testing products using split plots, multi-years (pesticide)	2
1.2 Testing products using split plots, multi-years (new seeds)	3
<b>Chapter 2- Land preparation and Sowing</b>	4
2.1 Gloves to protect hands	5
2.2 New tools to prepare the field	6
2.3 Soaking seeds before planting (seed priming)	10
2.4 Sowing seeds in rows (line sowing)	11
2.5 Jab planter	12
2.6 Tools to sow seeds	13
2.7 Reducing seedling crowding after sowing (thinning)	16
2.8 Tools to transplant seedlings	17
2.9 Raking tool (e.g. to collect weeds)	20
2.10 Back brace	21
<b>Chapter 3 - Crop and Tree Intensification</b>	22
3.1a Intercropping maize and cowpea	23
3.1b Intercropping maize and common bean	24
3.1c Intercropping finger millet and soybean	25
3.1d Intercropping finger millet and horsegram	26
3.1e Intercropping finger millet and blackgram	27
3.1f Intercropping mustard and green pea	28
3.1g Intercropping wheat and green pea	29
3.2 Intercropping/relay cropping in a ginger system	30
3.3 Vegetable seed packages for home gardens	31
3.4 Tarpaulin/silpaulin for greenhouse (high tunnel) construction	32
3.5 Tarpaulin plastic for low tunnel construction	34
3.6 Grafting to improve tree propagation	35
3.7 Soil clump test to determine if root/tuber crops can be planted	36

<b>Chapter 4 - Terrace agriculture</b>	37
4.1 Yam in sacks on terrace walls	38
4.2a Climbing beans on terrace walls	39
4.2b Climbing chayote squash on terrace walls	40
4.3a Waterfall-type legumes on terrace edges	41
4.4b Waterfall-type cucurbits on terrace edges	42
<b>Chapter 5 - Soil health</b>	43
5.1 Litmus paper for soil pH and liming	44
5.2 Cover crops to prevent bare soil and erosion	45
5.3 Shallow treading to prevent erosion, conserve water	46
5.4 Contour farming on hillsides to prevent erosion	47
5.5 Living grass barriers to prevent erosion	48
5.6 Cover crop during the transition from dry to wet seasons	49
5.7 Vetch in the dry season to prevent erosion	50
5.8 Adding organic nutrients to home gardens	51
5.9 Covering manure from rain during storage	52
5.10 Livestock sheds and collecting urine to add to manure	54
5.11 Compost improvement	56
5.12 Microdosing of manure	58
5.13 Treating seeds with urine	59
5.14 An indigenous biofertilizer (Panchakavya)	60
5.15 Using worms to create manure (vermicomposting)	62
5.16 Synthetic nitrogen fertilizer raises yields	63
5.17 Microdosing of synthetic fertilizers	64
5.18 Split application of synthetic fertilizer	65
5.19 The number of applications of fertilizer is based on soil type	66
5.20 Leaf colour change to diagnose fertilizer needs	67
5.21 Legumes produce organic nitrogen fertilizer	68
5.22 Legumes reduce need to purchase nitrogen fertilizer	69
5.23 How to diagnose whether legumes are producing fertilizer	70
5.24 Rhizobia bacteria inoculants	71



5.25 Crop rotation with a legume (bean) reduces fertilizer needs	72
5.26 Crop rotation with a pulse (lentil) reduces fertilizer needs	73
5.27 Pigeon pea for degraded soils	74
5.28 Azolla-Anabaena symbiosis in rice paddies	75
<b>Chapter 6 - Water</b>	76
6.1 Drought tolerant crops	77
6.2 Tied ridging to capture and prevent erosion	78
6.3 Rainwater conservation on slopes	79
6.4 Rainwater collection around fruit trees	80
6.5 Use of porous rocks to collect dew	81
6.6 Introduction to rainwater harvesting	82
6.7 Foldable plastic tanks and tarpaulin to collect rainwater	83
6.8 Irrigating a crop nursery using rainwater	84
6.9 Drip irrigation in a greenhouse	85
6.10 Plastic mulch prevents water loss	86
6.11 Treddle and bicycle irrigation pumps	87
<b>Chapter 7- Weeds</b>	88
7.1 Kneepads to assist with weeding	89
7.2 Weeding tools	90
7.3 High density sowing to suppress weeds	94
7.4 Early seedling transplanting suppresses weeds	95
7.5 Cover crops suppress weeds	96
7.6 Striga weed suppression using Desmodium intercropping	97
7.7 Remove weeds before they produce flowers	98
<b>Chapter 8 - Pests and Disease</b>	99
8.1 Crop rotation with a legume (bean) reduces pests/diseases	100
8.2 Constant visual inspection for sick plants	101
8.3 Magnifying glass/sheet to remove sick seeds before sowing	102
8.4 Water floatation to remove sick seeds before sowing	103
8.5 Heat treatment of vegetable seeds	104
8.6a Vinegar treatment of seeds	105

8.6b Bleach treatment of seeds	106
8.6c Saltwater treatment of seeds	107
8.7 Pesticide seed application	108
8.8a Manure tea field spraying	109
8.8b Manure tea seed application	110
8.9 Indigenous bio-pesticide (Bijamrita) seed treatment	111
8.10 Push-pull intercropping to reduce flying insects	112
8.11 Replenishing food of wild animals to prevent crop damage	113
<b>Chapter 9 - Post harvest</b>	114
9.1 Tree fruit harvesting tool	115
9.2 Seed drying	116
9.3 Neem leaves for grain storage	117
9.4 Hermetic grain storage bags	118
9.5 Improved grain storage delays grain sales until prices are high	119
9.6 Anti-ripening bags	120
9.7 Simple clay pot cooler to prevent spoilage	121
9.8 Manual maize kernel sheller	122
9.9 How to make a maize kernel sheller from a tin can	123
9.10a Electric/petrol maize kernel sheller	124
9.10b Hand crank maize kernel sheller	125
9.10c Electric/petrol peanut sheller	126
9.11 Threshing grain on roads	127
9.12 Millet grain thresher	128
9.13 Flour mills	129
9.14 Machines to extract cooking oil from seeds	130
9.15 Metal skirt around cooking fire	131
9.16 Pressure cooker to reduce cooking fuel	132
9.17 Use of a friend/family in the city to obtain selling price	133
9.18 Selling farm products directly to a friend/family from the city	134
9.19 Value addition: selling cooked, roasted and flavored food	135
9.20 Value addition: food packaging and labeling	136

<b>Chapter 10 - Human nutrition</b>	137
10.1 Improving iron absorption by reducing caffeine, adding citrus	138
10.2 Improving iron absorption by adding small amounts of meat	139
10.3 Reducing vitamin A deficiencies by eating colorful foods	140
10.4 Improving iron/minerals for pregnant women and children	141
10.5 Amaranth leaves as a source of protein and nutrients	142
10.6 Cucurbit seeds as a source of protein and nutrients	143
10.7 Small whole grains for minerals and folate for pregnant women	144
10.8 Legumes/pulses to reduce protein and mineral deficiencies	145
10.9 Diet for pregnant women and children	146
<b>Chapter 11 - Animals</b>	147
11.1 Vetch fodder in the dry season	148
11.2 Selection of dry season weeds as fodder	149
11.3 Fish in rice paddies as a mid-season protein source	150
<b>Chapter 12 - Crop breeding</b>	151
12.1 Exchanging seeds with other farmers	152
12.2 How to produce hybrid maize seeds	153
12.3 Benefits of maintaining multiple crop varieties	154
12.4 Combining best traits of two crop varieties into a single variety	155
12.5 Breeding a crop variety trait into a desirable local variety	158
12.6 Breeding a trait into a local variety, but retaining multiple traits	161
<b>Chapter 13 - Disaster relief</b>	164
13.1 Human shelters using tarpaulin plastic	165
13.2 Modifying tarpaulin tents for cooking purposes	168
13.3 Modifying tarpaulin tents to collect drinking water from rain	169
13.4 Livestock shelters using tarpaulin plastic	170
13.5 Tarpaulin plastic or plastic bags to protect seeds from rain	171
13.6 Re-purposing tarpaulin tent plastic into a greenhouse/tunnel	172
13.7 Re-purposing tarpaulin tent plastic into a crop ground cover	173
13.8 Dual purpose shovels for disasters and farming	174
13.9 Dual purpose gloves for disasters and farming	175

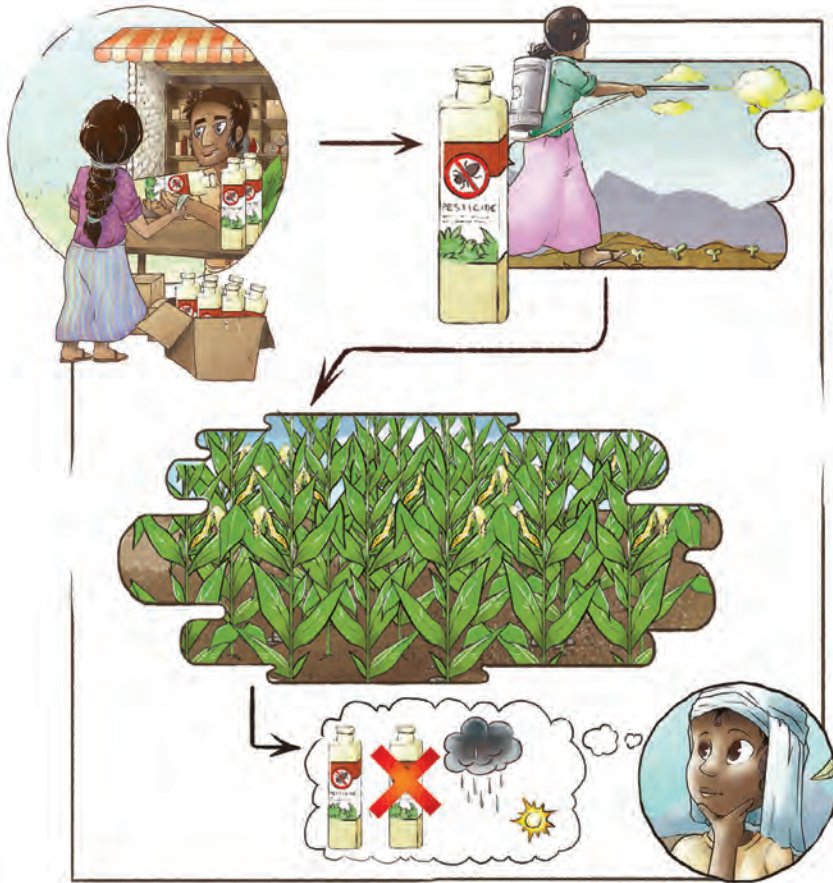


13.10 Early maturing seed varieties to produce food earlier	176
13.11 Jab planter to mitigate loss of labour/livestock	177
13.12 Basic first aid kit instructions to help remote farmers	178

## Chapter 1: Scientific Method

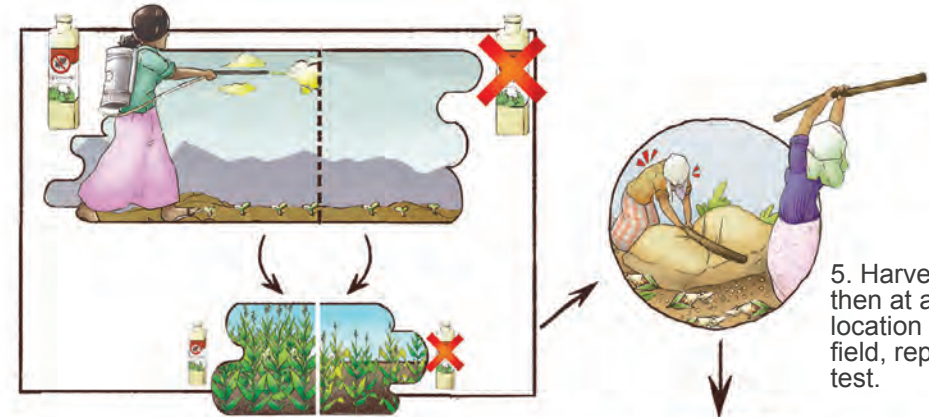
# Lesson: Before adopting any new product (e.g. pesticide) or practice, it is important to test it on a small plot using a scientific method.

1. Traditional practice: Purchase seed or product, such as pesticide, then apply onto entire plot.

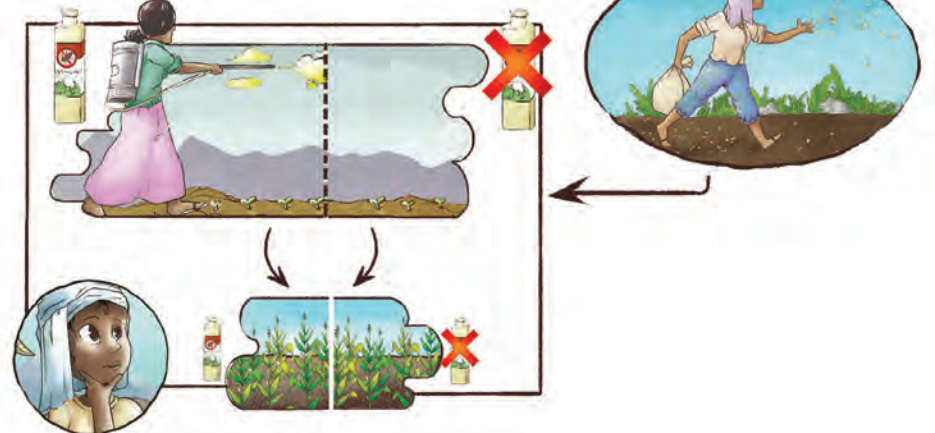


2. The field may show improvement, but the improvement may not be due to the new seed or product, but instead due to other factors. A scientific method can help to evaluate the effectiveness of a new seed or product, to determine whether or not it should be re-purchased.

3. Improved practice: Apply the new seed or practice on only half of the plot, keeping the other side with the traditional seed or practice. Conduct the test using only a small portion of the farm.



4. Evaluate both half plots.



6. Evaluate both half plots (second trial). If the new seed or product resulted in benefits in both years, then it is beneficial.

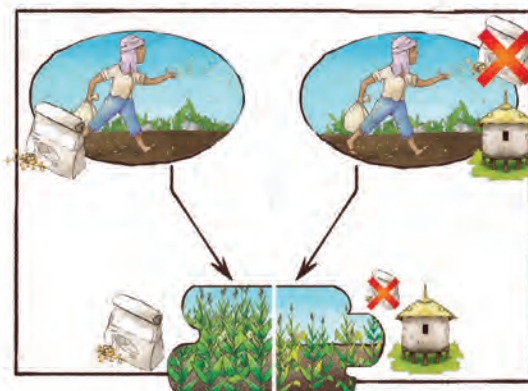


# Lesson: Before adopting any new product (e.g. seed packet) or practice, it is important to test it on a small plot using a scientific method.

1. Traditional practice: Purchase seed or product, then apply onto entire plot.



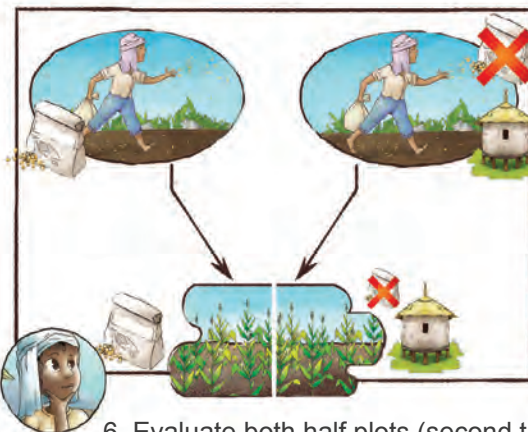
3. Improved practice: Apply the new seed or practice on only half of the plot, keeping the other side with the traditional seed or practice. Conduct the test using only a small portion of the farm.



4. Evaluate both half plots.



5. Harvest, sow, then at a different location in the field, repeat the test.



6. Evaluate both half plots (second trial). If the new seed or product resulted in benefits in both years, then it is beneficial.

2. The field may show improvement, but the improvement may not be due to the new seed or product, but instead due to other factors. A scientific method can help to evaluate the effectiveness of a new seed or product, to determine whether or not it should be re-purchased.

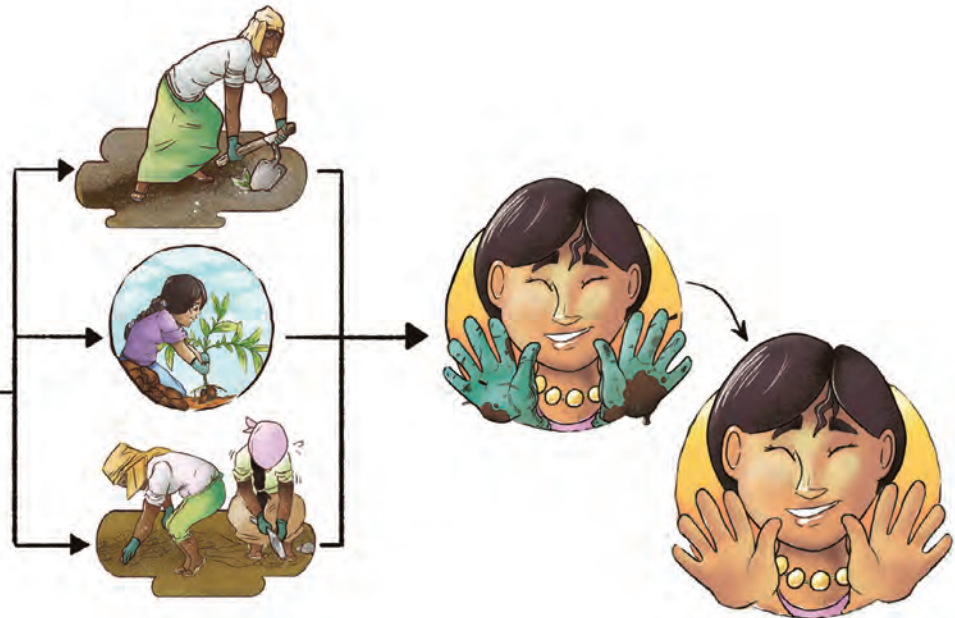
## Chapter 2: Land Preparation & Sowing

# Lesson: Gloves reduce pain and damage to hands.

1. Traditional practice

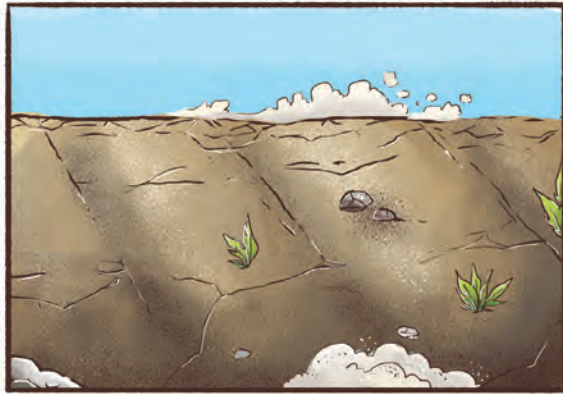


2. New method:  
Gloves protect hands.  
Request from local vendors.

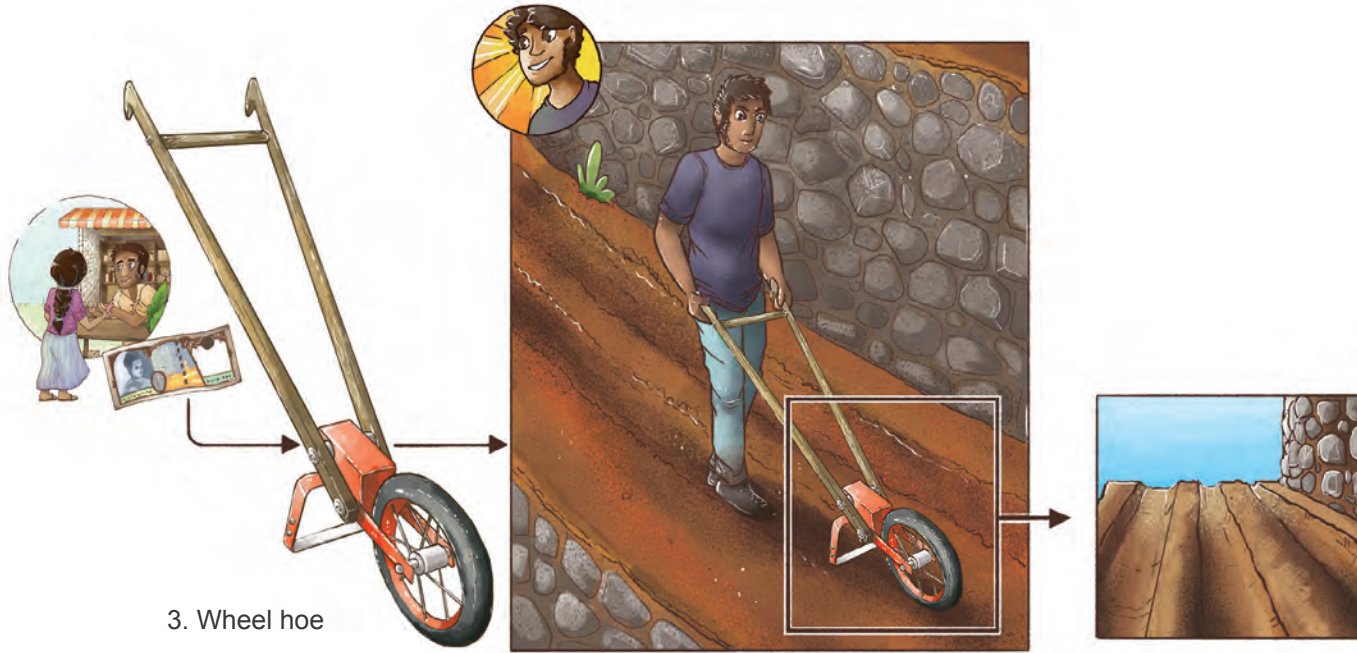




# Lesson: New tools to prepare field

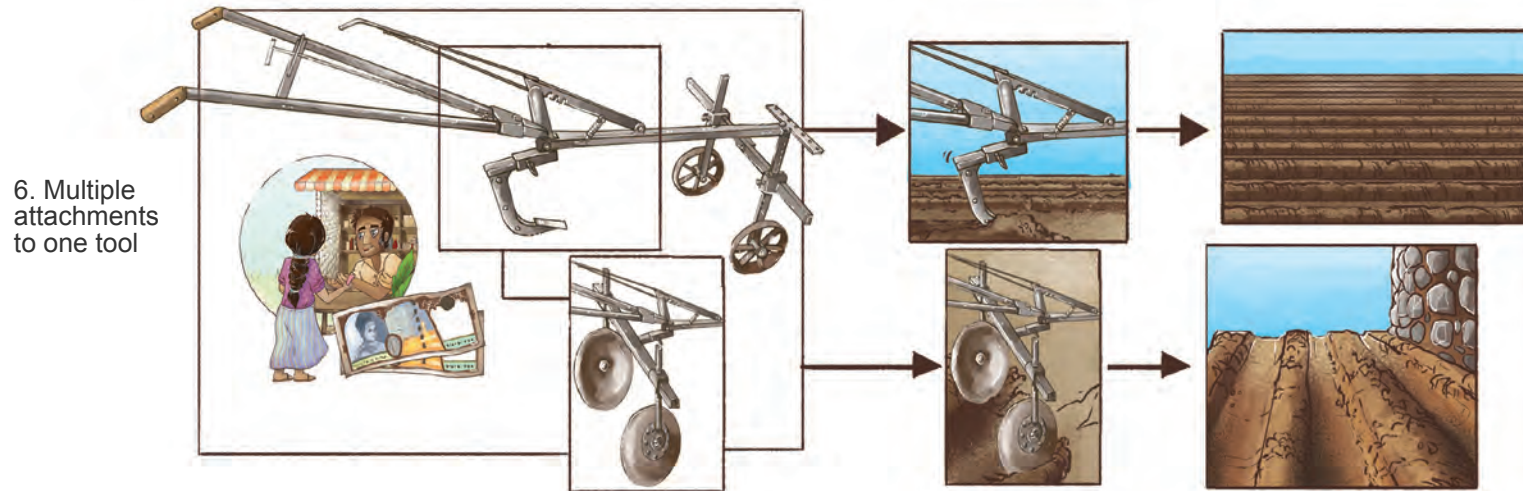
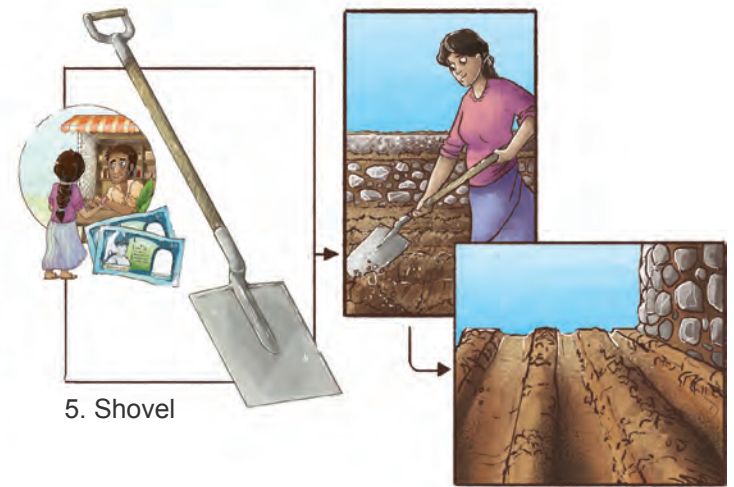
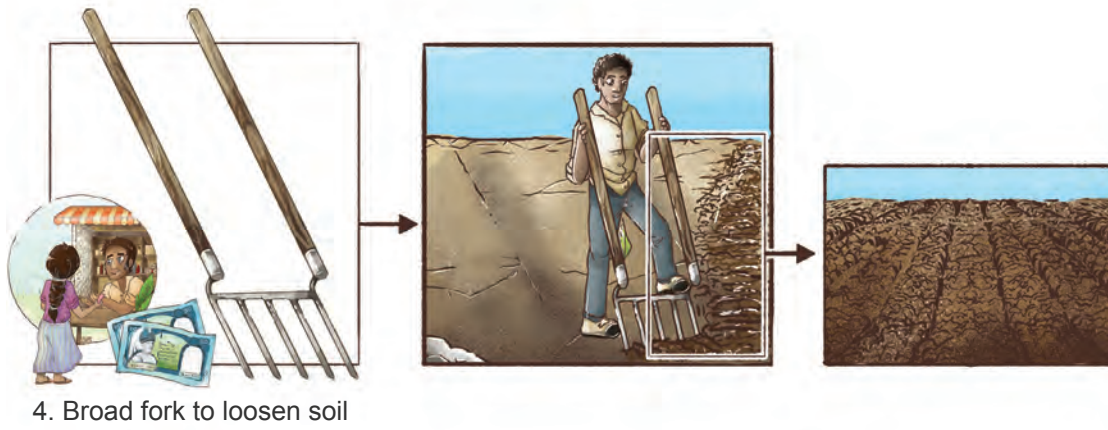


2. New tools: ask a local vendor to supply or ask blacksmith to construct



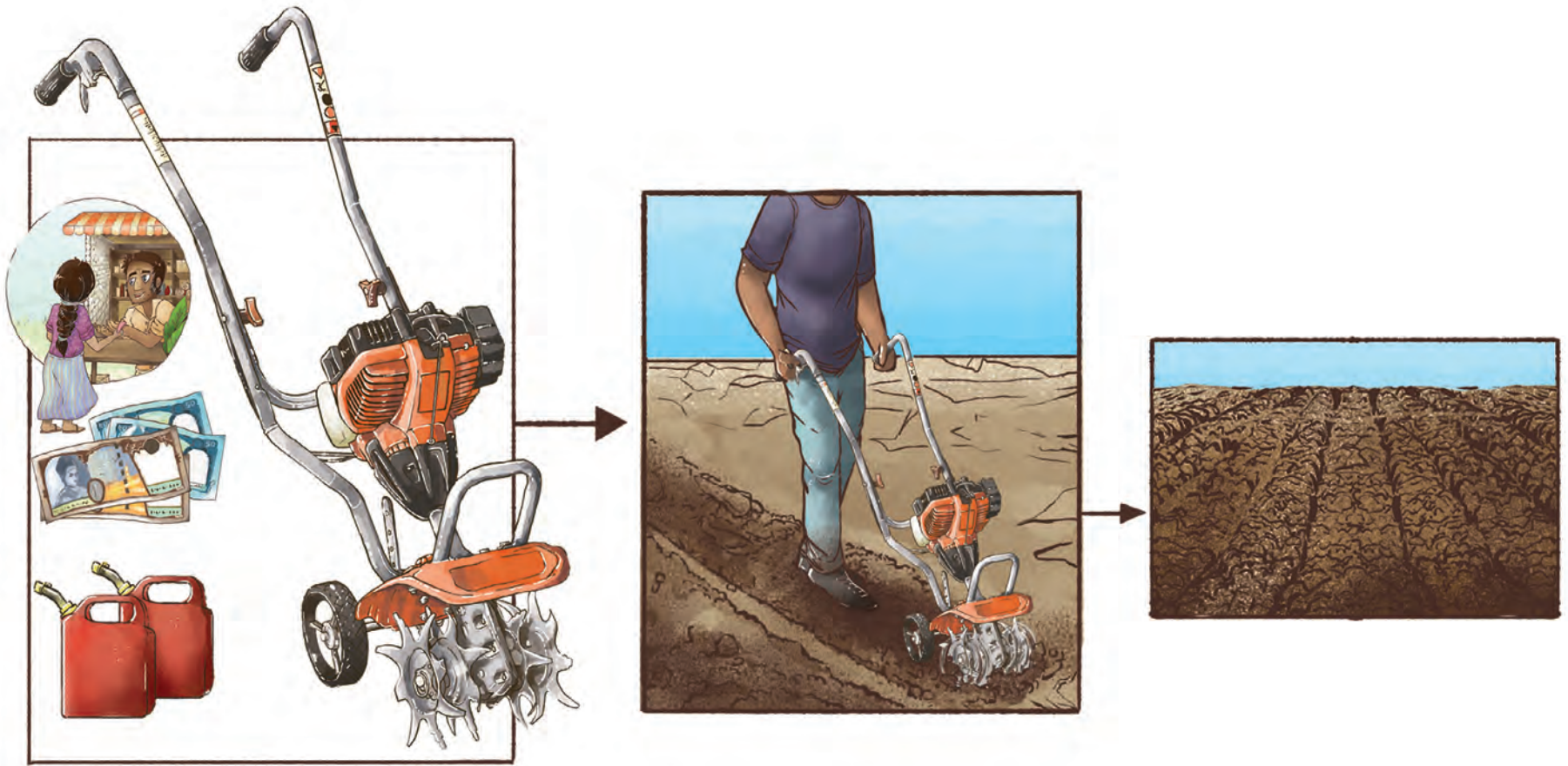
3. Wheel hoe

# Lesson: New tools to prepare field





## Lesson: New tool to prepare field



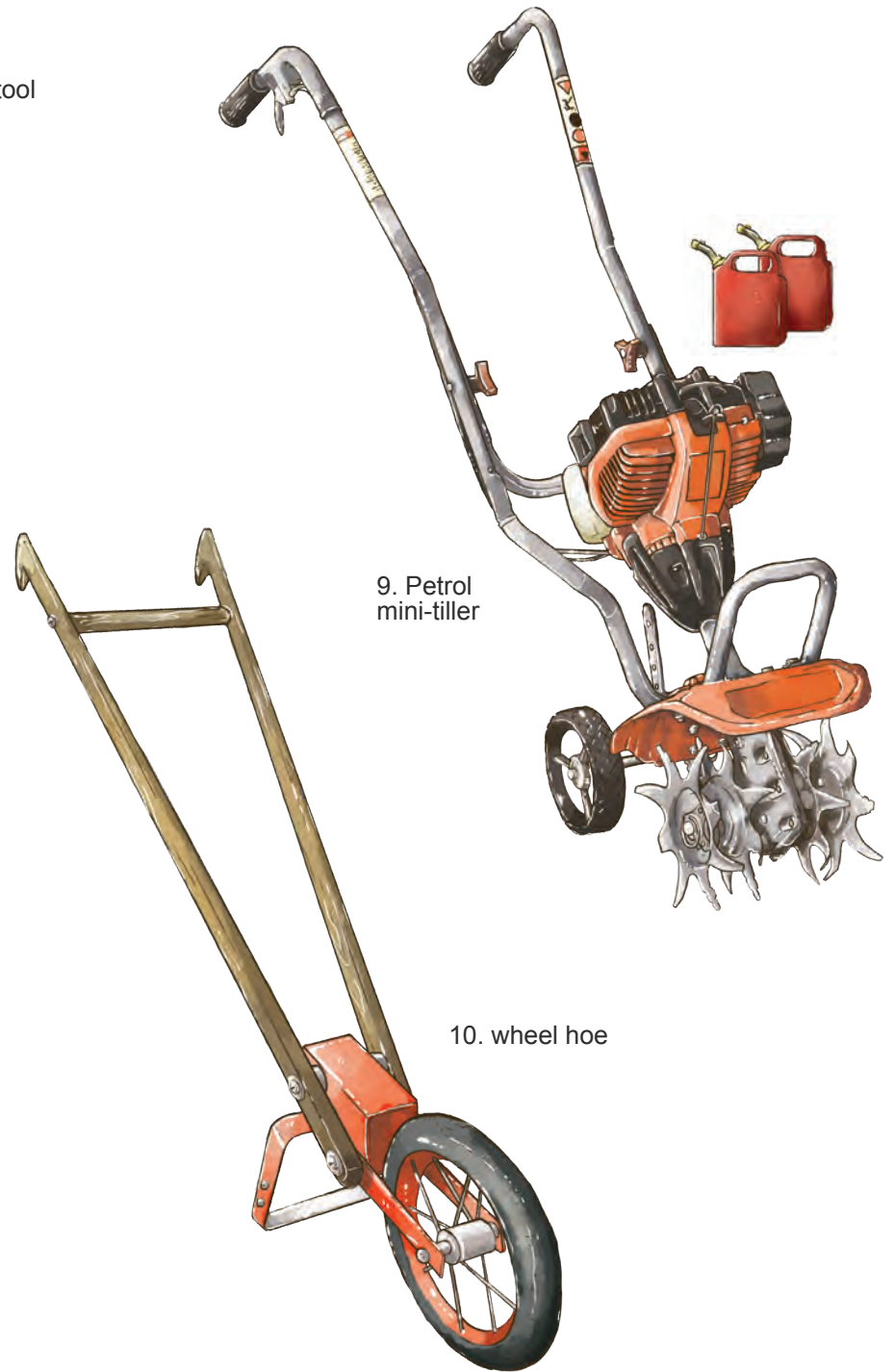
7. Petrol mini-tiller

# Lesson: New tools to prepare field: detailed pictures

8. Multiple attachments to one tool



9. Petrol mini-tiller

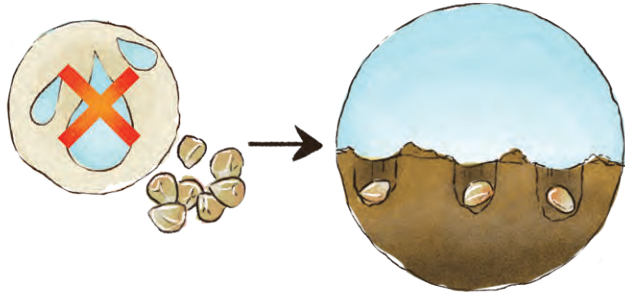


10. wheel hoe

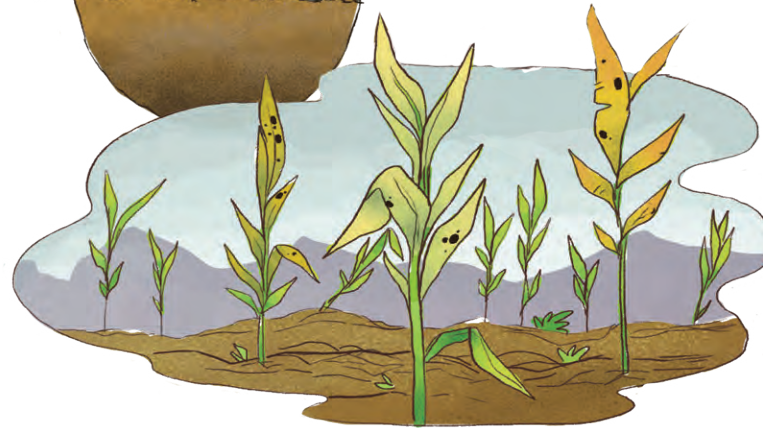


# Lesson: Soaking seeds in water before planting will improve germination and make plants healthier

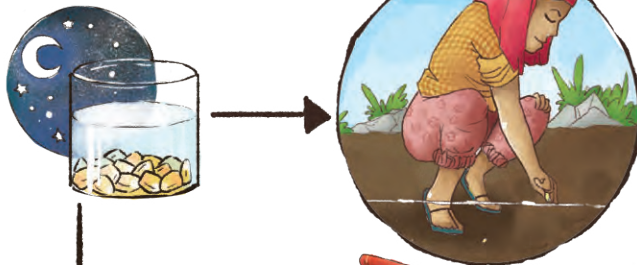
1. Traditional practice is to sow seeds dry



2. Poor germination, sick plants



4. Sow directly if by hand



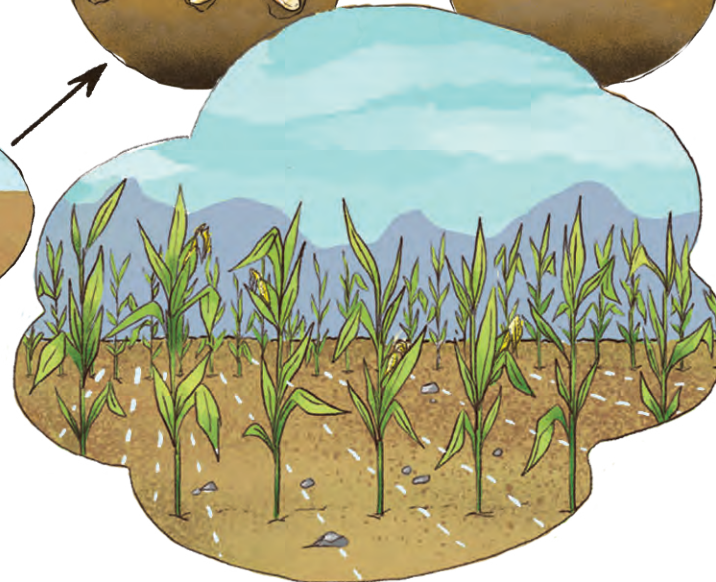
3. Improved practice is to soak seeds overnight first



5. Dry seeds if using jab planter



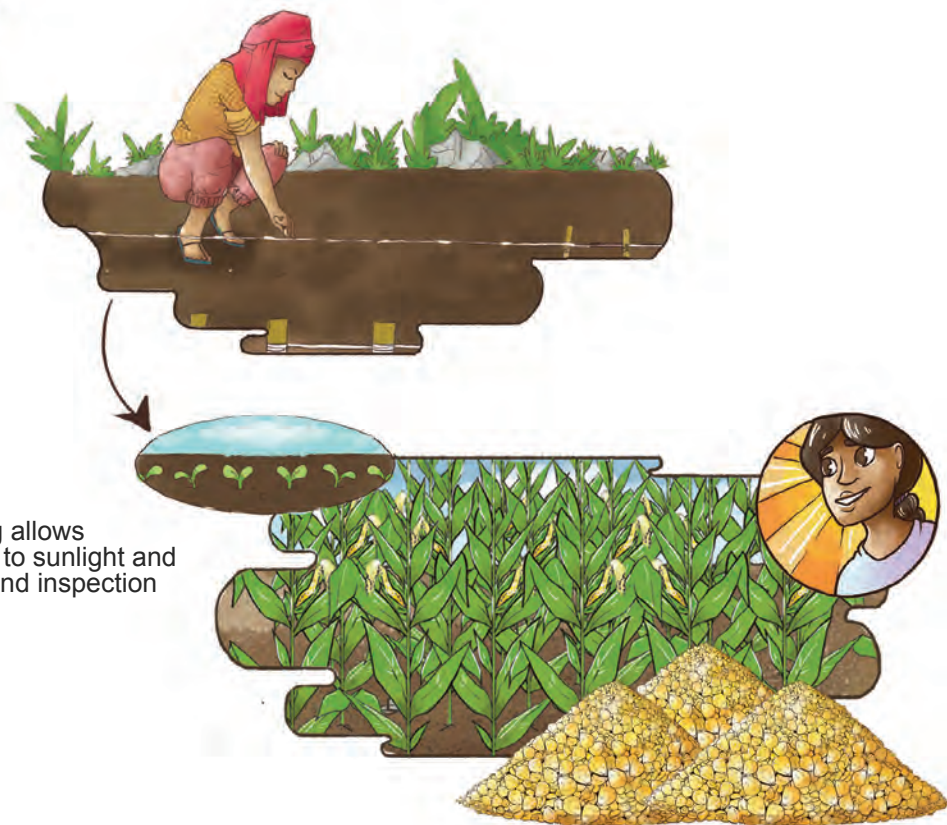
6. Improved germination, healthier plants



# Lesson: Sowing seeds in rows can improve yields compared to broadcasting



1. Traditional practice: broadcasting



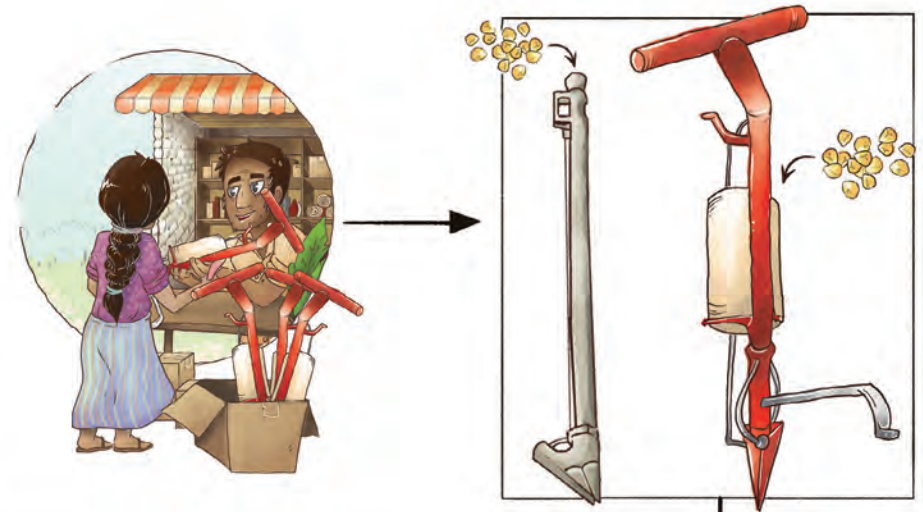
2. Improved practice: line sowing allows each plant to have equal access to sunlight and nutrients, and permits weeding and inspection for disease/pests



# Lesson: A jab planter reduces people and livestock required to sow seeds



1. Traditional practice requires cattle and 2+ people. Difficult on steep hillside or narrow terrace.



2. New tool: jab planter (request from local vendors): Insert seed at top, then as you walk along row, press down to sow seed.

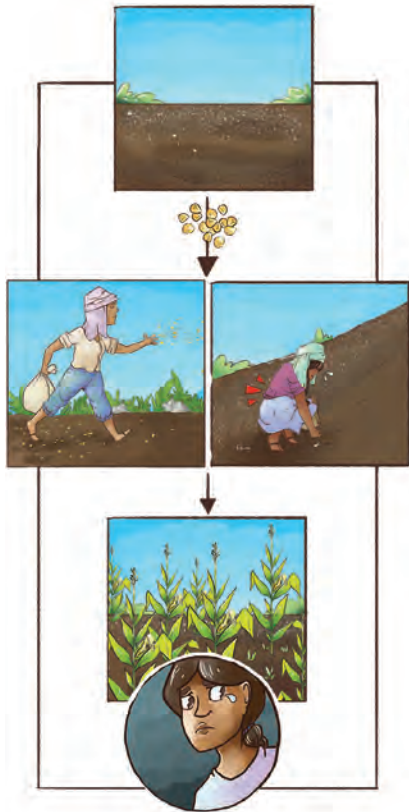
3. Single person can use



4. Helps with line sowing

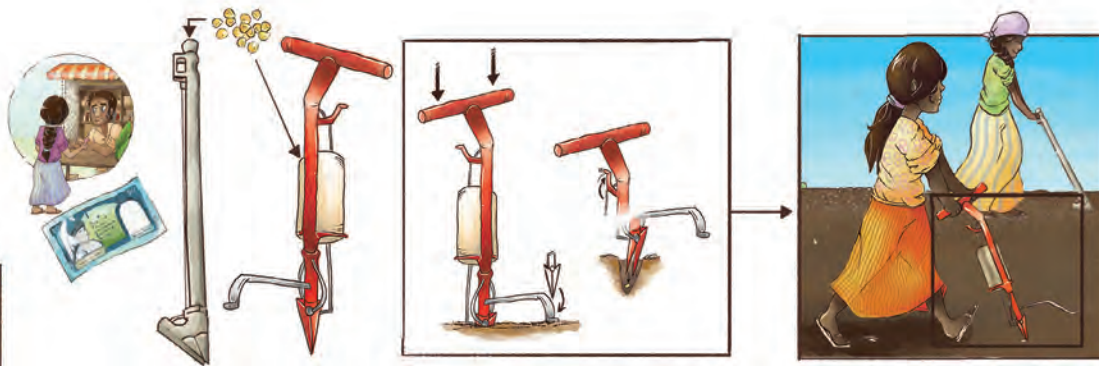
# Lesson: Tools to sow seeds with less labour

## 1. Traditional practices

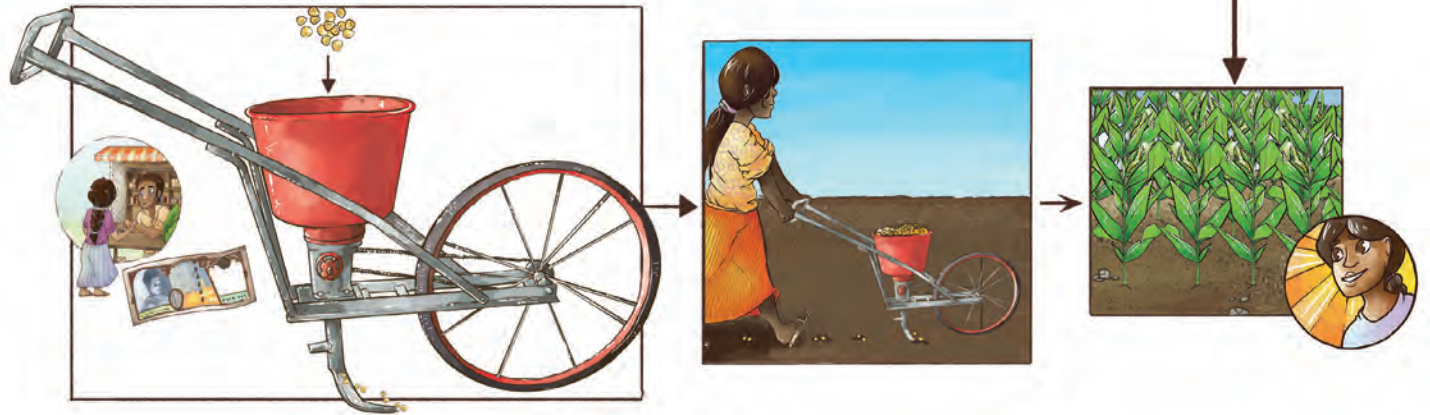


## 2. New tools: ask local vendor to supply or blacksmith to construct

### 3. Jab planter



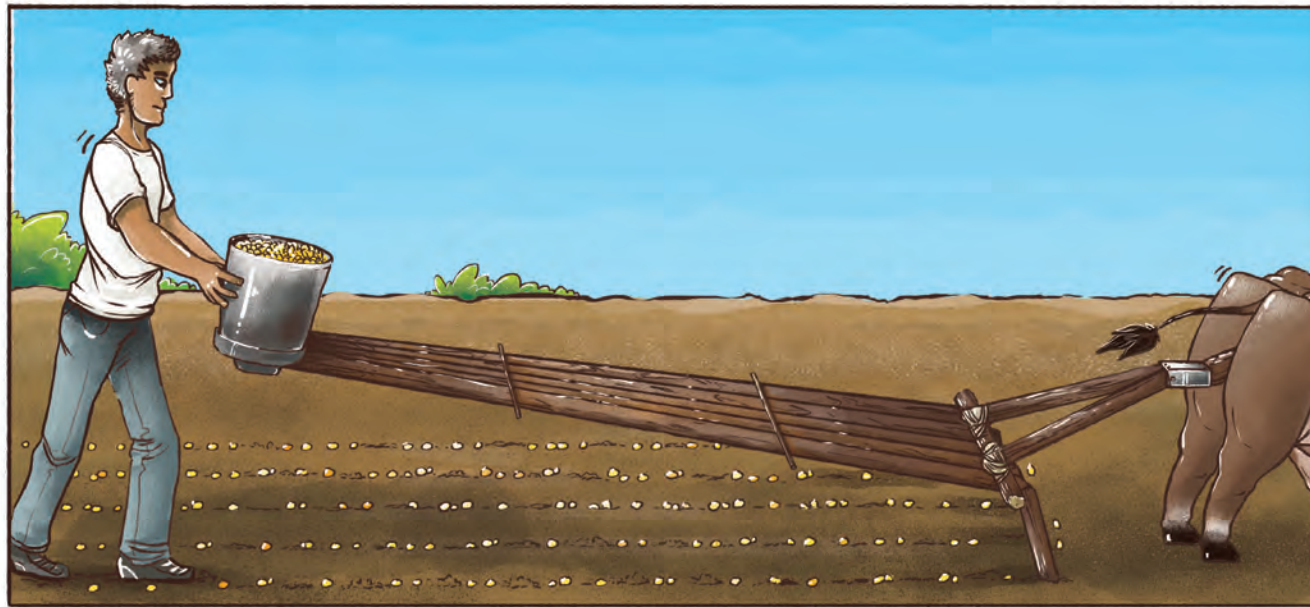
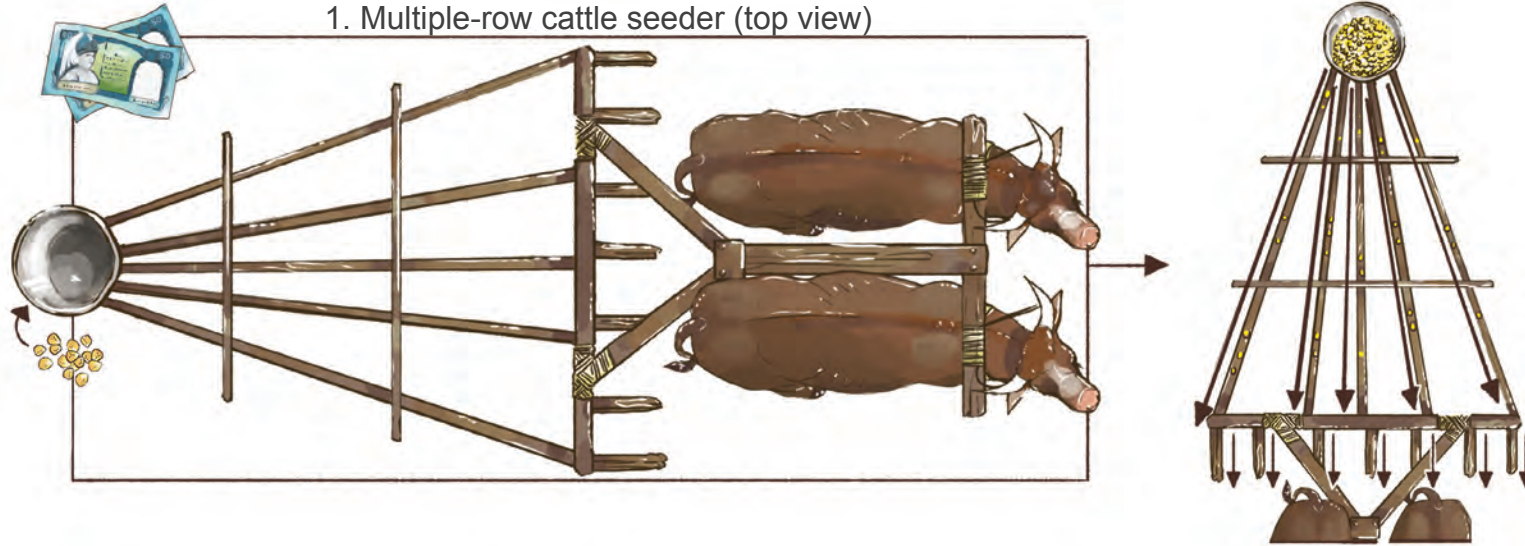
### 4. Wheel seeder



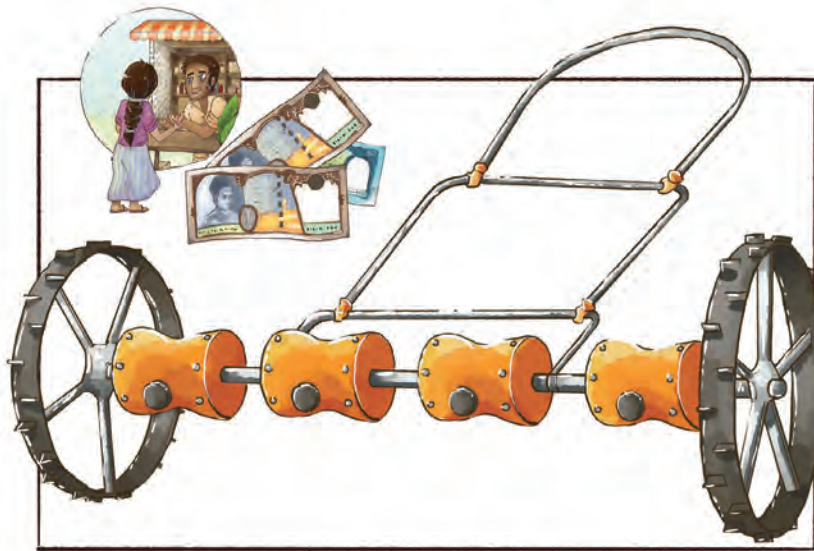


# Lesson: Tools to sow seeds with less labour

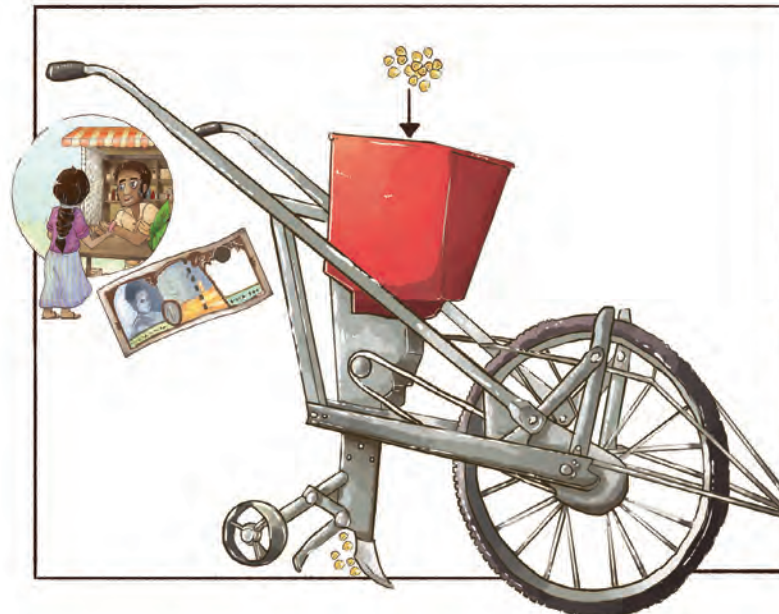
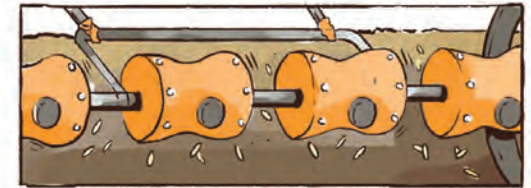
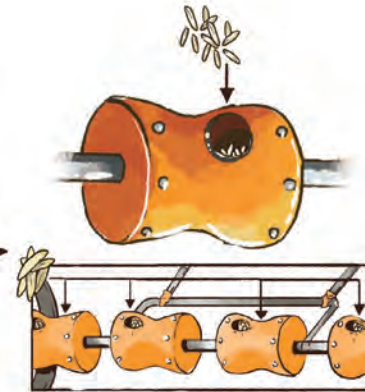
1. Multiple-row cattle seeder (top view)



# Lesson: Tools to sow seeds with less labour



1. Four-row wheel seeder for rice



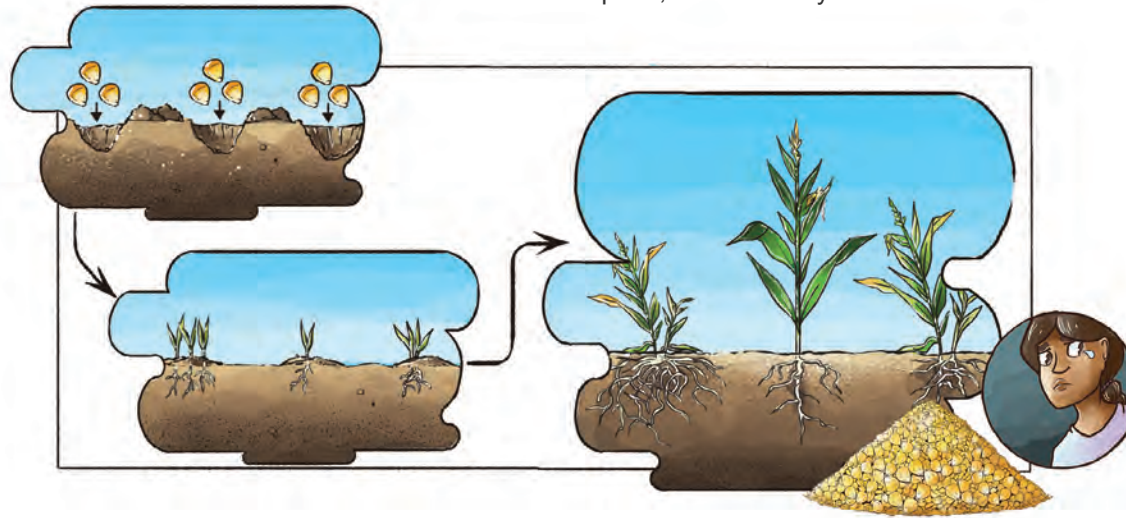
2. Bicycle seeder



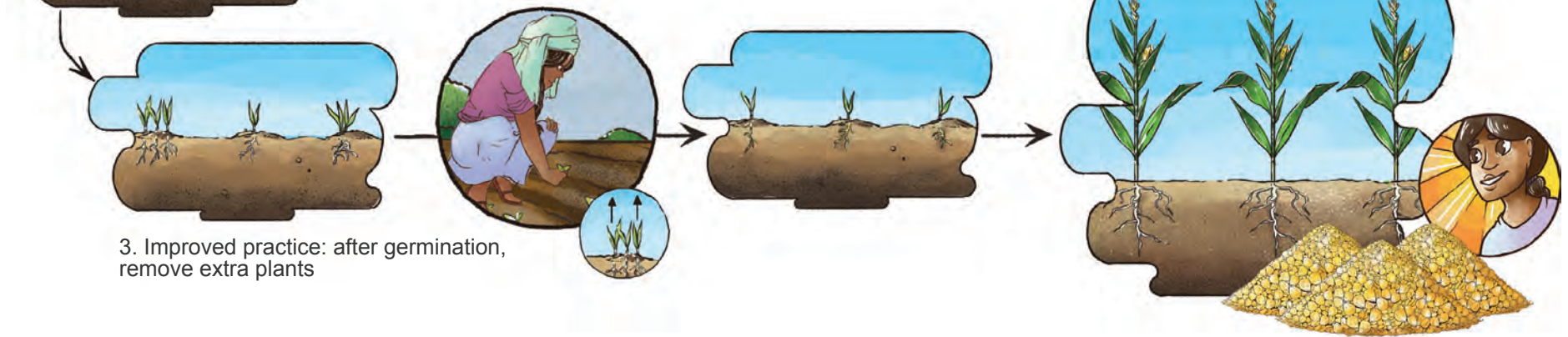


# Lesson: Thinning seedling number can improve overall yield

1. Traditional practice is to sow 2-3 seeds per hole due to low germination



3. Improved practice: after germination, remove extra plants

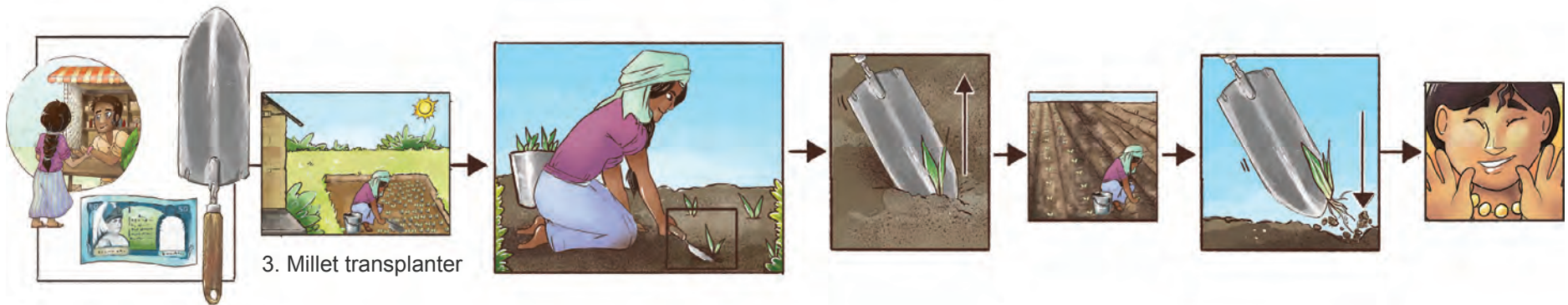


# Lesson: Tools to reduce labour required for transplanting seedlings

## 1. Traditional practice

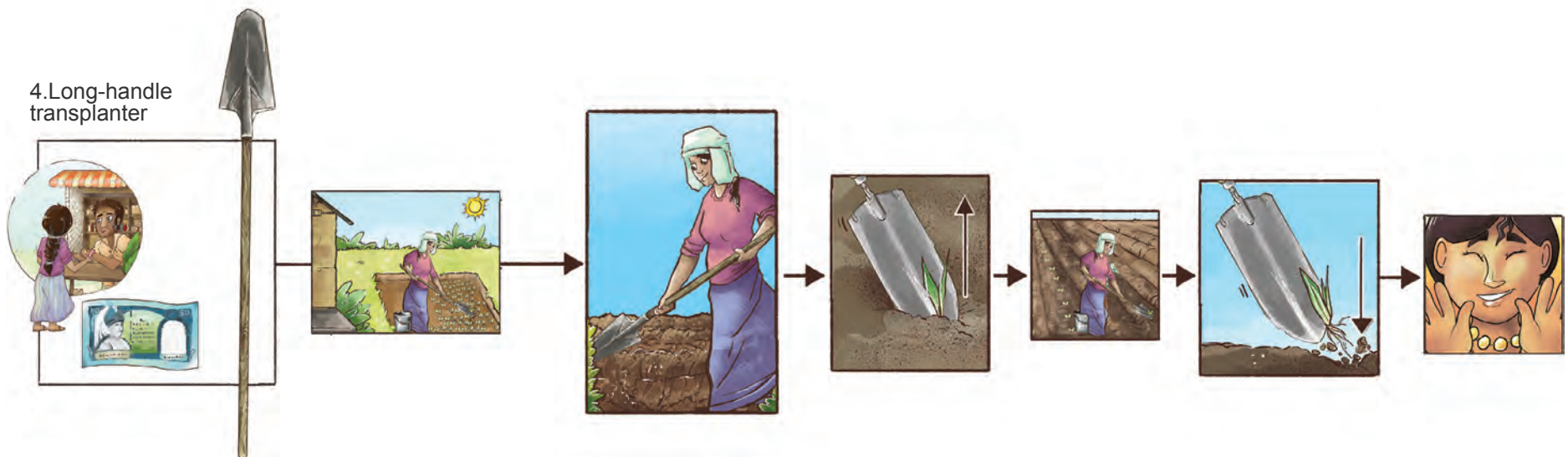


## 2. New tools: ask local vendor to supply or ask blacksmith to construct



3. Millet transplanter

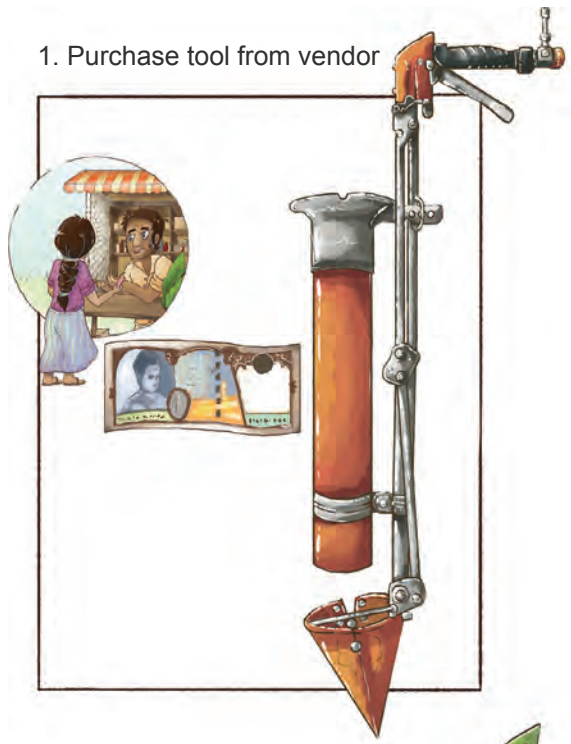
## 4. Long-handle transplanter



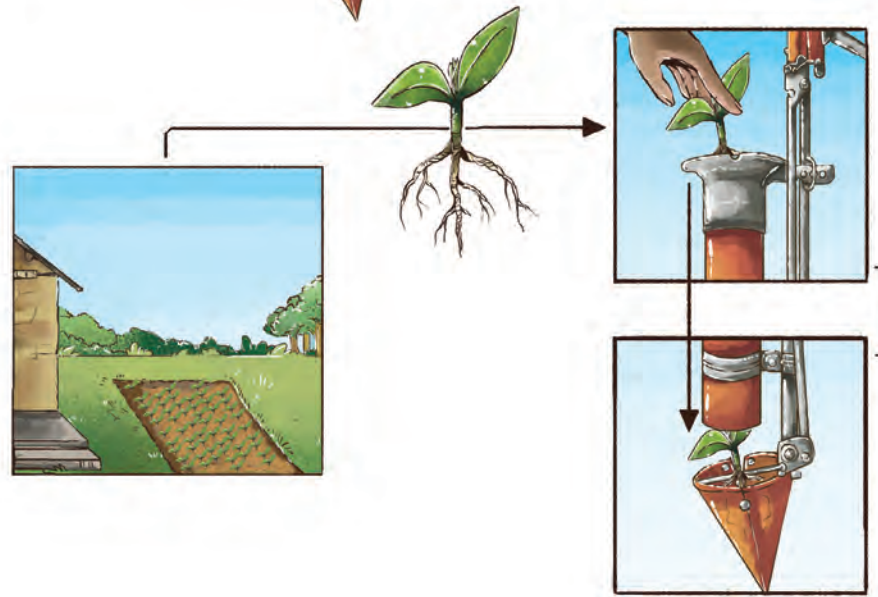


# Lesson: Tools to reduce labour required for transplanting vegetable seedlings

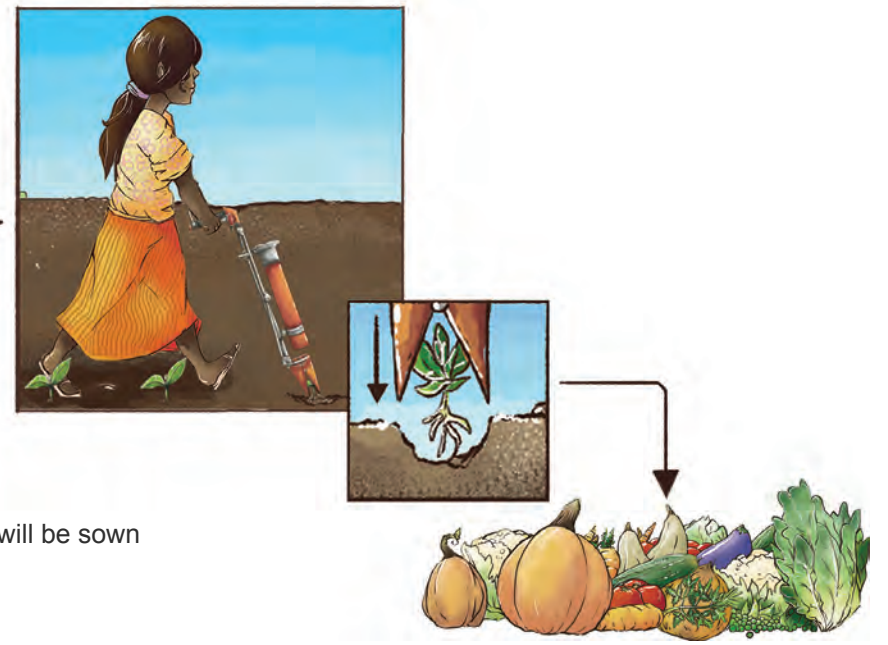
1. Purchase tool from vendor



2. Place seedling on top of machine

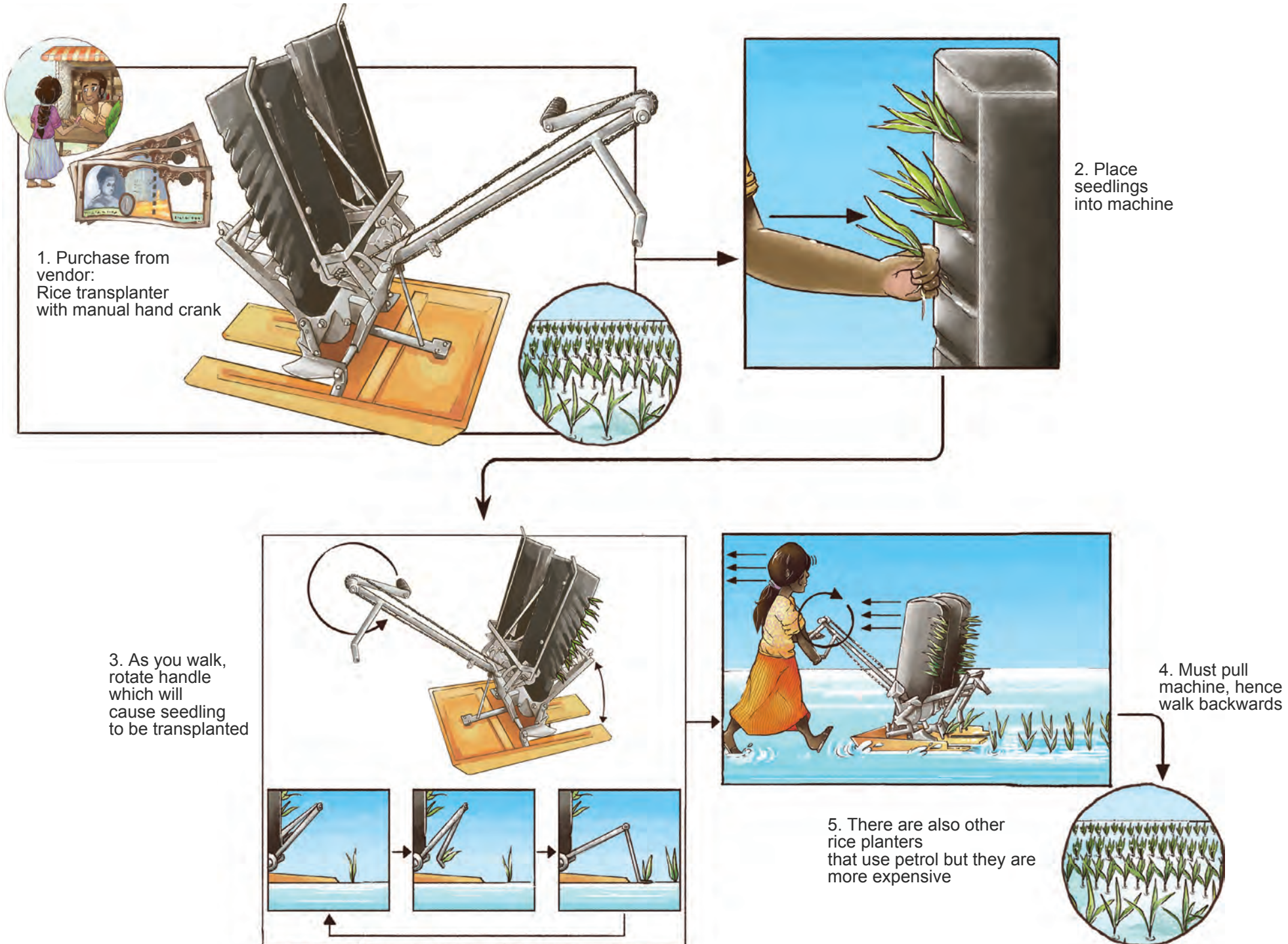


3. Jab machine into ground, and seedling will be sown



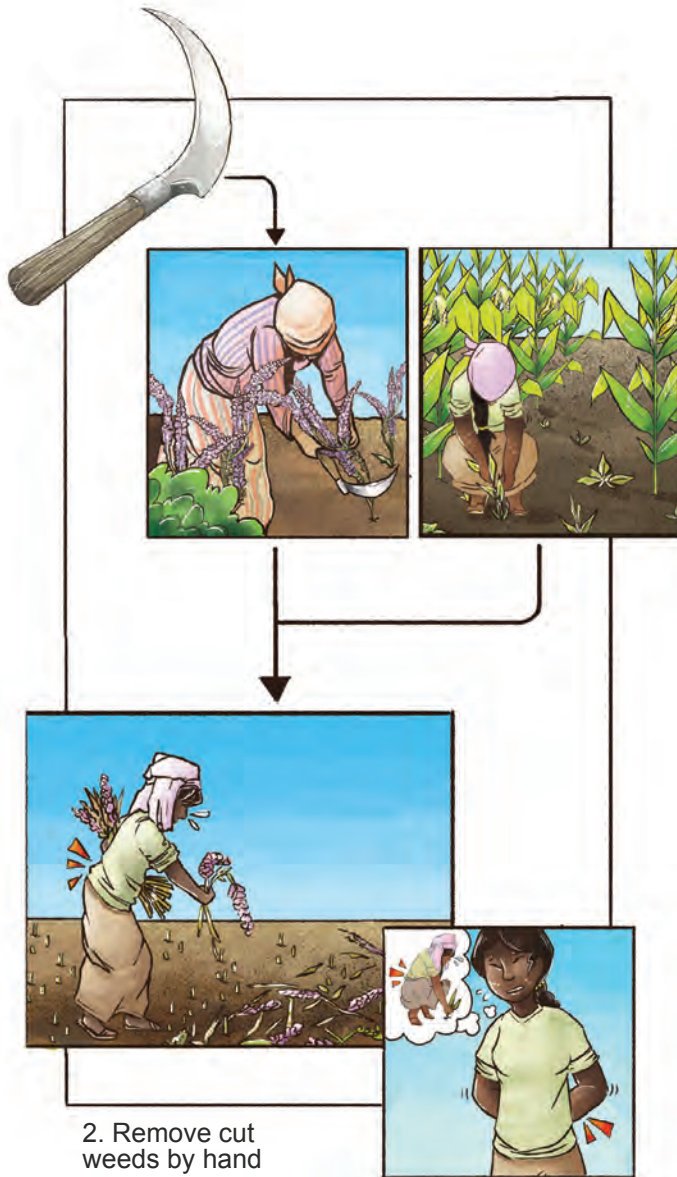


# Lesson: Tools to reduce labour required for transplanting paddy rice seedlings

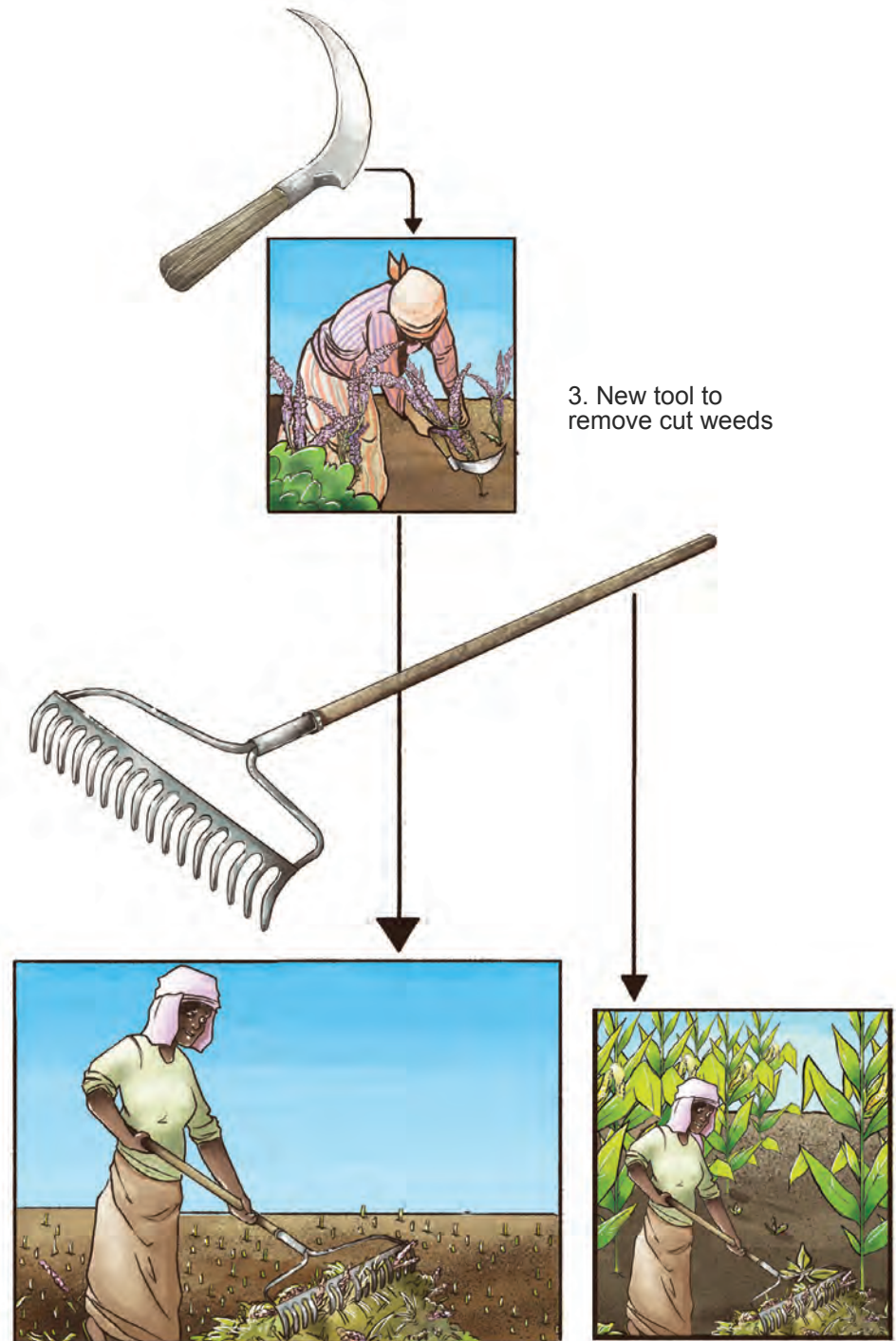


# Lesson: A raking tool to help collect weeds, spread manure or other purposes

## 1. Traditional practice



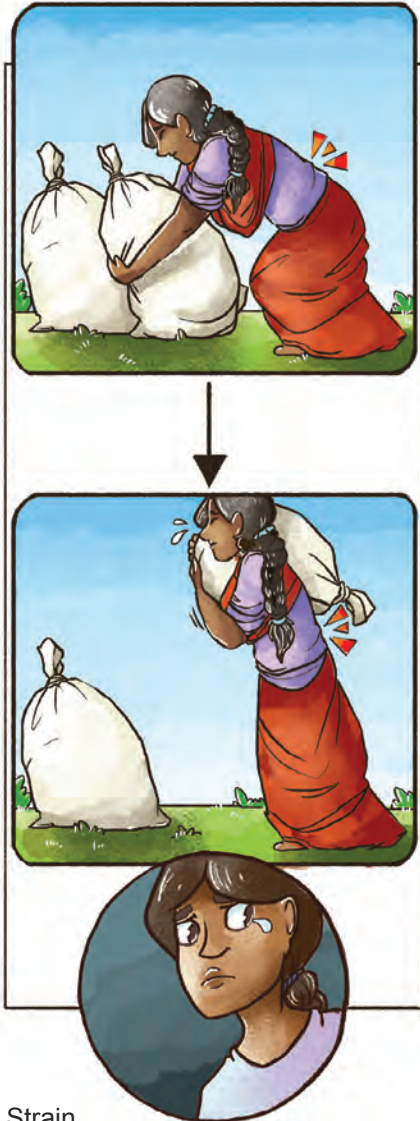
## 3. New tool to remove cut weeds





# Lesson: A back support can prevent strain and injury when lifting.

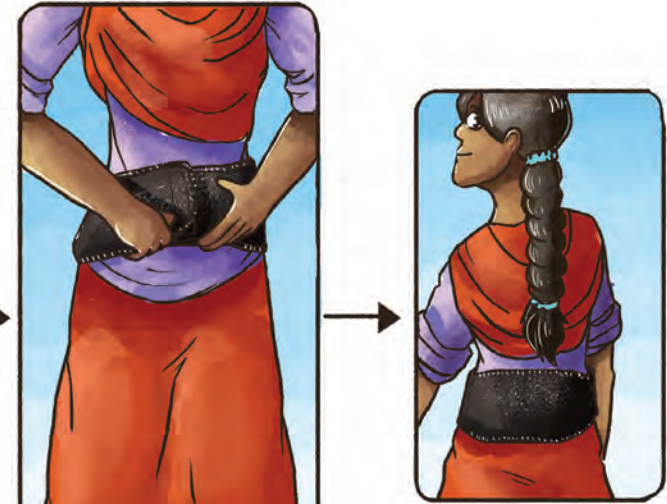
1. Traditional practice



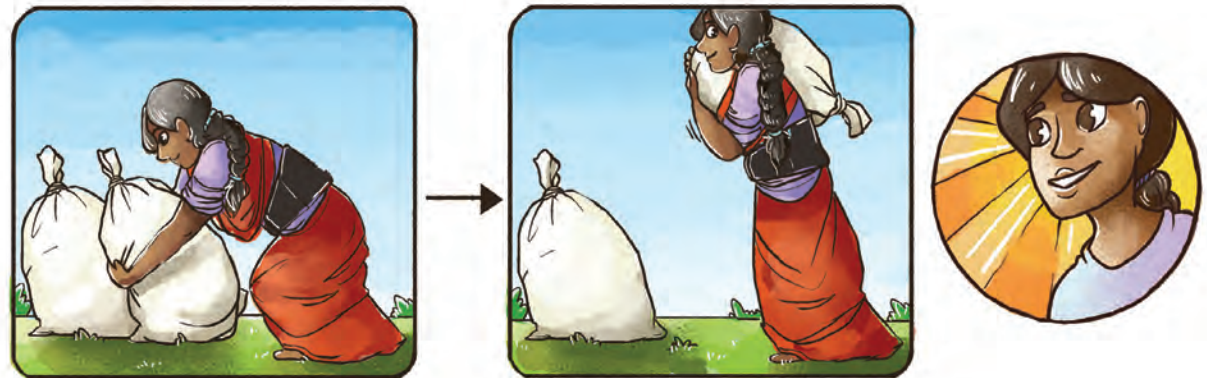
2. Strain to back and pain.



3. Improved practice: purchase a back support from vendor and tie around waist (on top or under clothes)



4. Less strain and pain

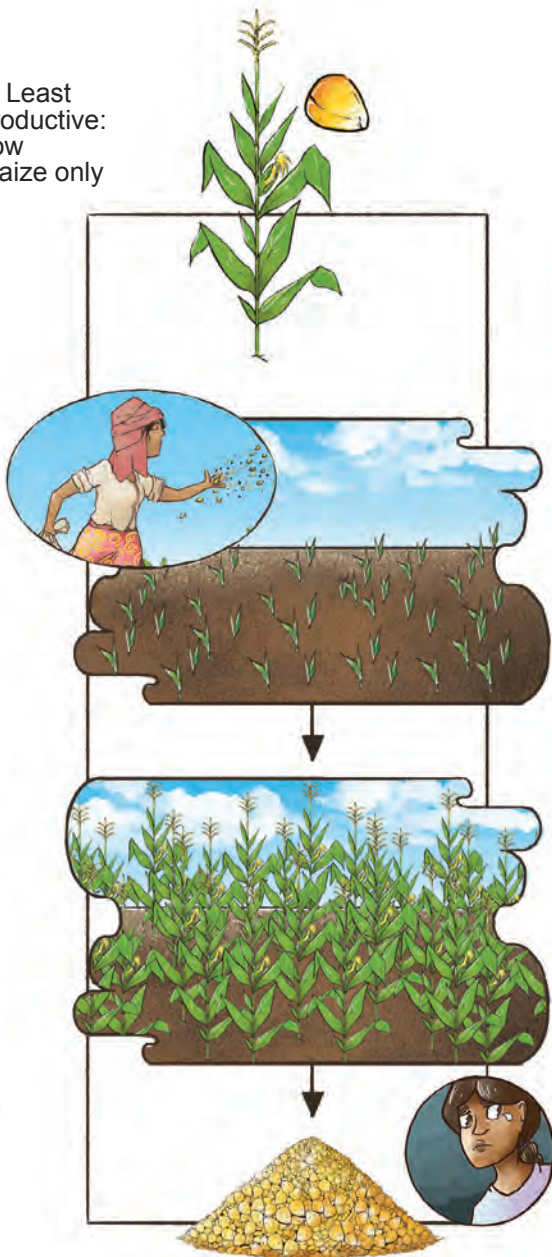


## Chapter 3: Crop & Tree Intensification

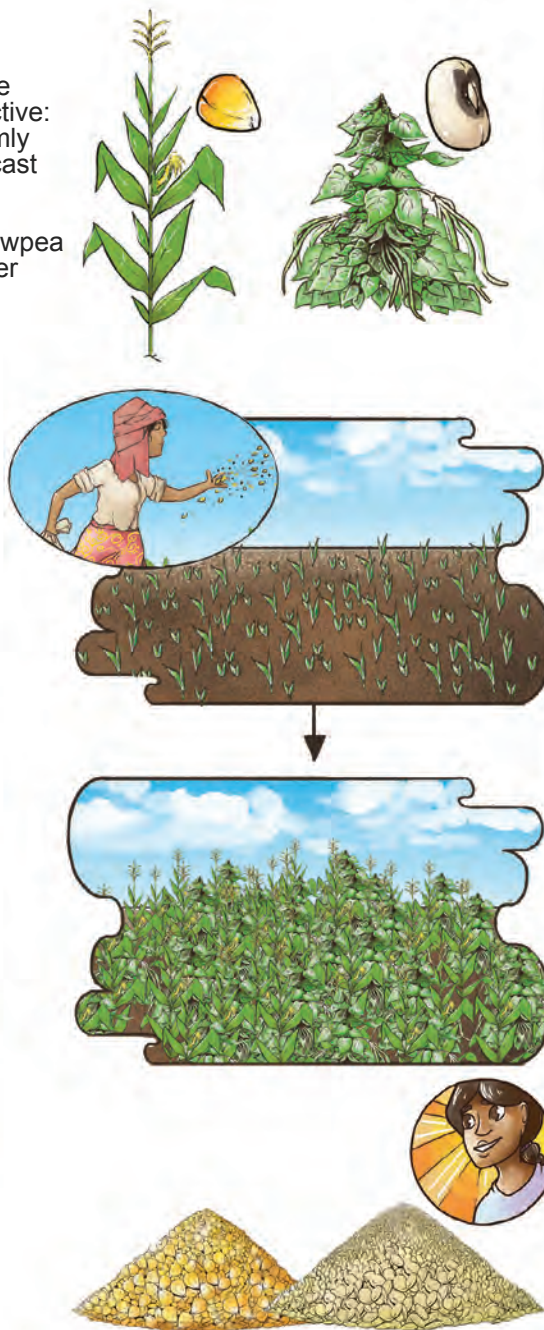


# Lesson: Sowing maize together with cowpea will yield more profit than maize only.

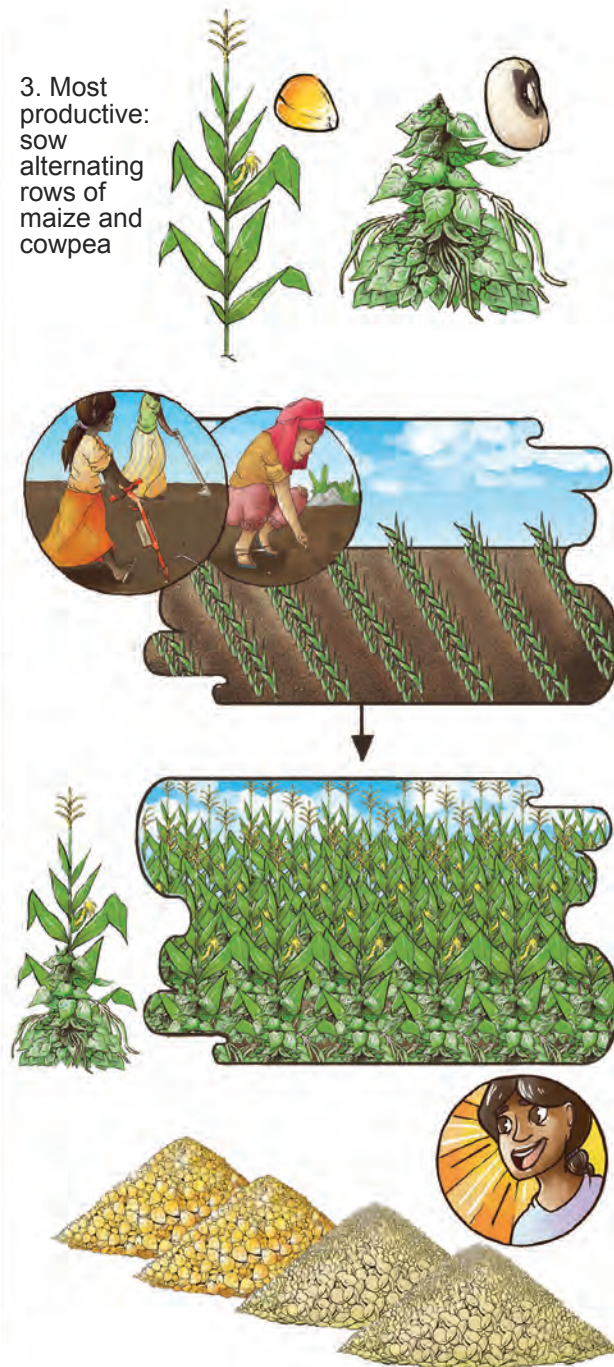
1. Least productive: sow maize only



2. More productive: randomly broadcast both maize and cowpea together



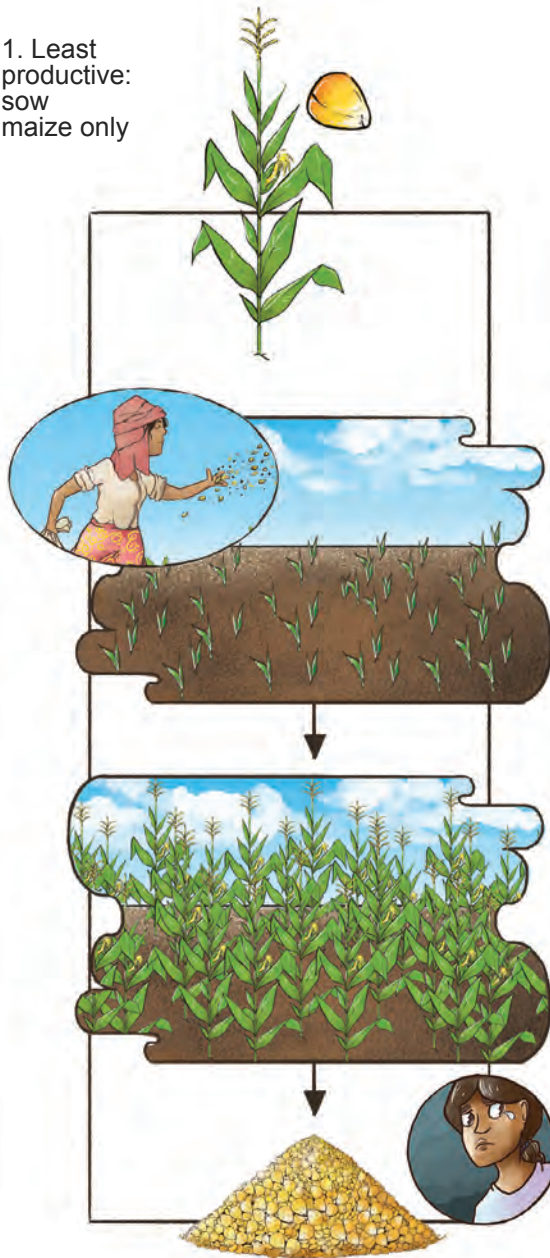
3. Most productive: sow alternating rows of maize and cowpea



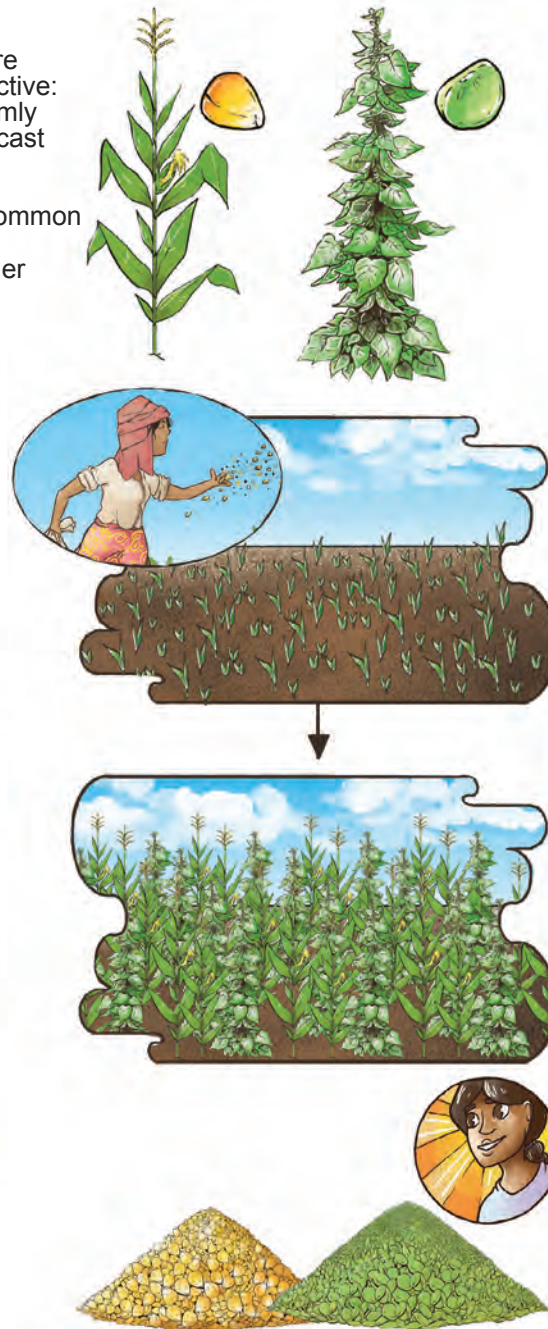


# Lesson: Sowing maize together with common bean will yield more profit than maize only.

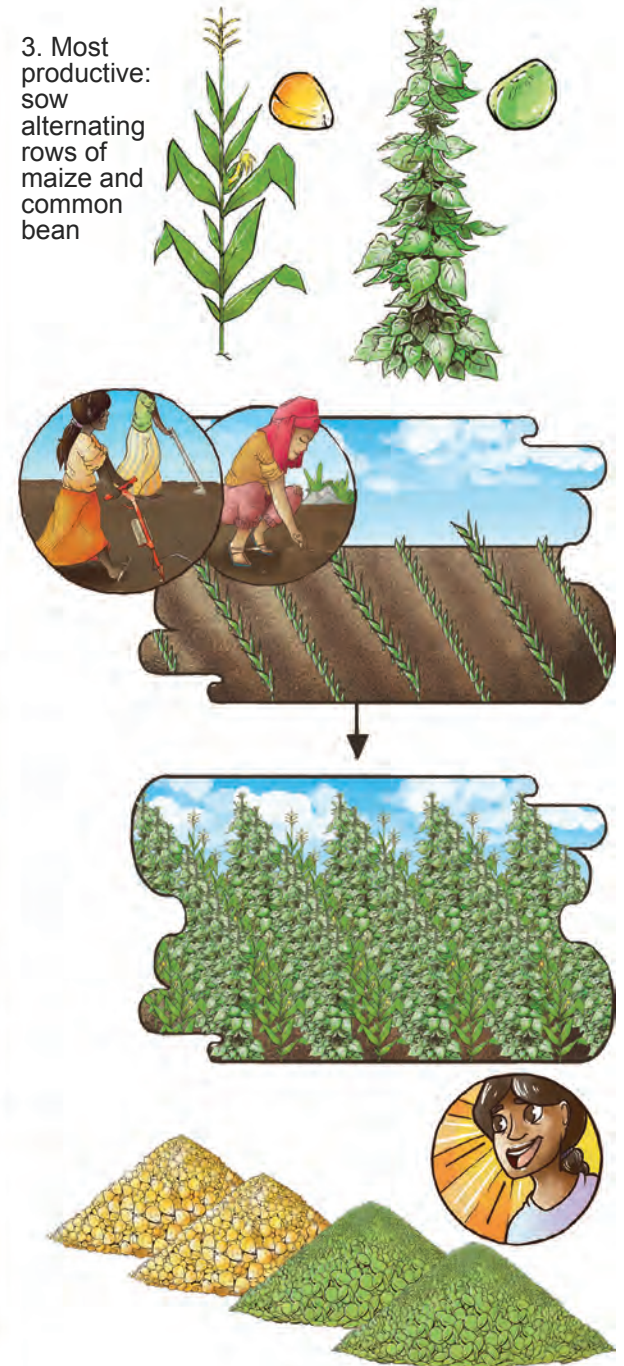
1. Least productive: sow maize only



2. More productive: randomly broadcast both maize and common bean together



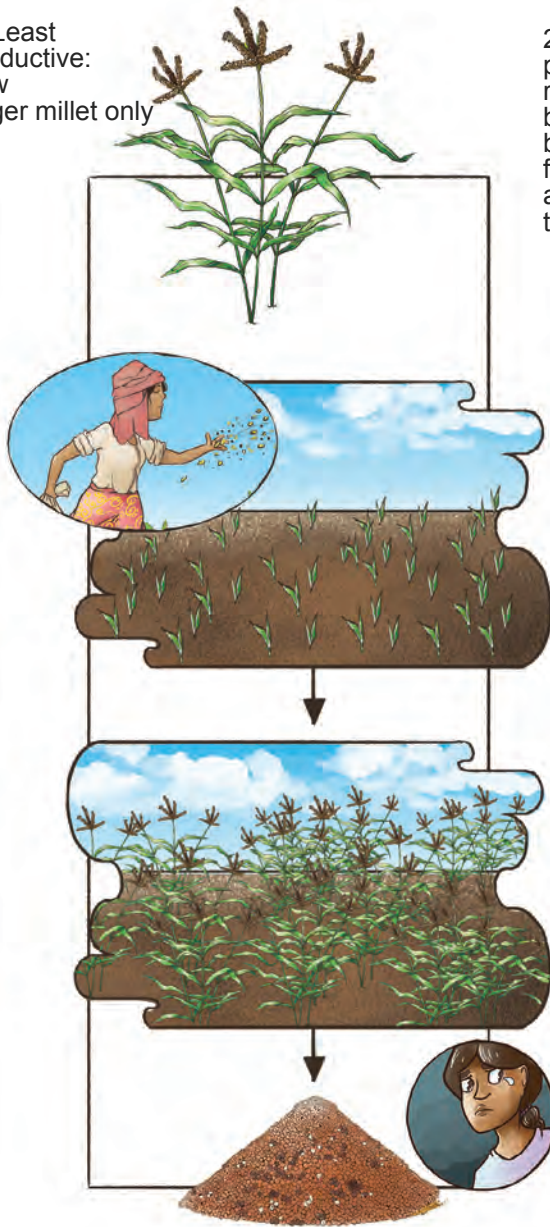
3. Most productive: sow alternating rows of maize and common bean



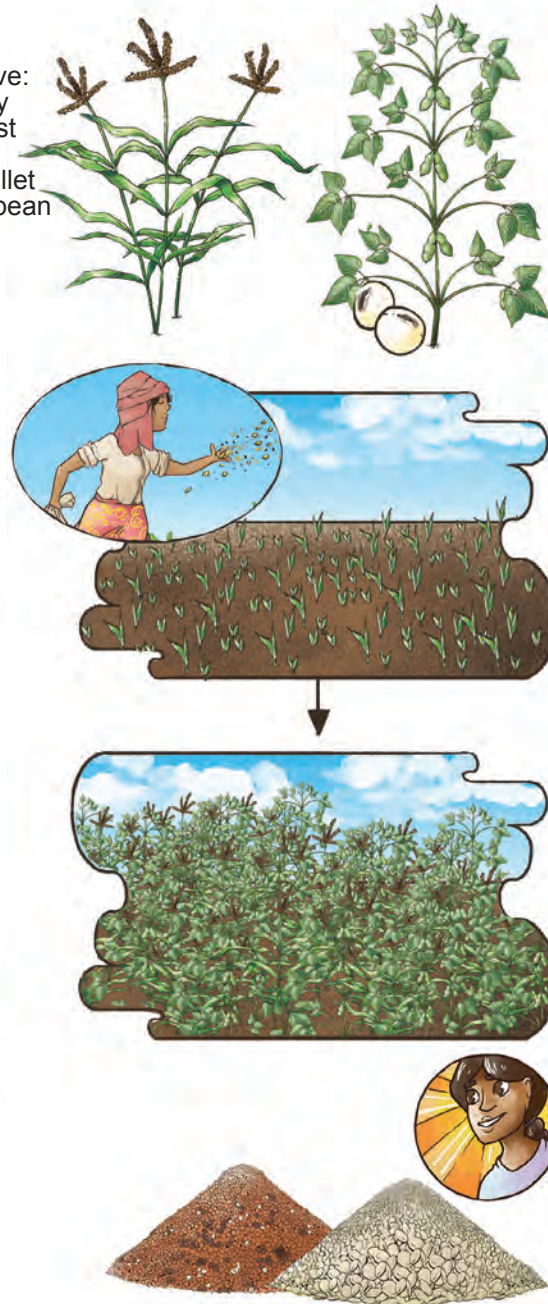


# Lesson: Sowing finger millet together with soybean will yield more profit than millet only.

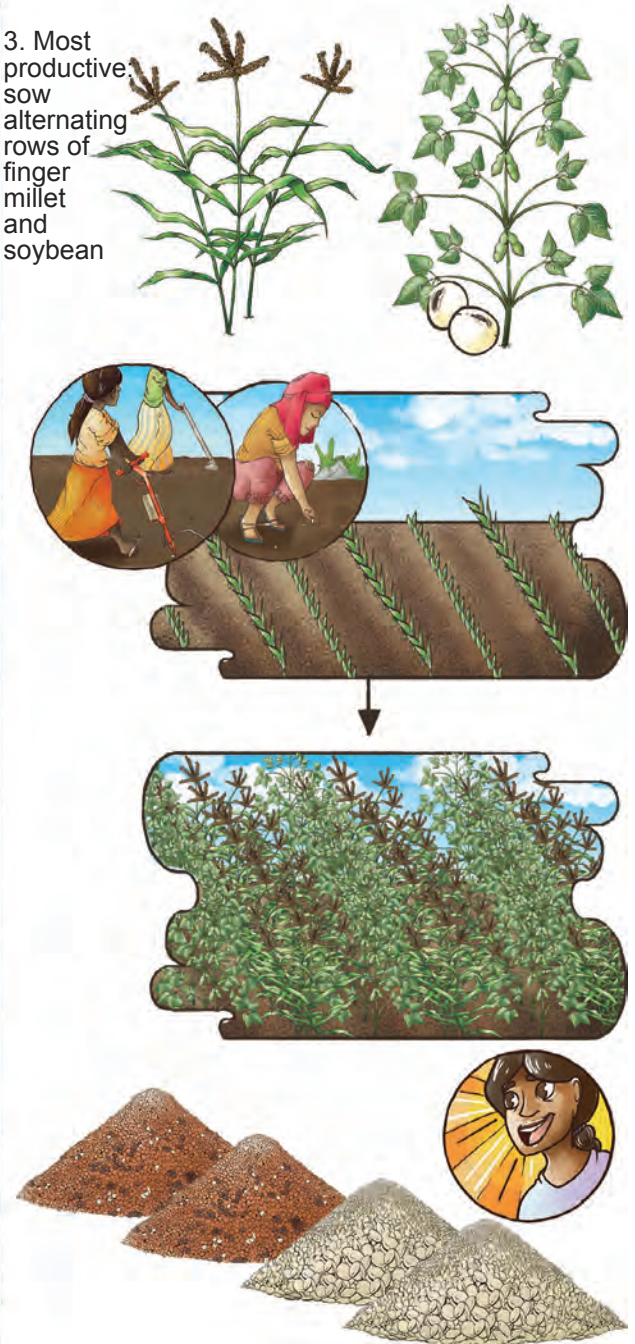
1. Least productive: sow finger millet only



2. More productive: randomly broadcast both finger millet and soybean together



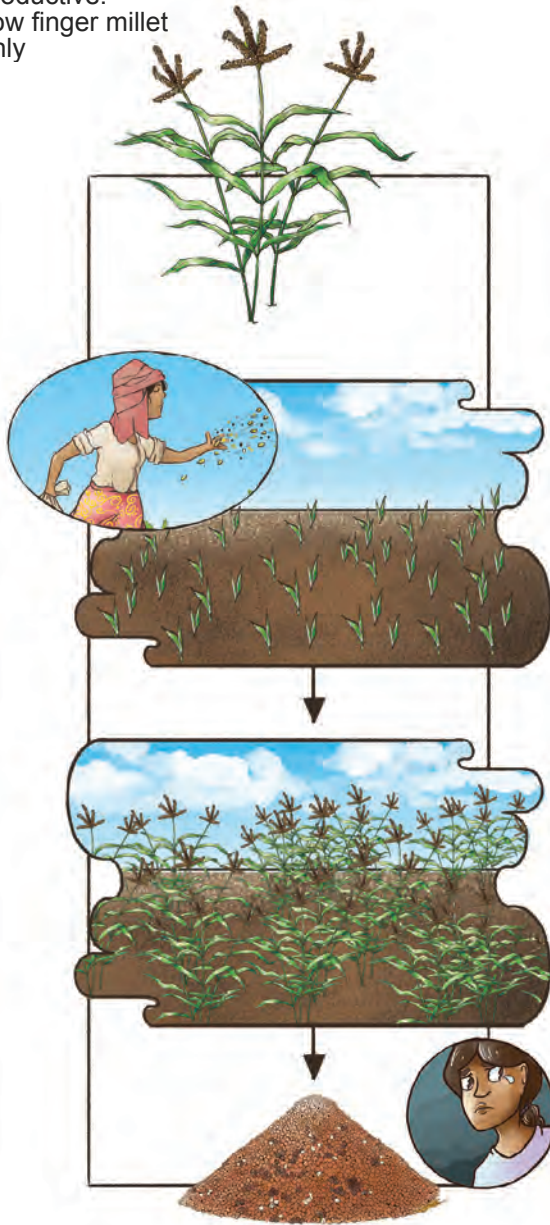
3. Most productive: sow alternating rows of finger millet and soybean



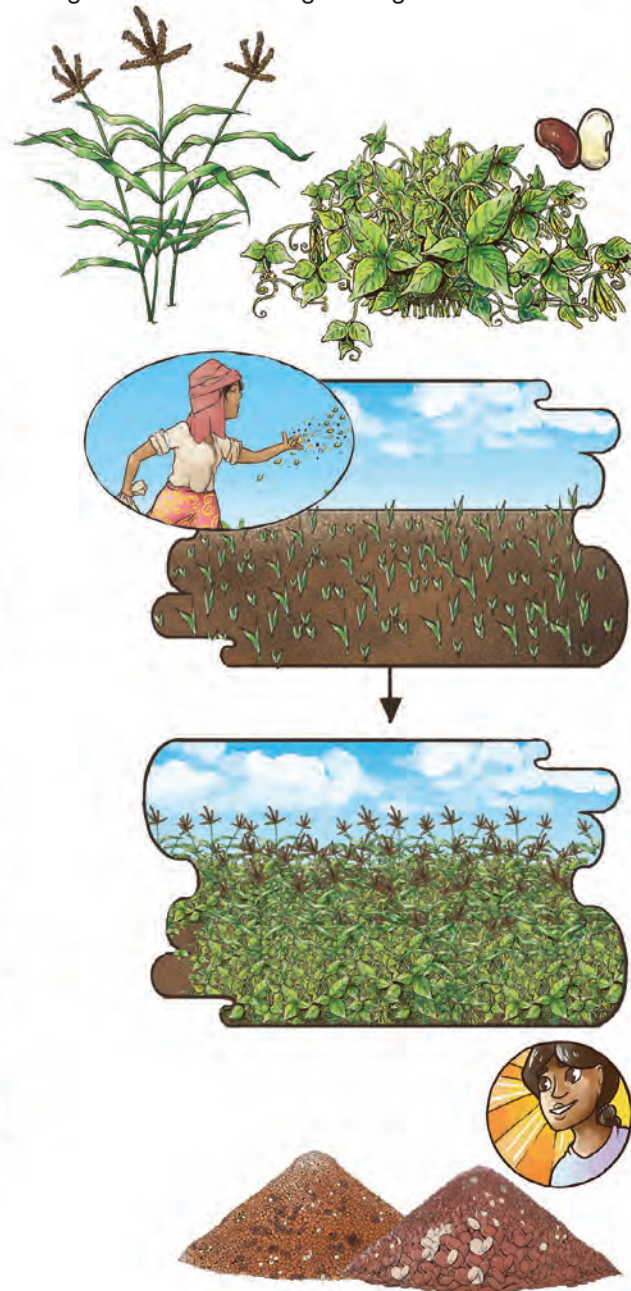


# Lesson: Sowing finger millet together with horsegram will yield more profit than millet only.

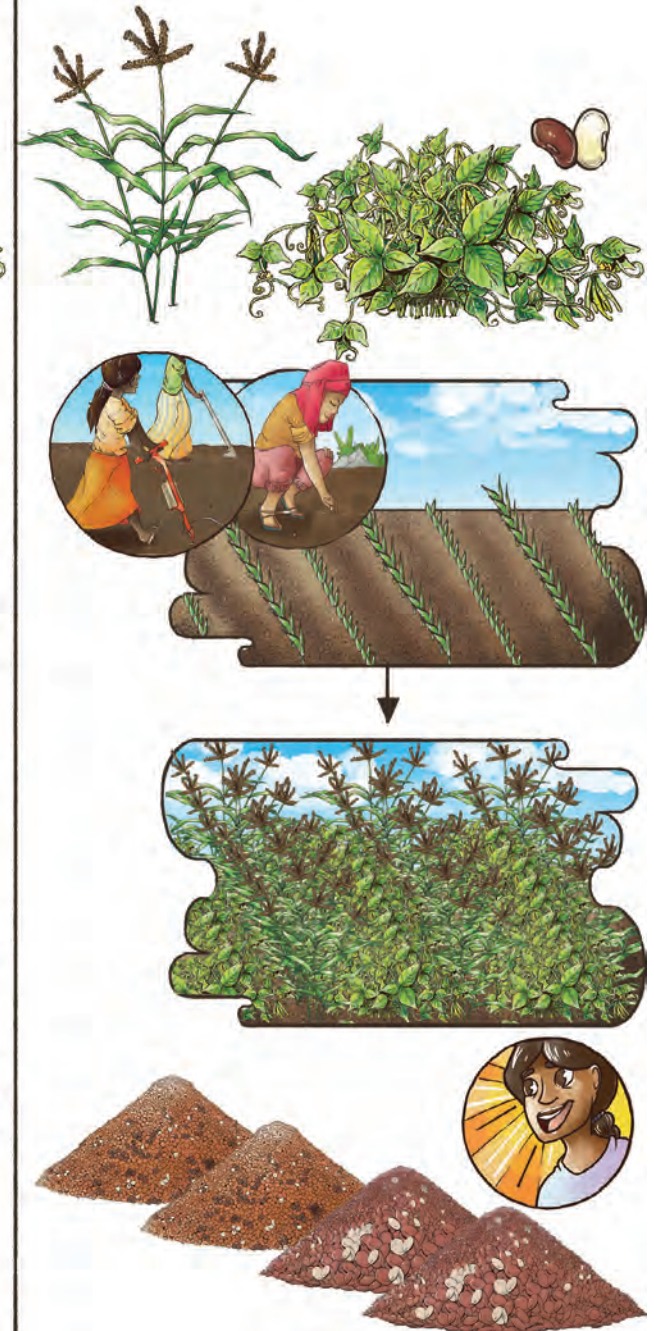
1. Least productive: sow finger millet only



2. More productive: randomly broadcast both finger millet and horsegram together



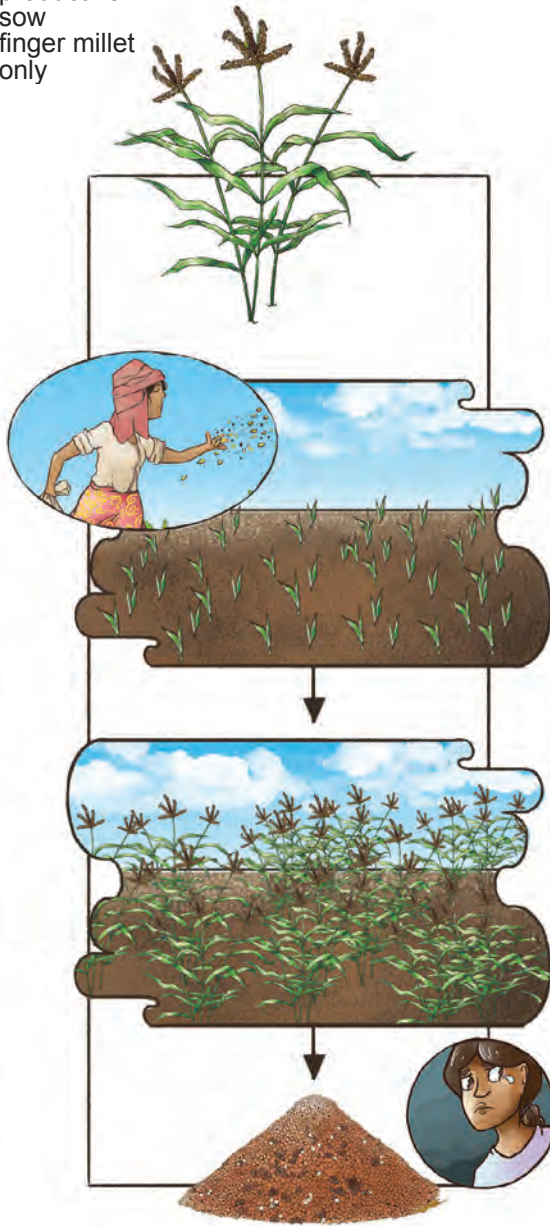
3. Most productive: sow alternating rows of finger millet and horsegram



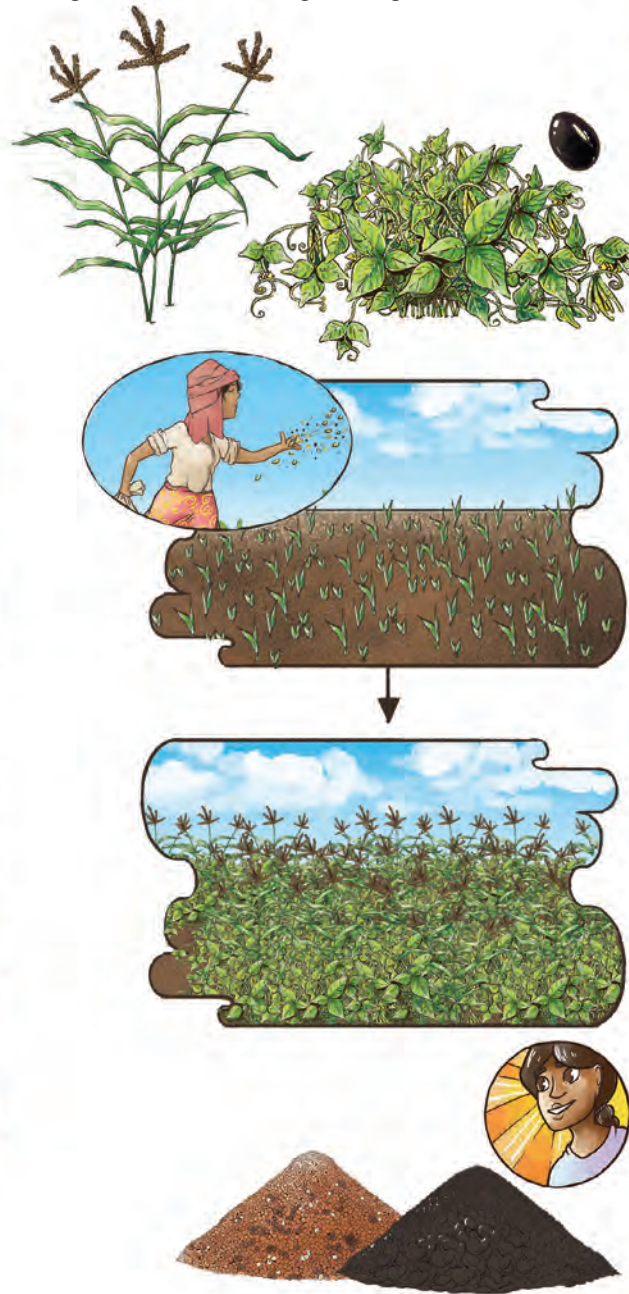


# Lesson: Sowing finger millet together with blackgram will yield more profit than millet only.

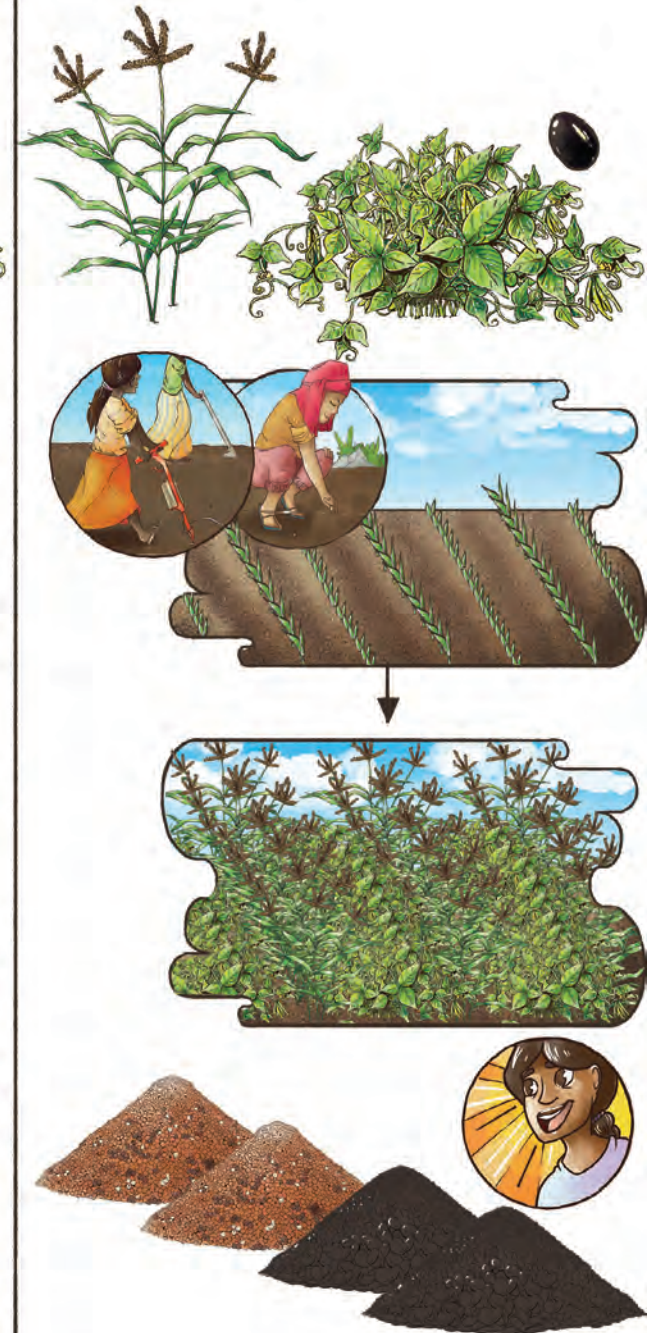
1. Least productive: sow finger millet only



2. More productive: randomly broadcast both finger millet and blackgram together



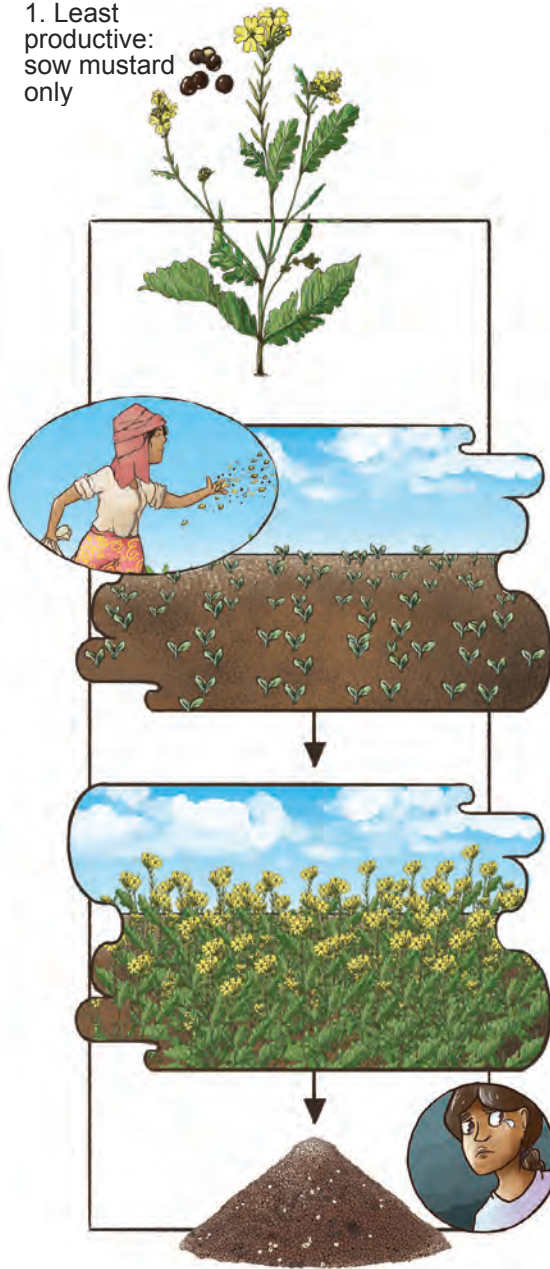
3. Most productive: sow alternating rows of finger millet and blackgram



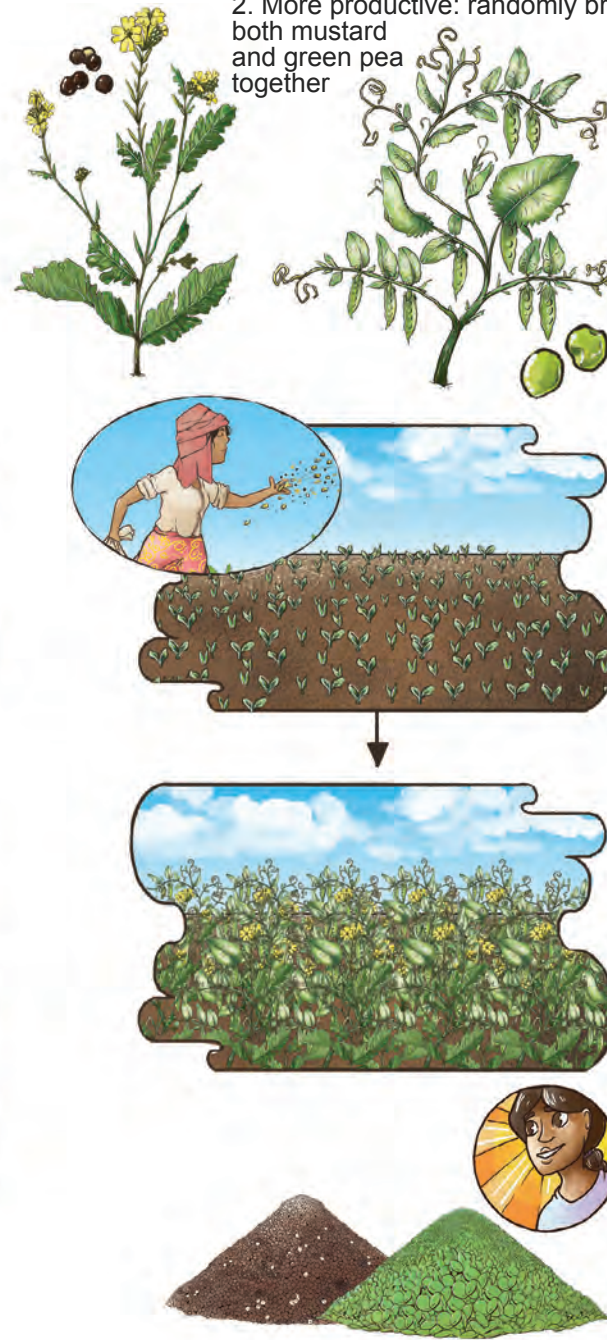


# Lesson: Sowing mustard together with green pea (field pea) will yield more profit than mustard only.

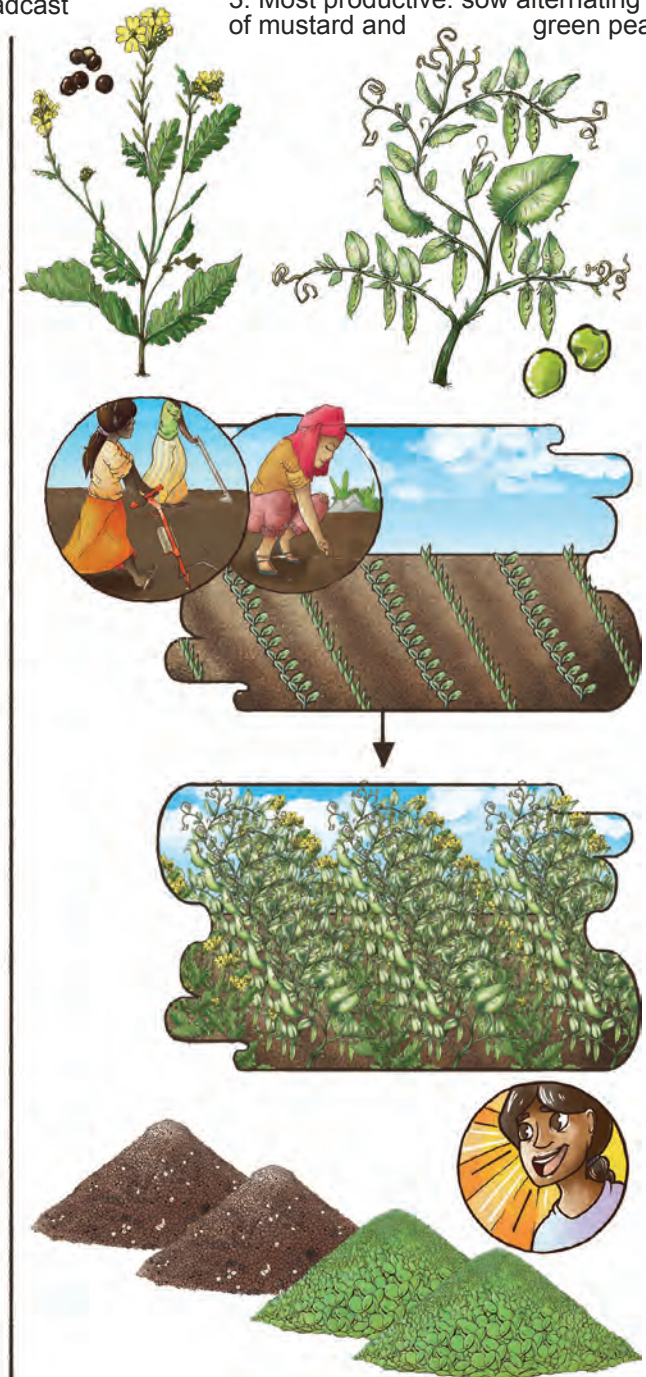
1. Least productive: sow mustard only



2. More productive: randomly broadcast both mustard and green pea together



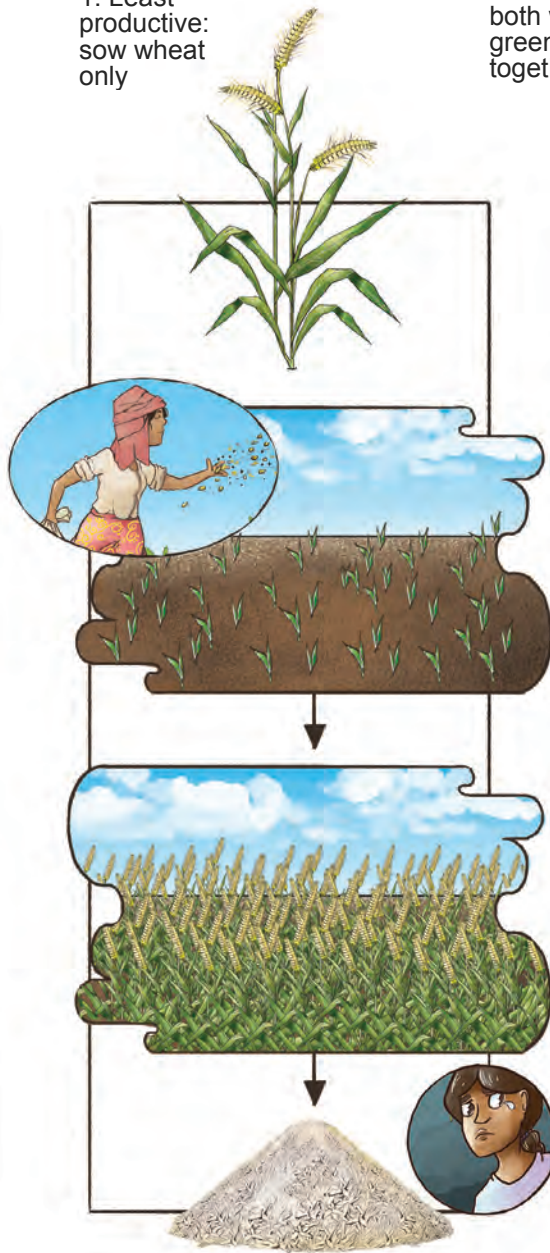
3. Most productive: sow alternating rows of mustard and green pea



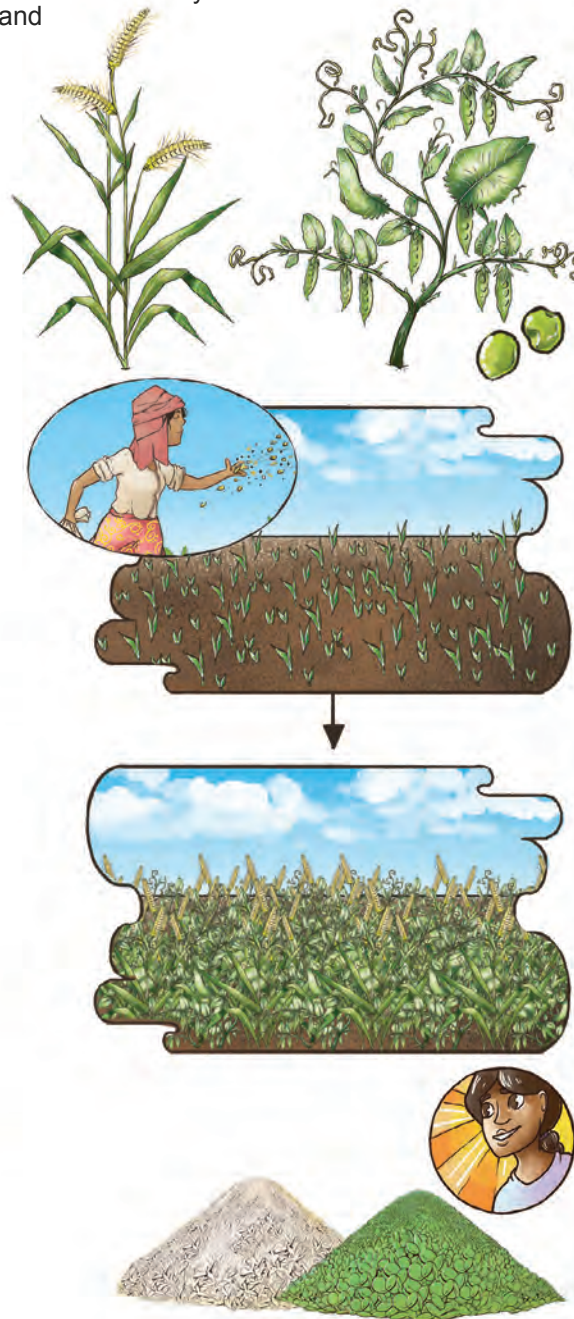


# Lesson: Sowing wheat together with green pea (field pea) will yield more profit than wheat only.

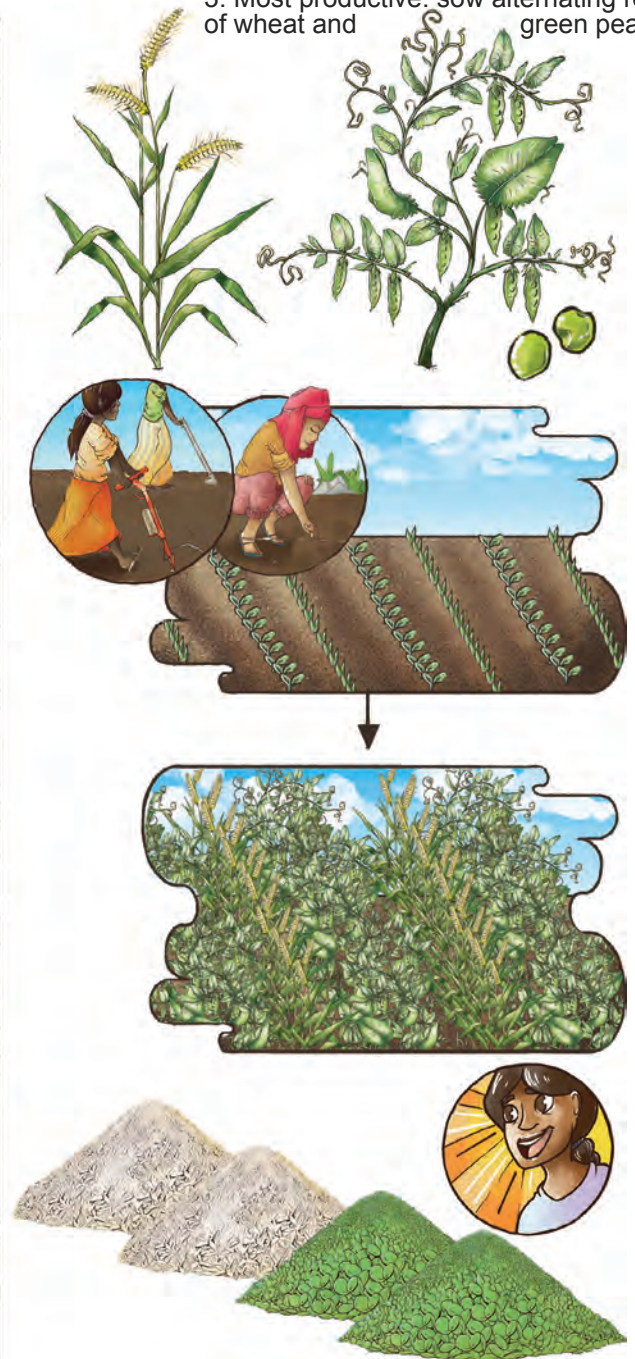
1. Least productive: sow wheat only



2. More productive: randomly broadcast both wheat and green pea together



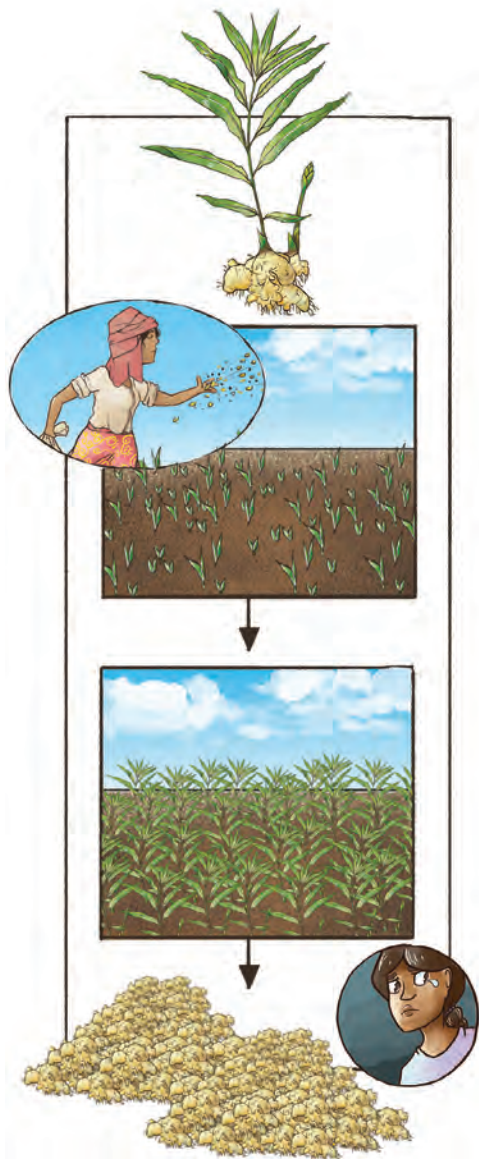
3. Most productive: sow alternating rows of wheat and green pea



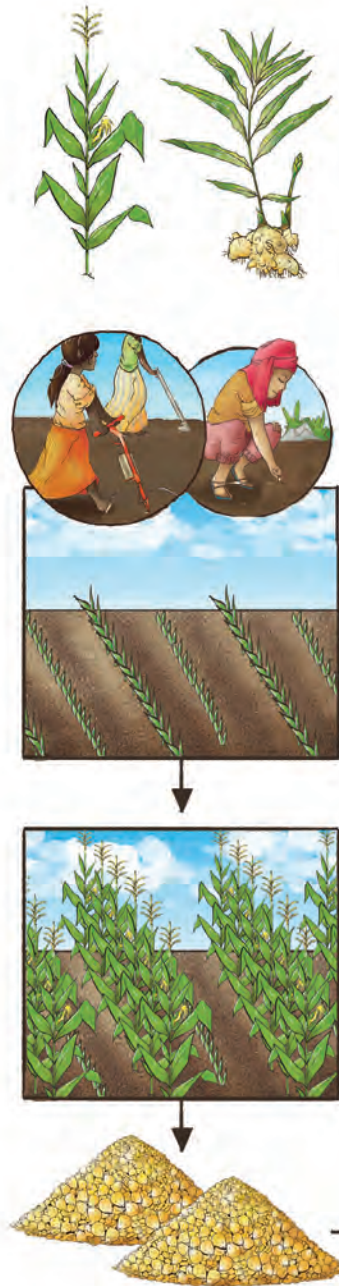


Lesson: Compared to sowing only ginger, it is more profitable to also sow maize, harvest the maize, then sow soybean, harvest the soy, then sow lentil, and finally harvest both lentil and ginger

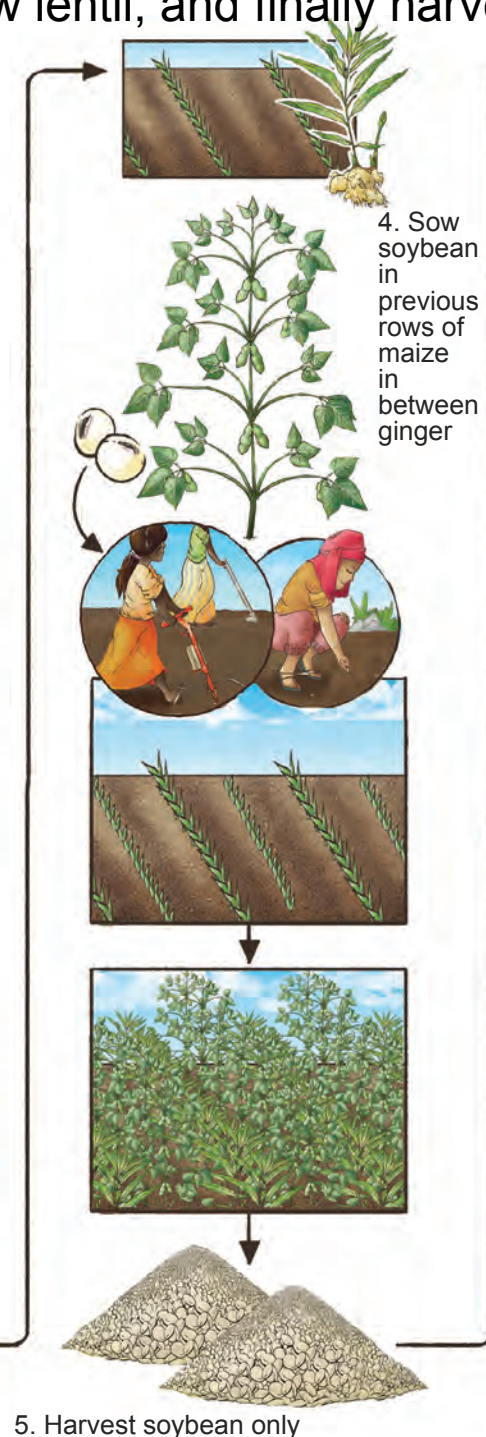
1. Least productive: sow ginger only



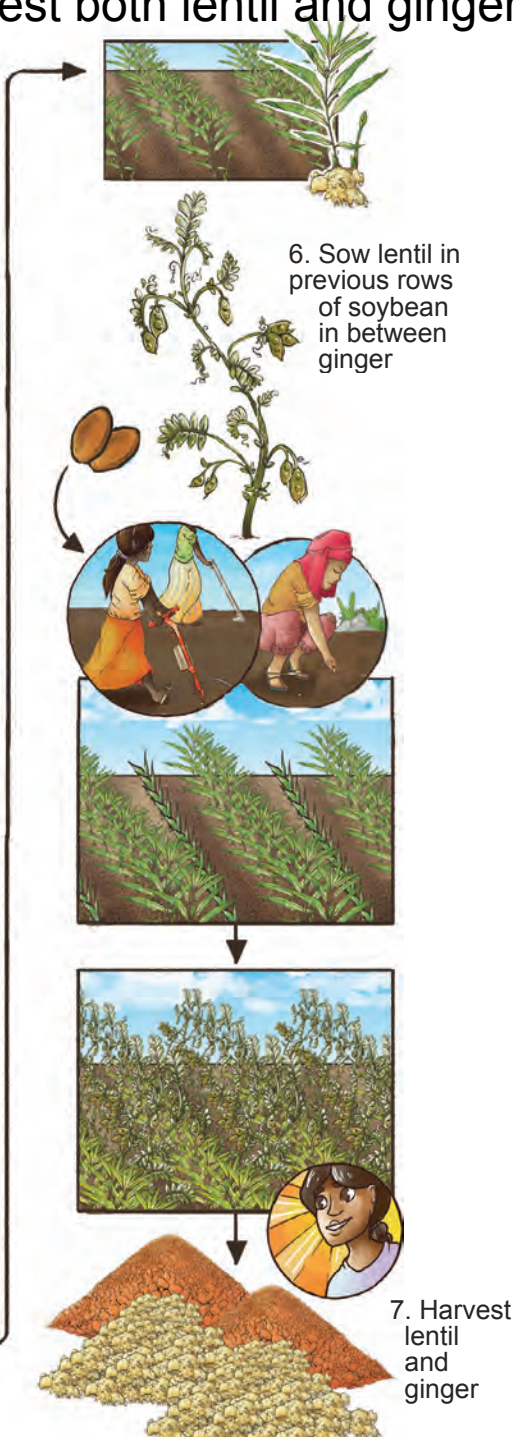
2. Very productive: sow maize and ginger together in alternating rows



3. Harvest maize only



5. Harvest soybean only



7. Harvest lentil and ginger

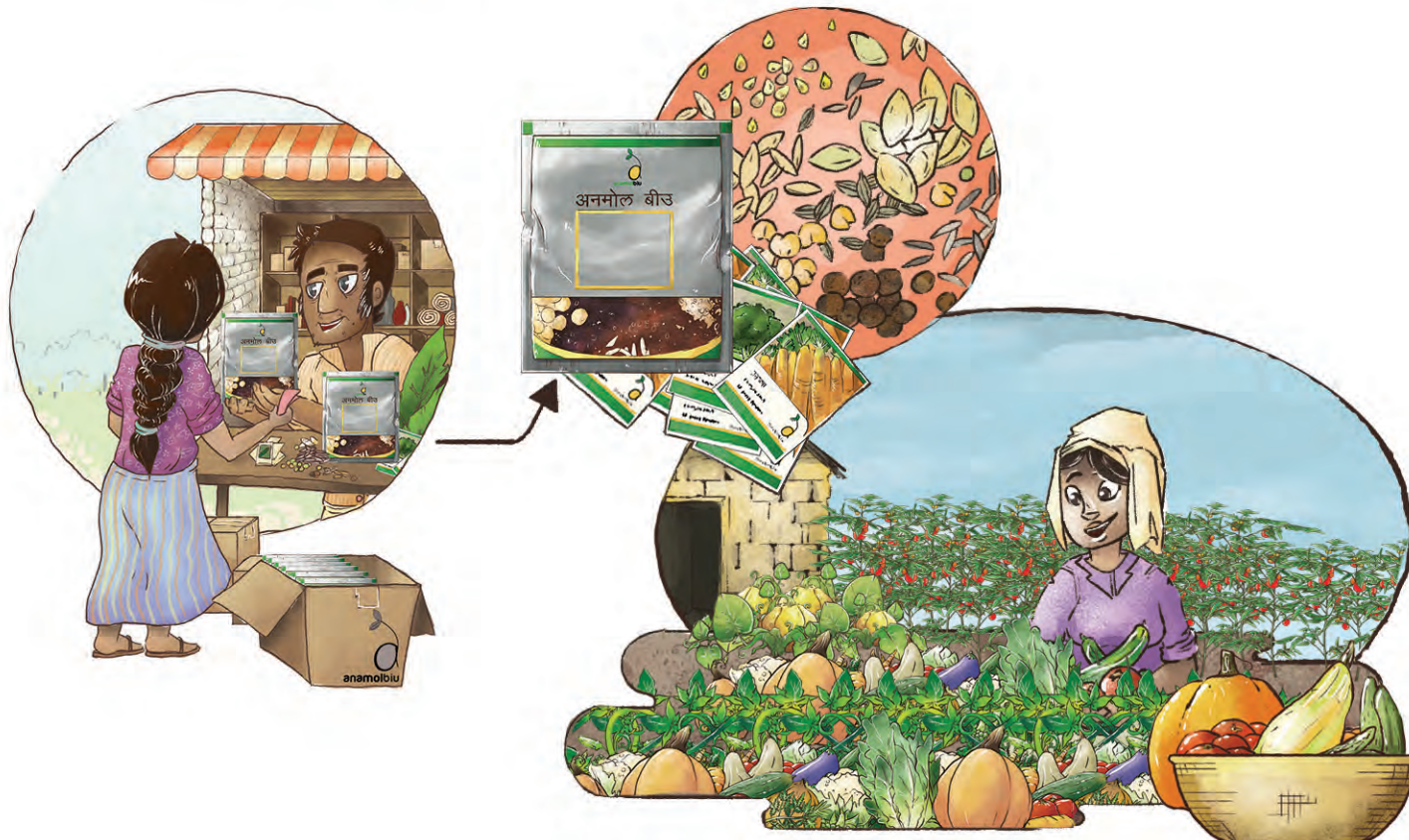


# Lesson: A kit of seed packages will increase the types of fruits and vegetables in the garden

1. Traditional: only few types of vegetables



2. New practice: purchase packages of different seeds (composite seed package)



3. Many types of vegetables

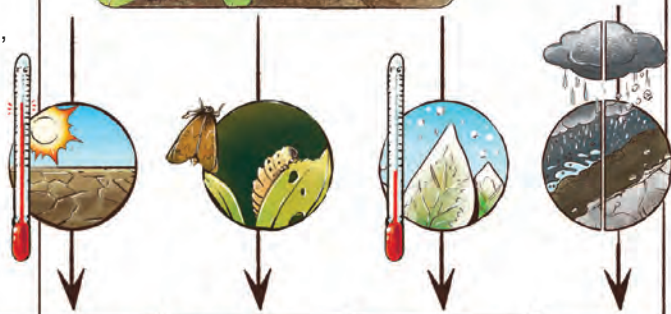


# Lesson: A greenhouse (plastic tunnel) can improve vegetable production

1. Traditional practice: vegetables uncovered

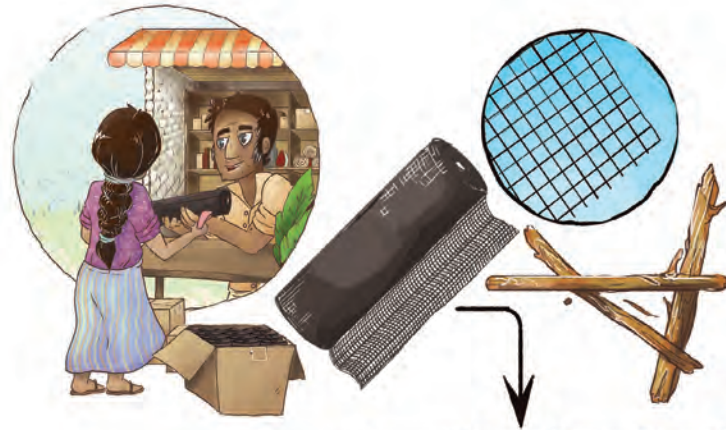


2. Drought, insects, cold or heavy rain damage crops



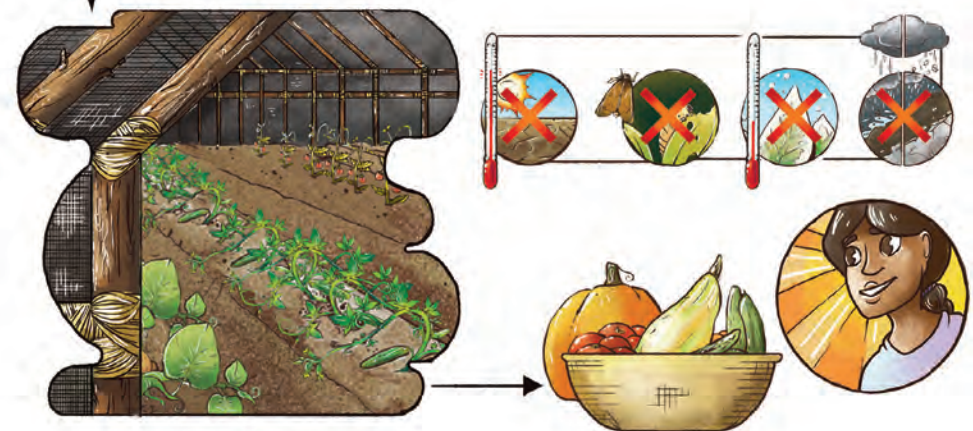
3. Low yield

4. New practice: purchase mesh (if hot such as in tropics)



5. Build greenhouse (high tunnel)

6. Vegetables are protected from drought, insects, cold or heavy rain



7. High yield

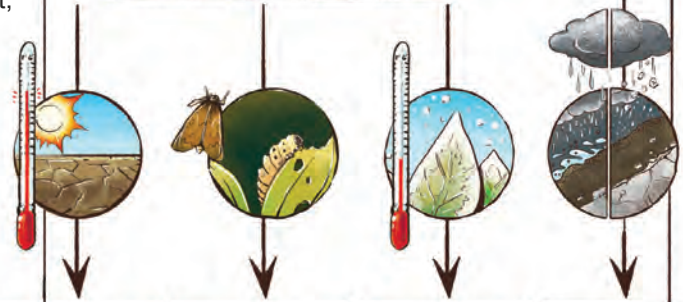


# Lesson: A greenhouse (plastic tunnel) can improve vegetable production

1. Traditional practice: vegetables uncovered



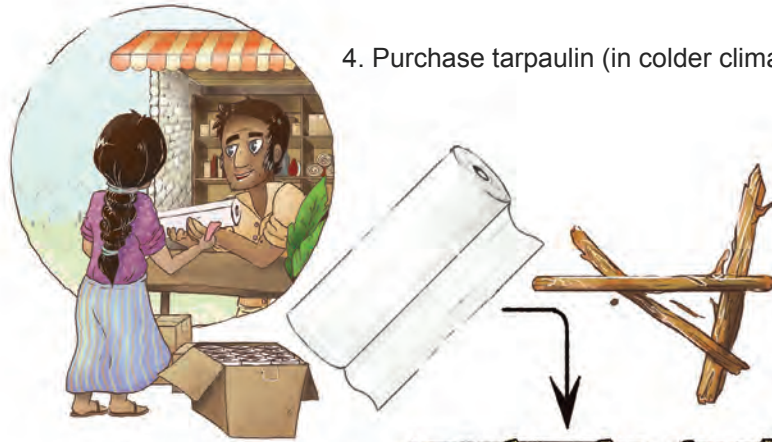
2. Drought, insects, cold or heavy rain damage crops



3. Low yield



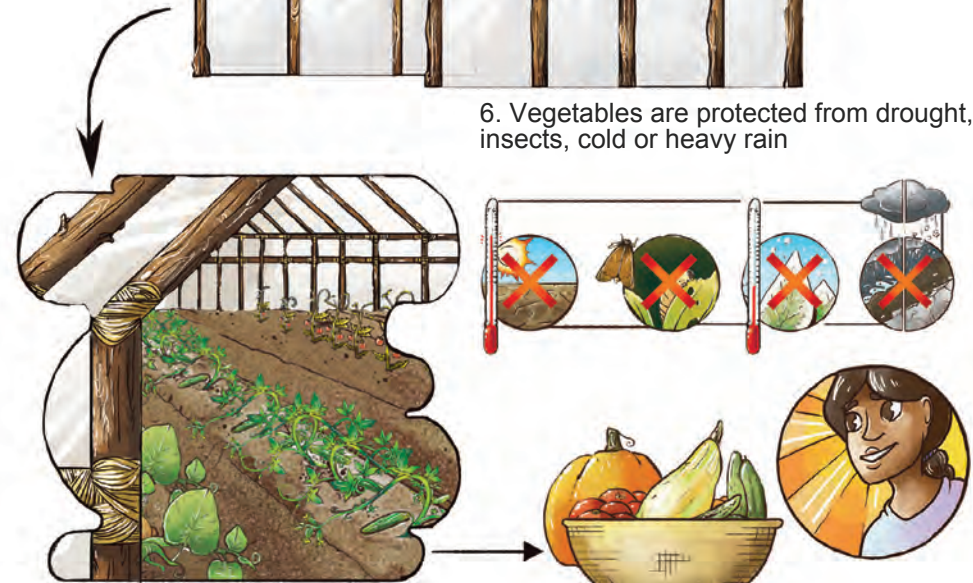
4. Purchase tarpaulin (in colder climate)



5. Build greenhouse (high tunnel)



6. Vegetables are protected from drought, insects, cold or heavy rain



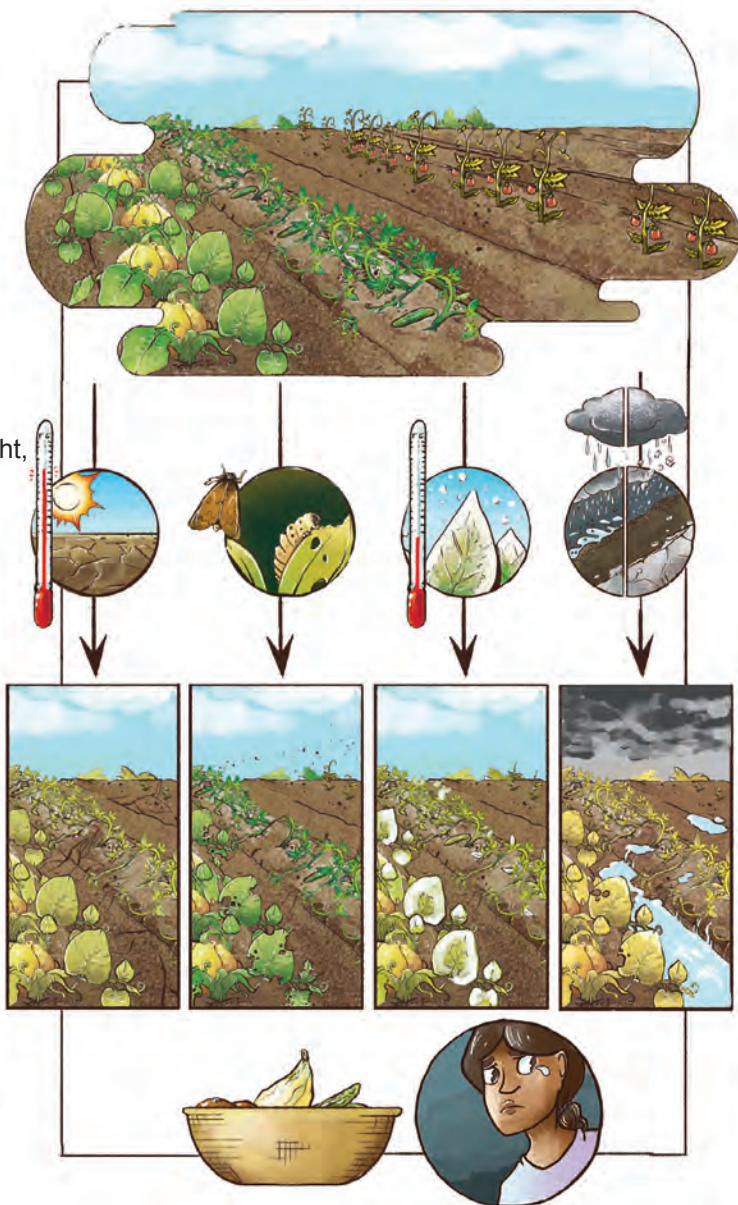
7. High yield



# Lesson: Low tunnel covers can help to grow vegetables (should combine with drip irrigation or else use mesh material)

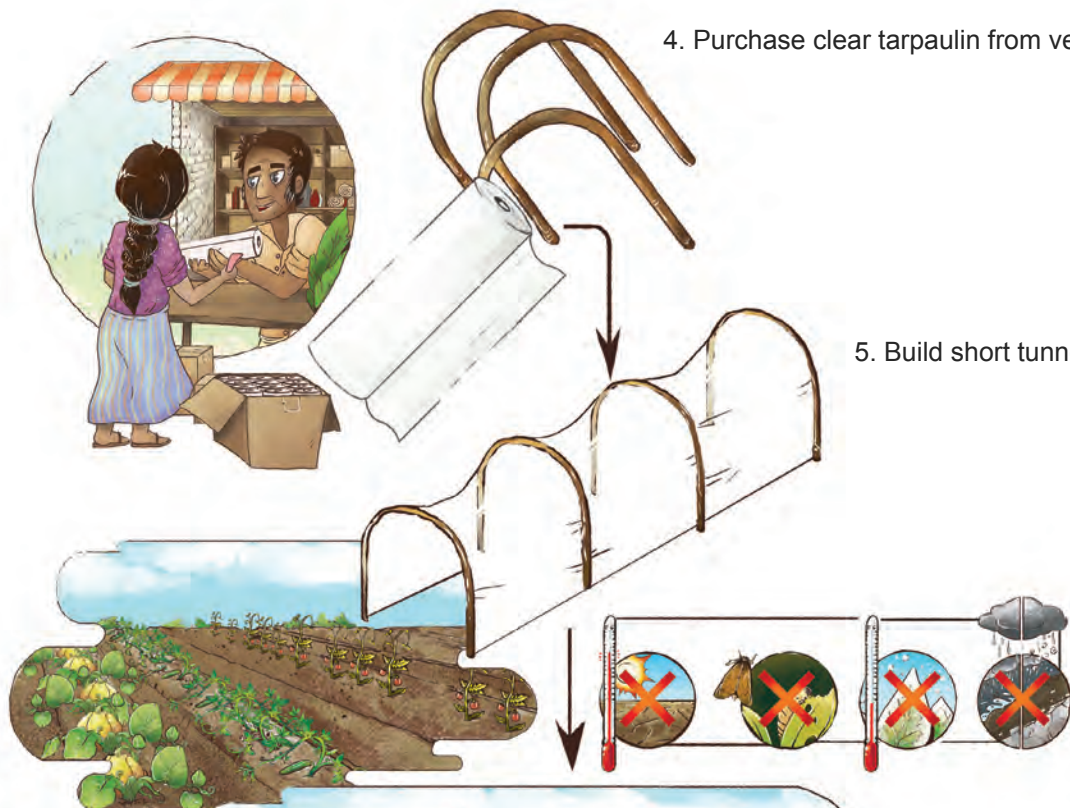
1. Traditional practice: vegetables uncovered

2. Drought, insects, cold or heavy rain damage crops



3. Low yield

4. Purchase clear tarpaulin from vendor



5. Build short tunnels

6. Vegetables are protected from drought, insects, cold or heavy rain

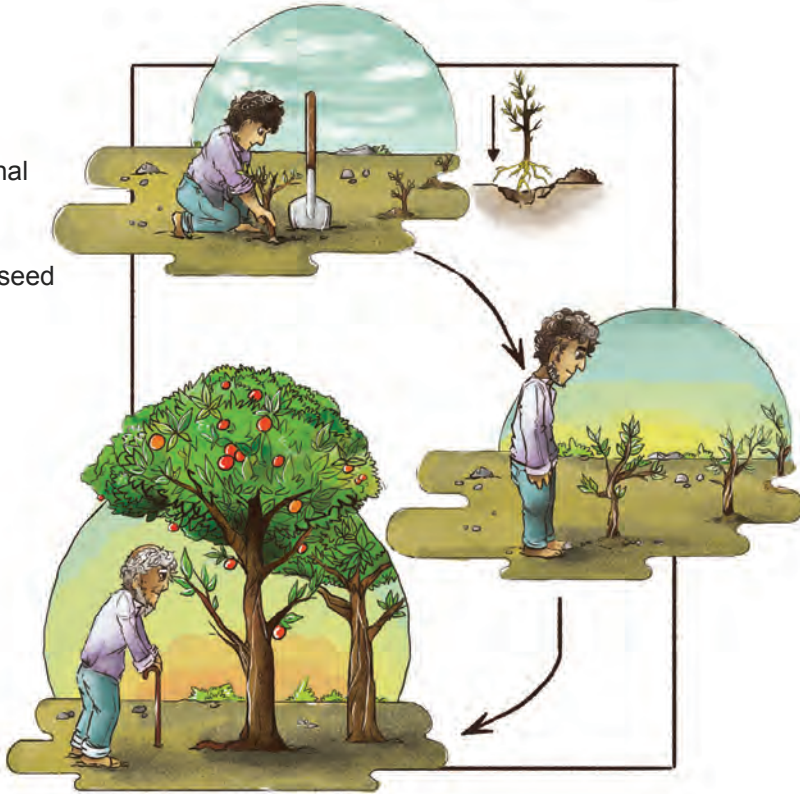


7. High yield

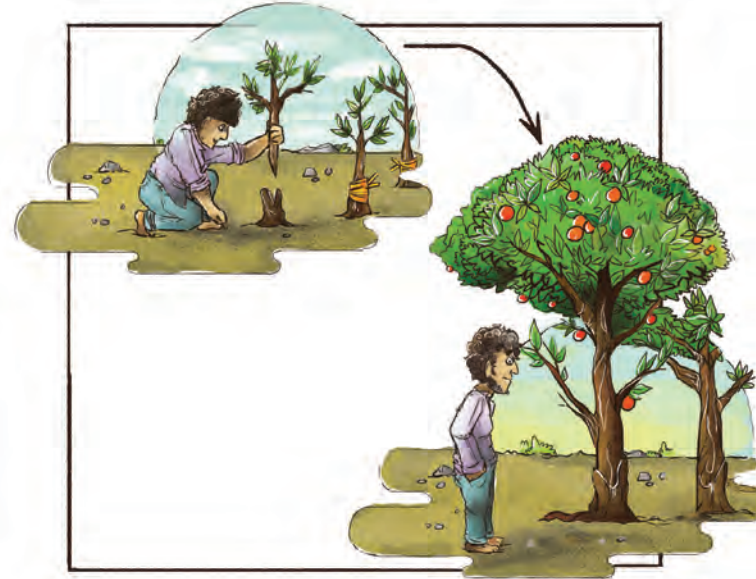


# Lesson: Grow a new tree much faster by attaching a young branch onto an old tree stump

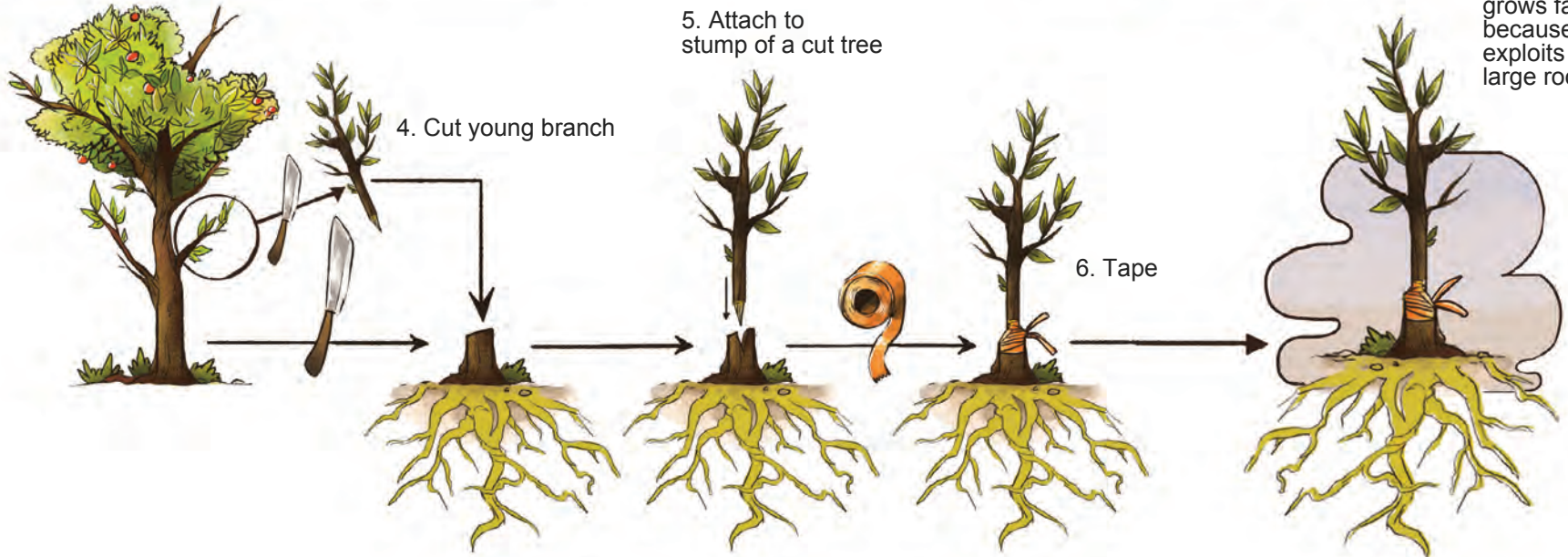
1. Traditional practice: planting tree from sapling or seed is slow



2. New practice: attaching young branch to old tree stump is faster



3. Procedure



4. Cut young branch

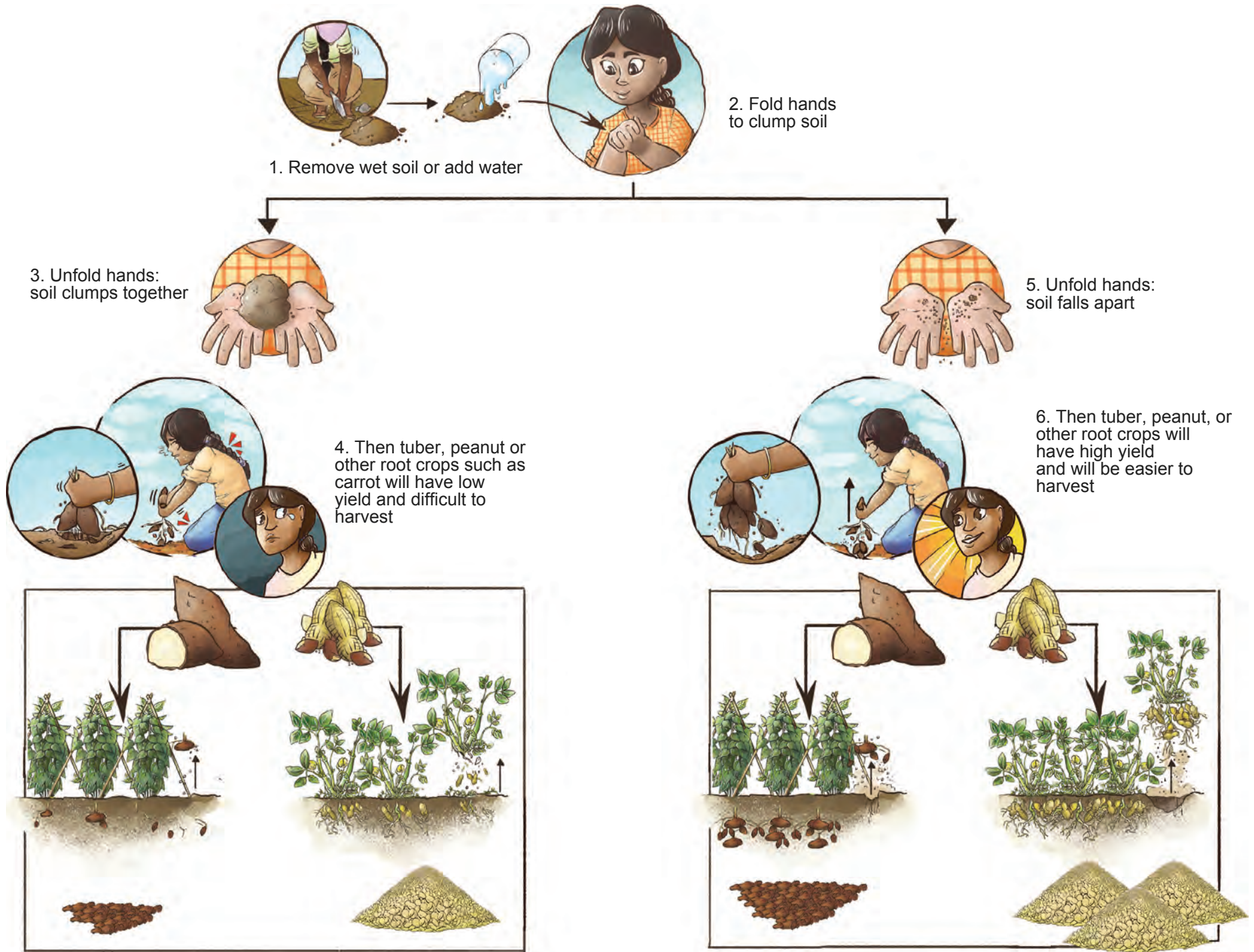
5. Attach to stump of a cut tree

6. Tape

7. Young branch grows fast, because it exploits large roots



# Lesson: A simple soil clumping test can help determine whether root crops can be grown

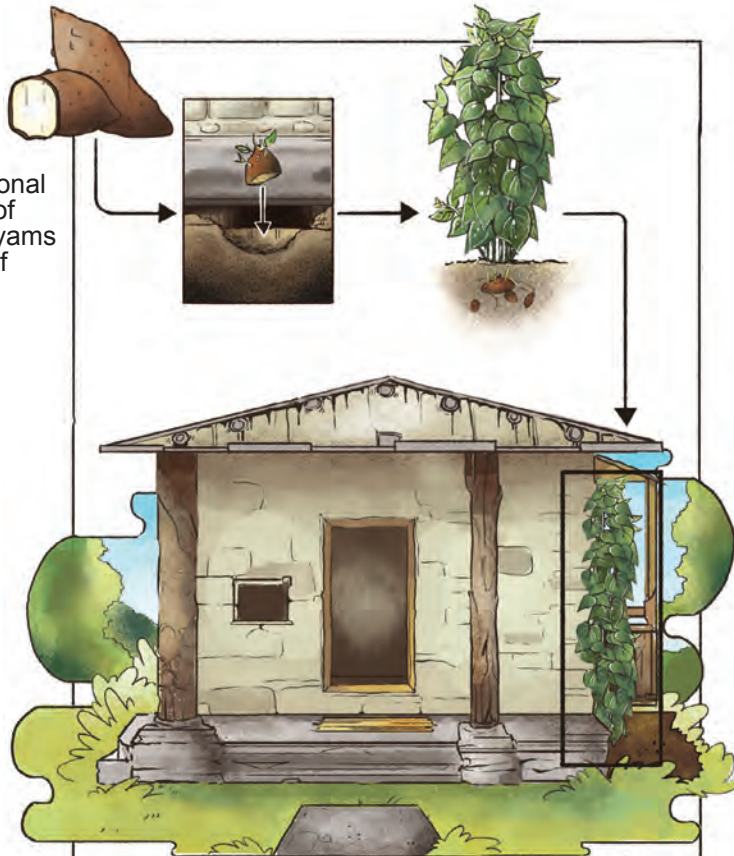


## Chapter 4: Terrace Agriculture

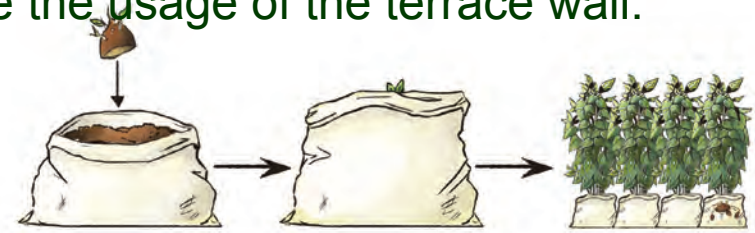


# Lesson: Yams or tubers planted in sacks at the base of the terrace wall will reduce labour at the time of harvesting and increase the usage of the terrace wall.

1. Traditional practice of growing yams on side of house



2. Difficult to dig to harvest yams/tubers



3. New practice: place yam seed in bag with soil



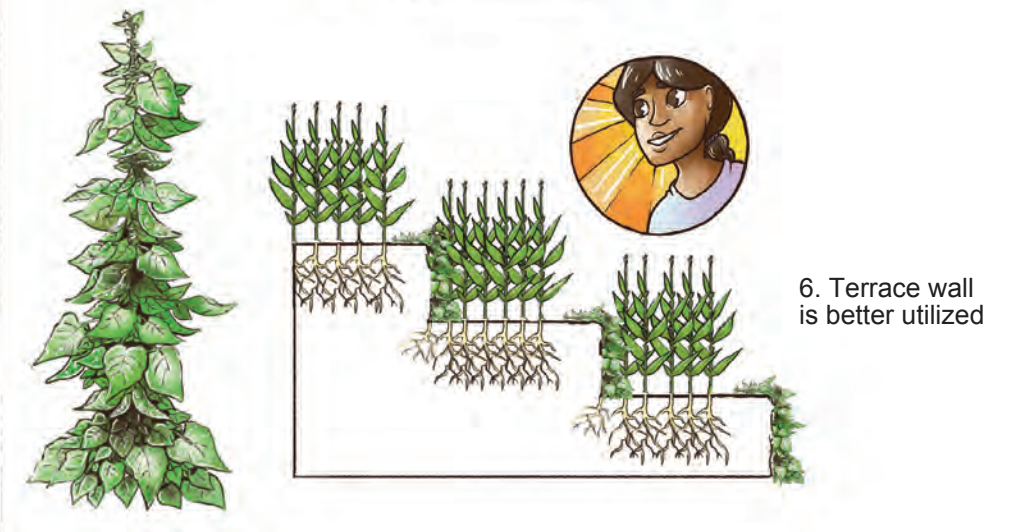
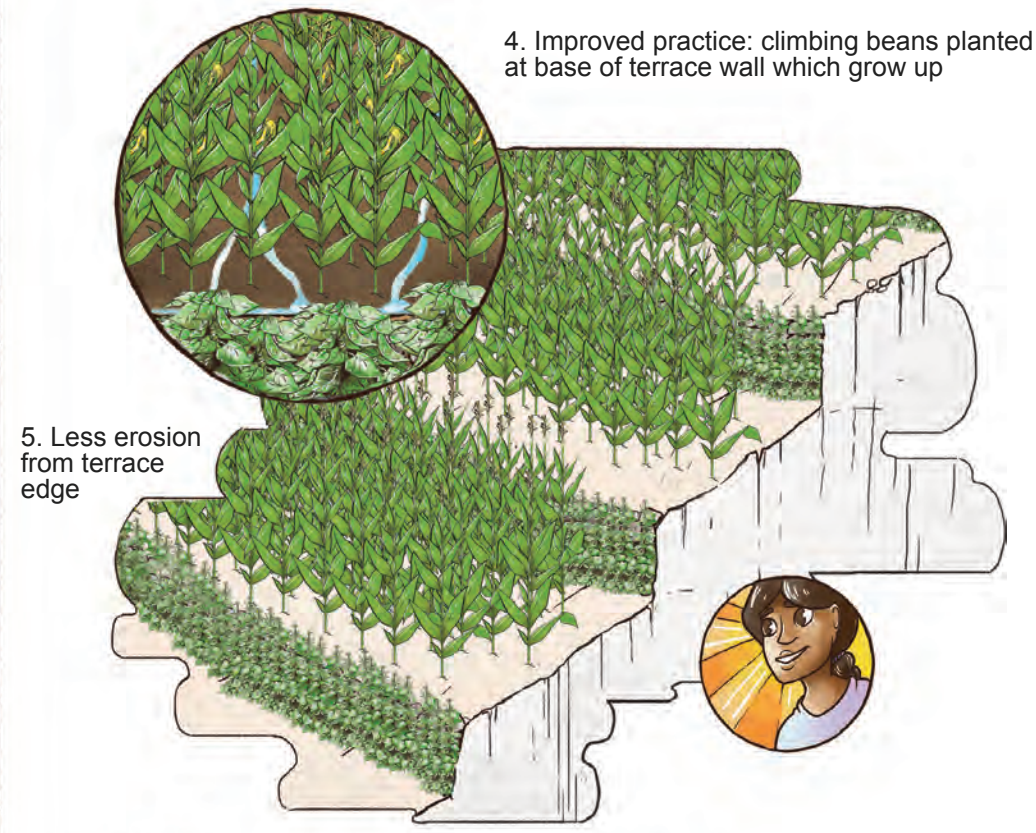
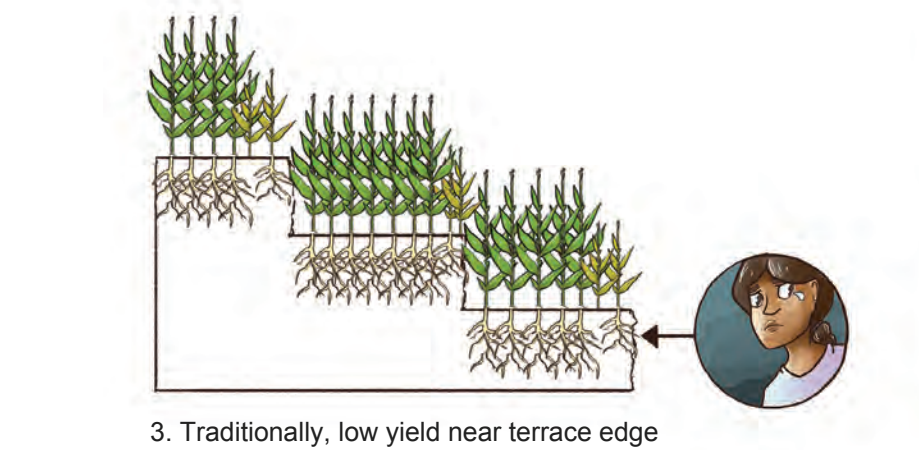
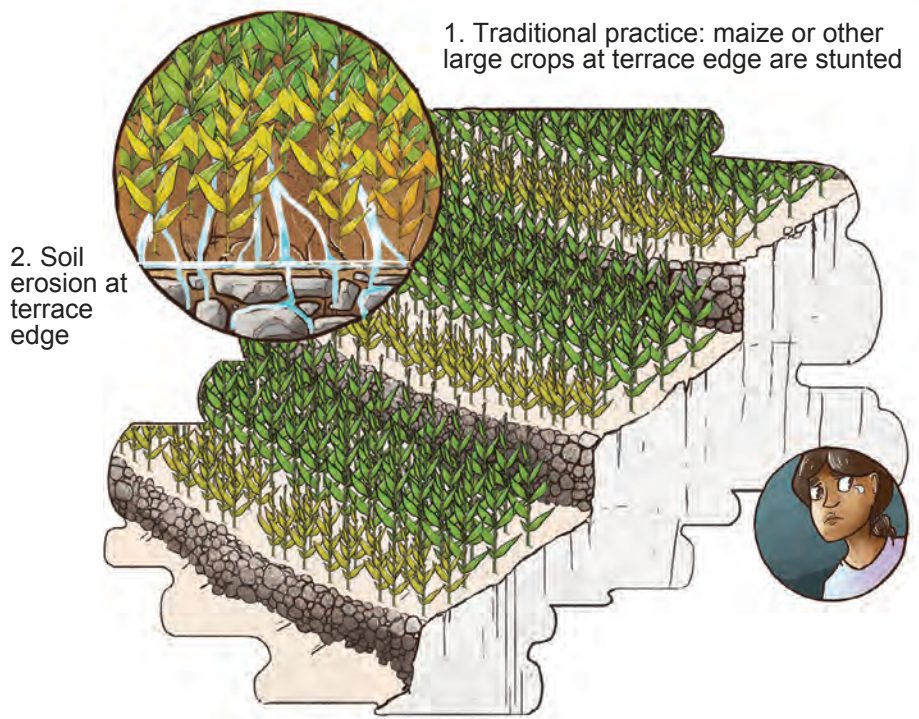
4. Place bags at bottom of terrace wall

5. Easy to harvest yam from bags





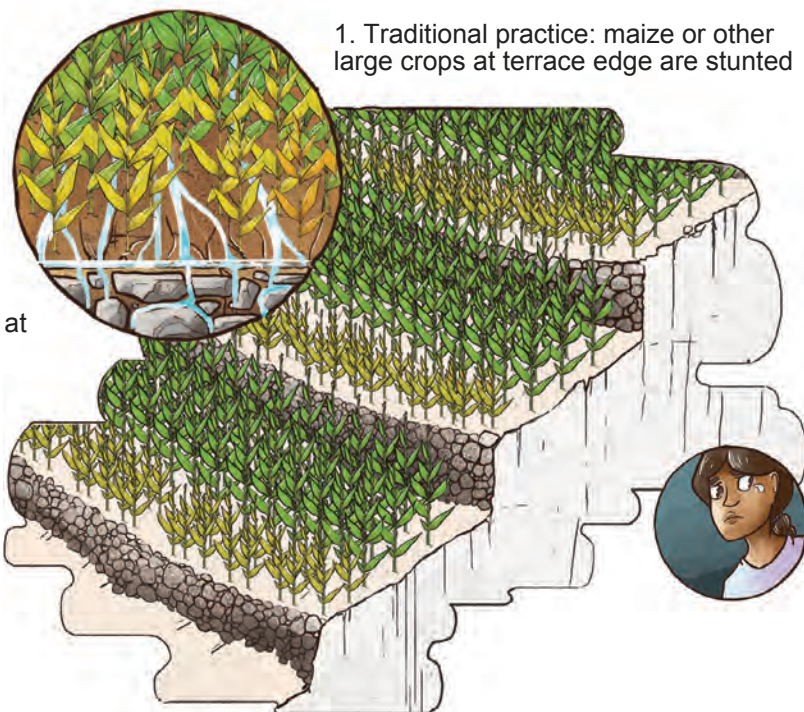
**Lesson: Climbing beans can be planted at the base of the terrace wall for growth up the wall to maximize usage of the vertical surface area.**



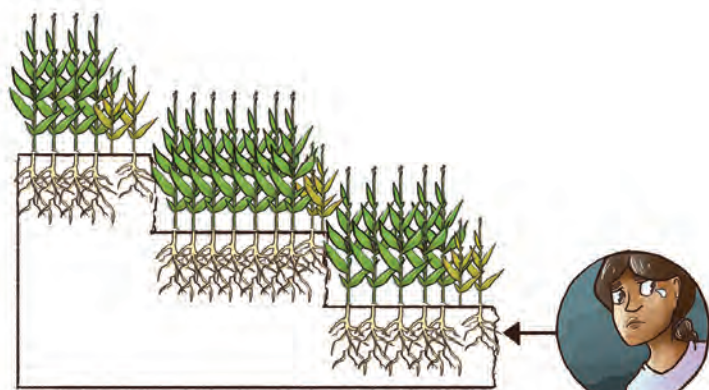


# Lesson: Climbing chayote squash can be planted at the base of the terrace wall for growth up the wall to maximize usage of the vertical surface area.

1. Traditional practice: maize or other large crops at terrace edge are stunted

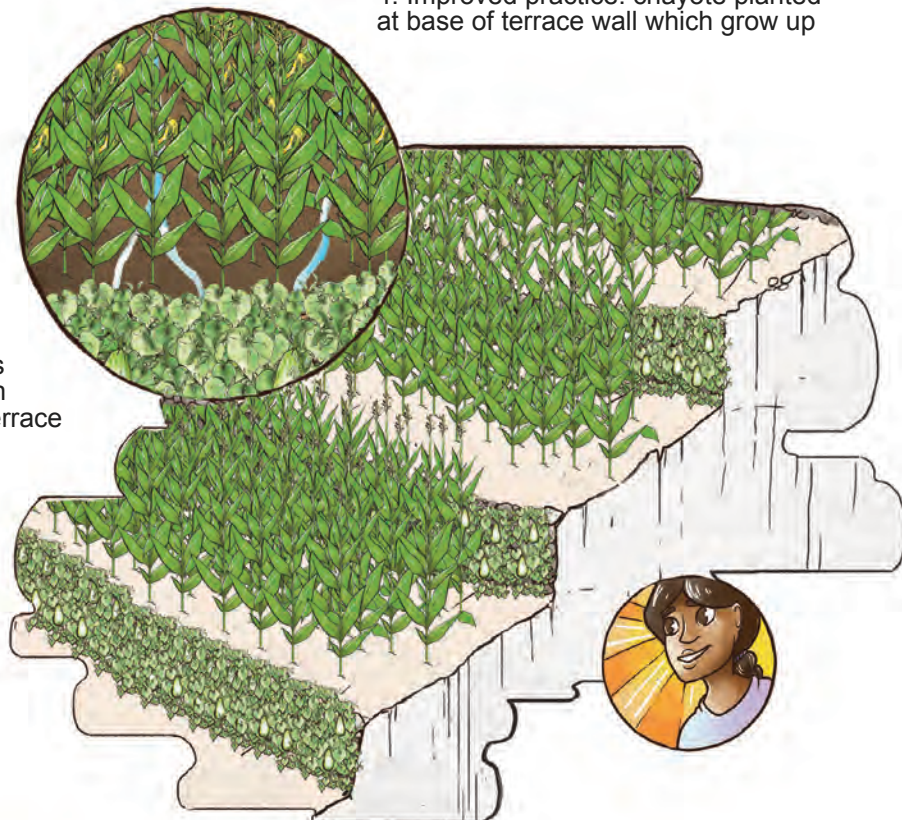


2. Soil erosion at terrace edge

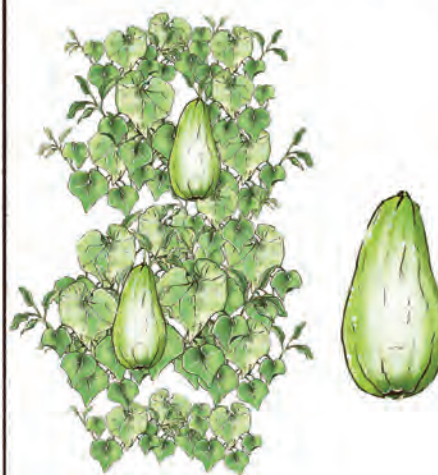


3. Traditionally, low yield near terrace edge

4. Improved practice: chayote planted at base of terrace wall which grow up



5. Less erosion from terrace edge



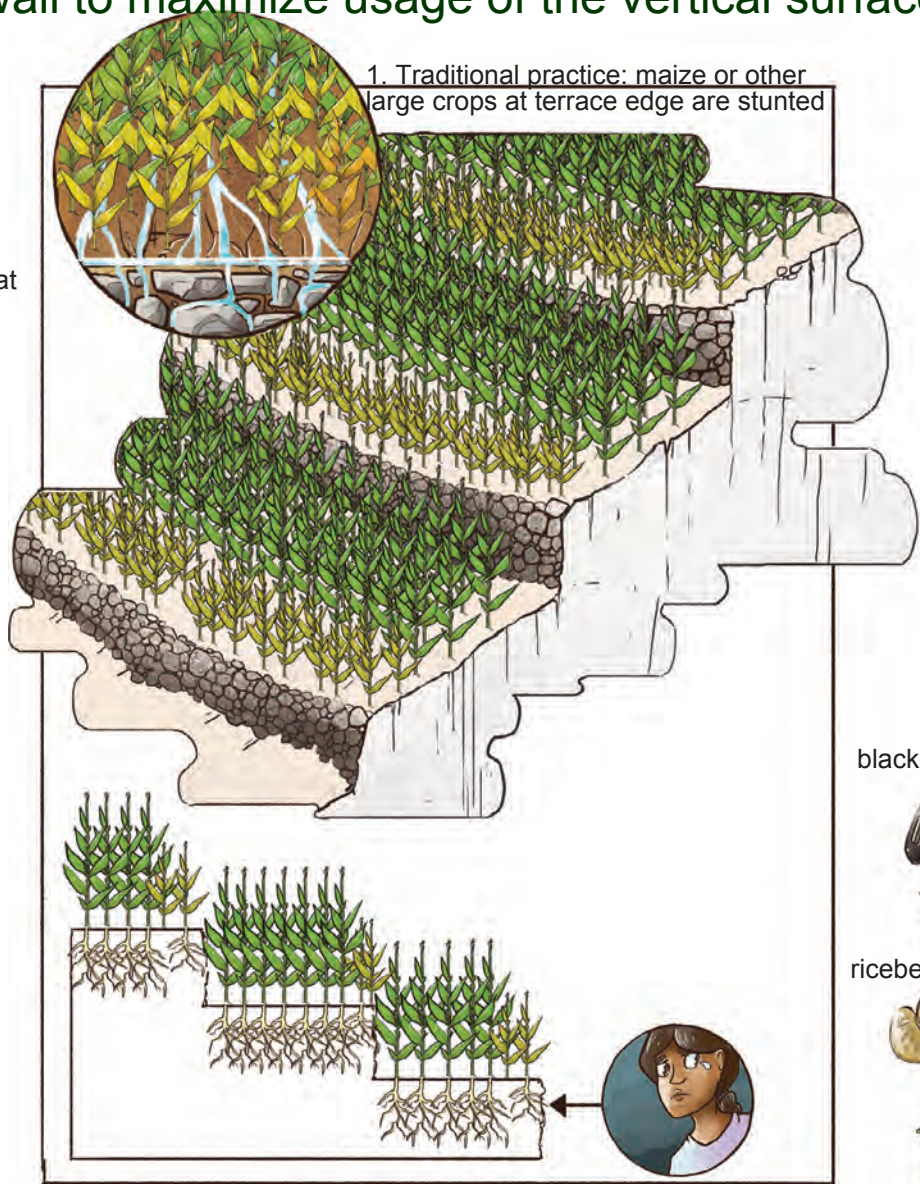
6. Terrace wall is better utilized





# Lesson: Waterfall-type legumes can be planted at the top edge of the terrace wall and grow down the wall to maximize usage of the vertical surface area.

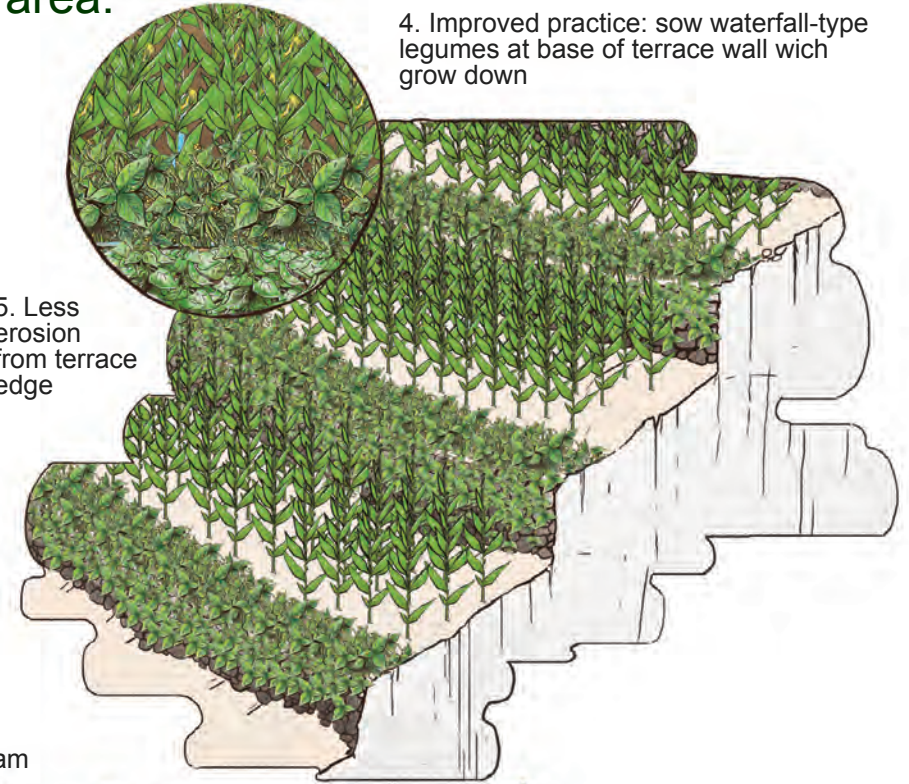
2. Soil erosion at terrace edge



1. Traditional practice: maize or other large crops at terrace edge are stunted

3. Traditionally, low yield near terrace edge

4. Improved practice: sow waterfall-type legumes at base of terrace wall which grow down



5. Less erosion from terrace edge

blackgram



ricebean



kidney bean



cowpea

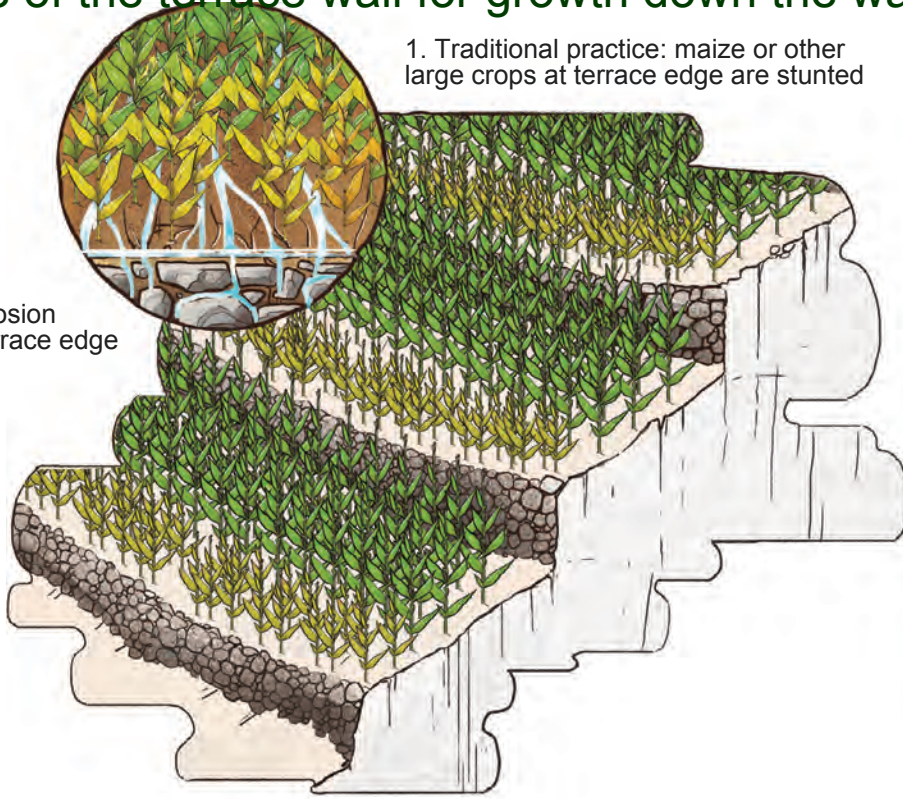


6. Terrace wall and edge are better utilized



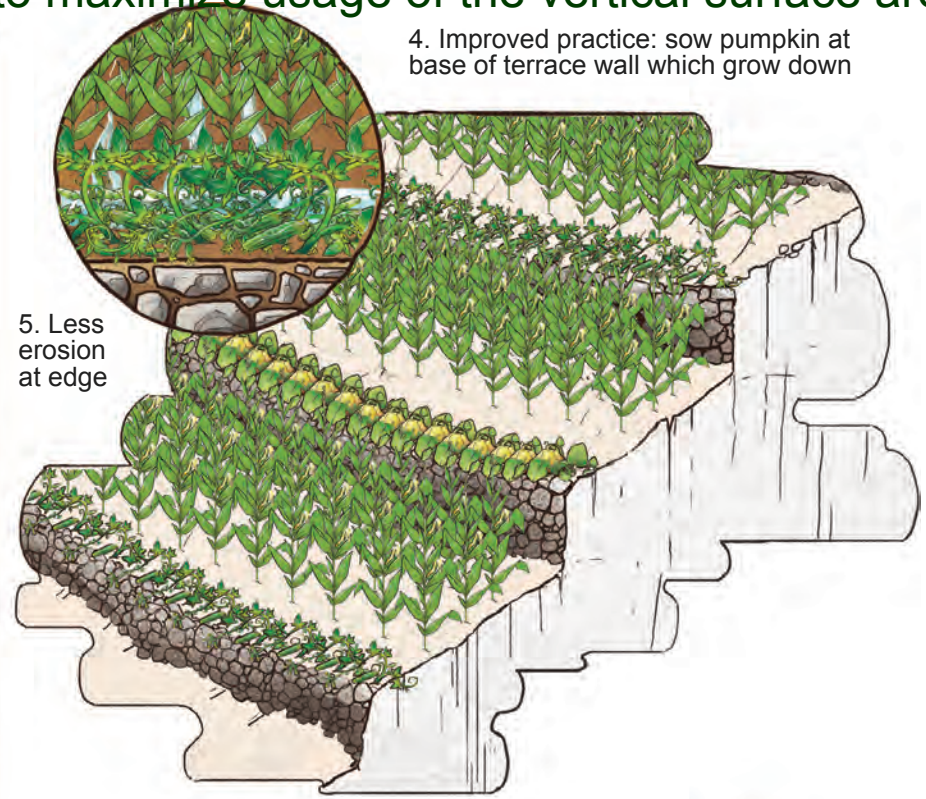
Lesson: Waterfall-type cucurbits (pumpkin, cucumber, squash, melon) can be planted at the top edge of the terrace wall for growth down the wall to maximize usage of the vertical surface area.

1. Traditional practice: maize or other large crops at terrace edge are stunted

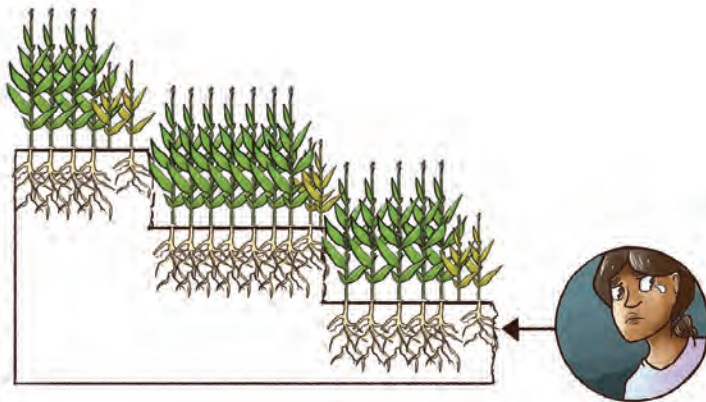


2. erosion at terrace edge

4. Improved practice: sow pumpkin at base of terrace wall which grow down



5. Less erosion at edge



3. Traditionally, low yield near terrace edge

cucumber



pumpkin

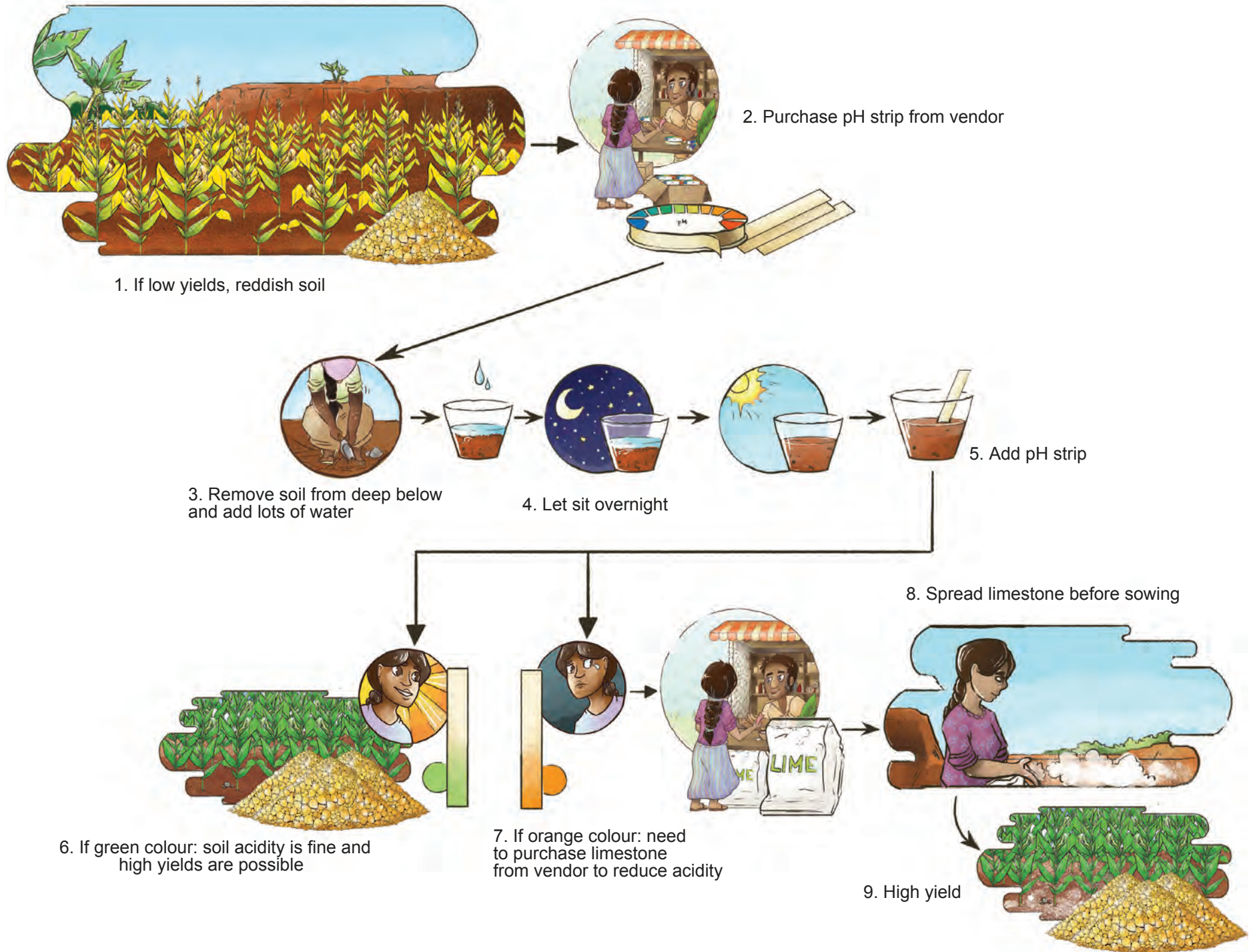


6. Terrace wall and edge are better utilized

## Chapter 5: Soil Health



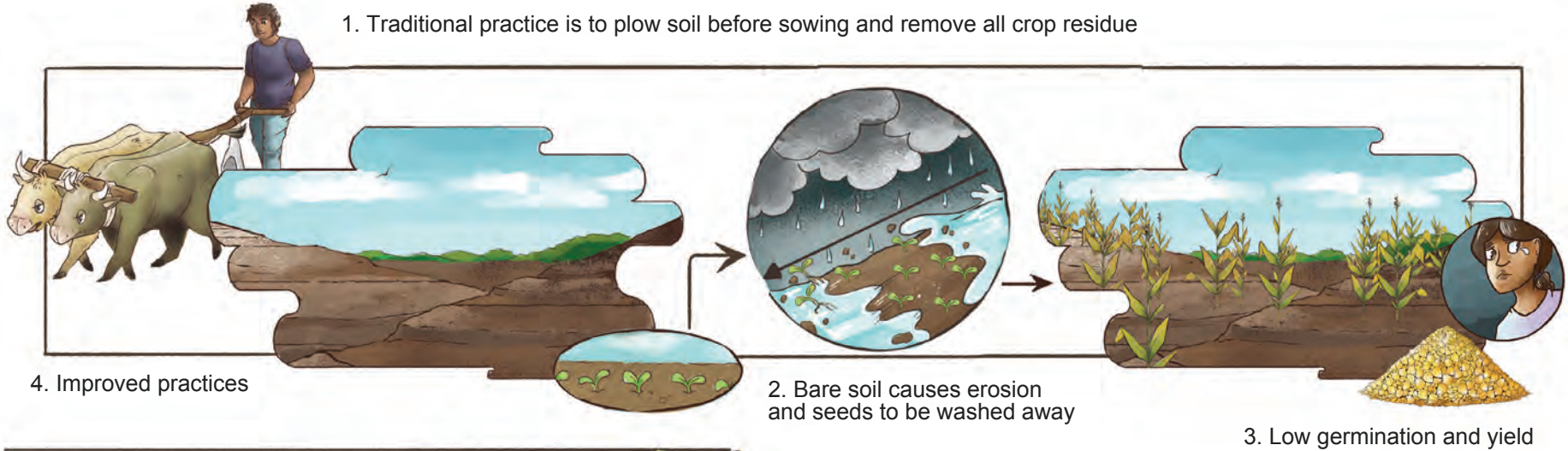
# Lesson: If yields are low and the soil is reddish, soil acidity should be tested



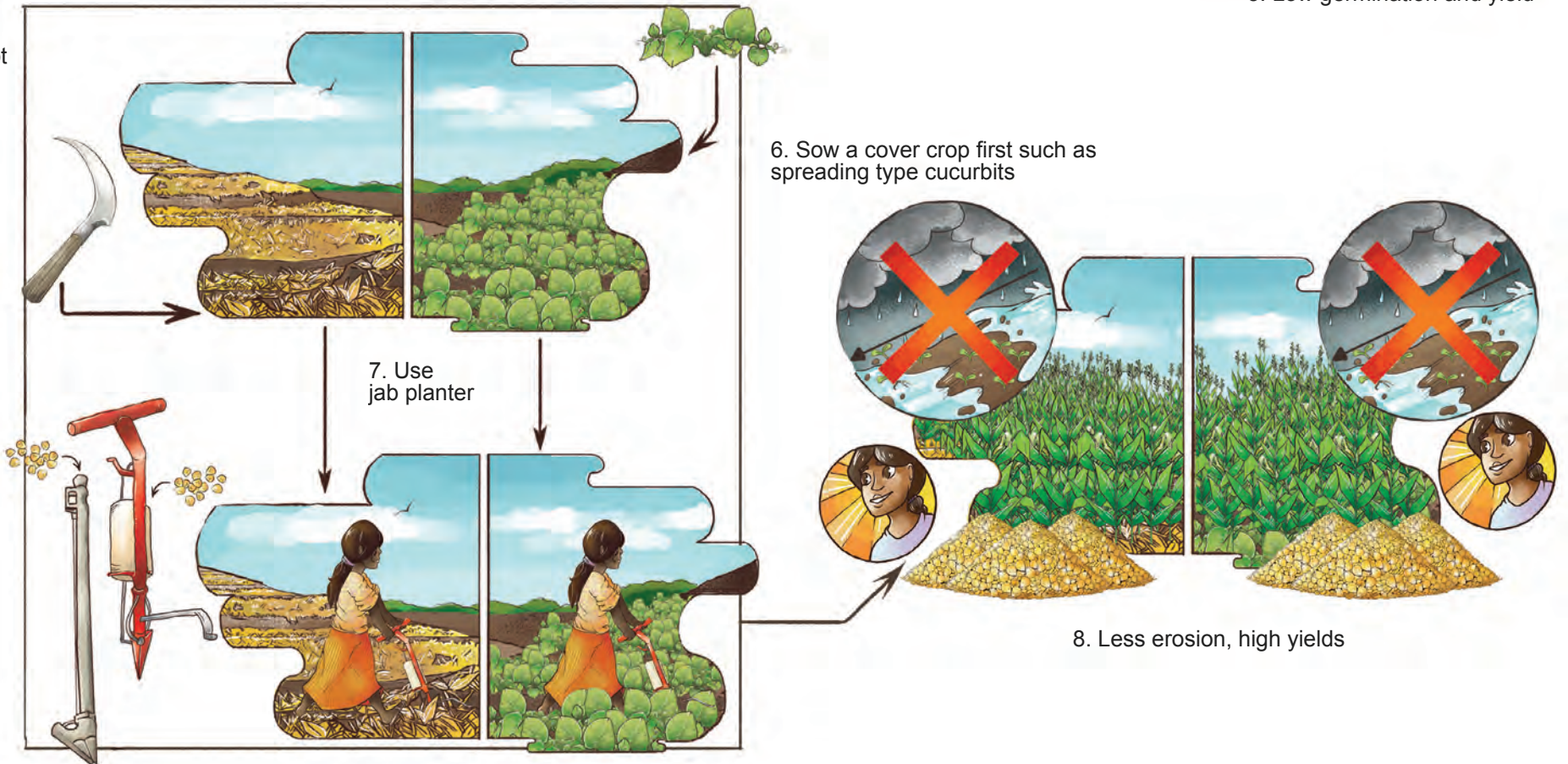


# Lesson: Not leaving the soil bare reduces soil erosion and improves yields

1. Traditional practice is to plow soil before sowing and remove all crop residue



5. Do not plow but instead leaf dead mulch on field

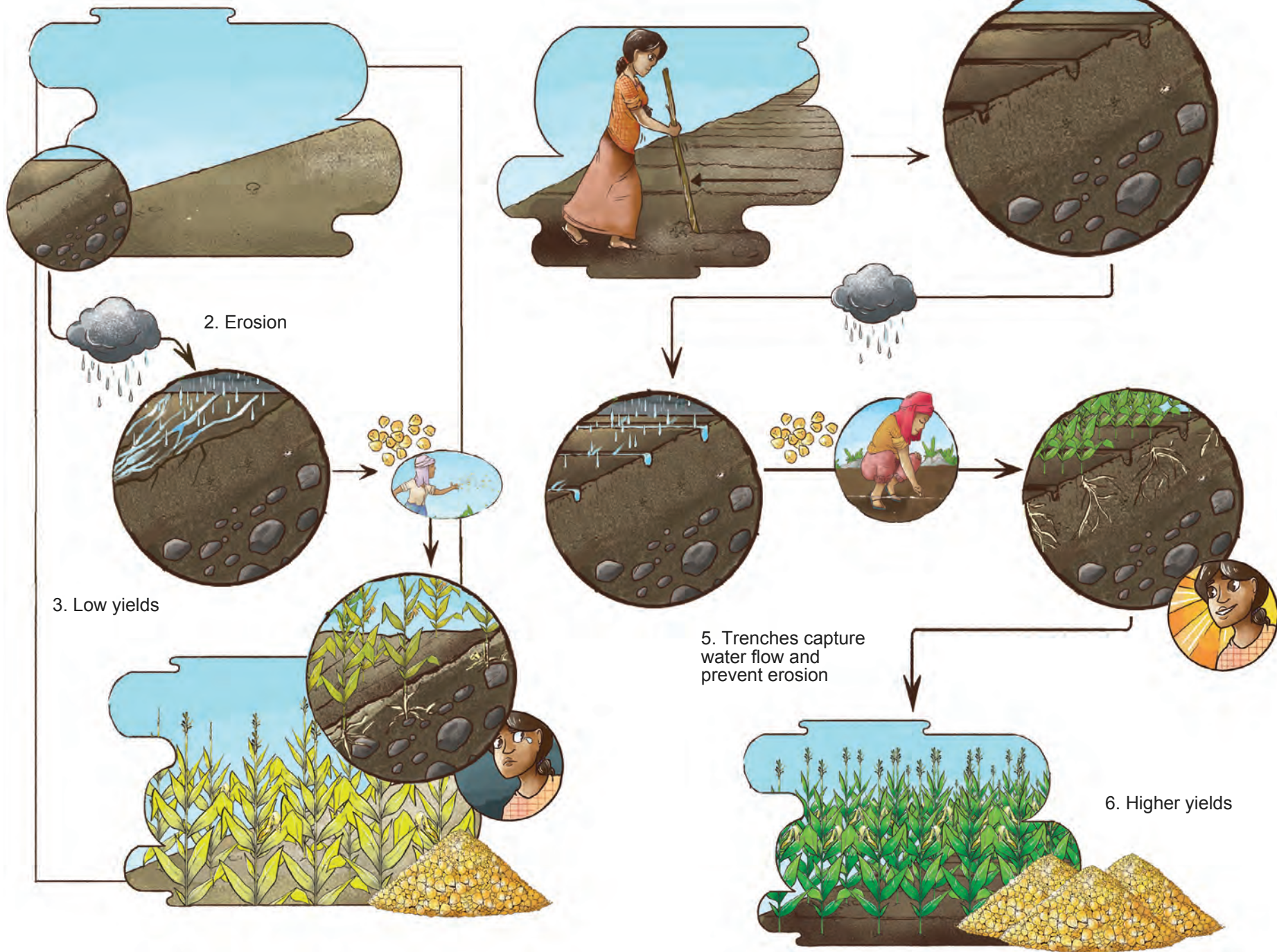




# Lesson: Creating shallow trenches with a stick perpendicular to a slope will reduce soil erosion, capture water and increase yields

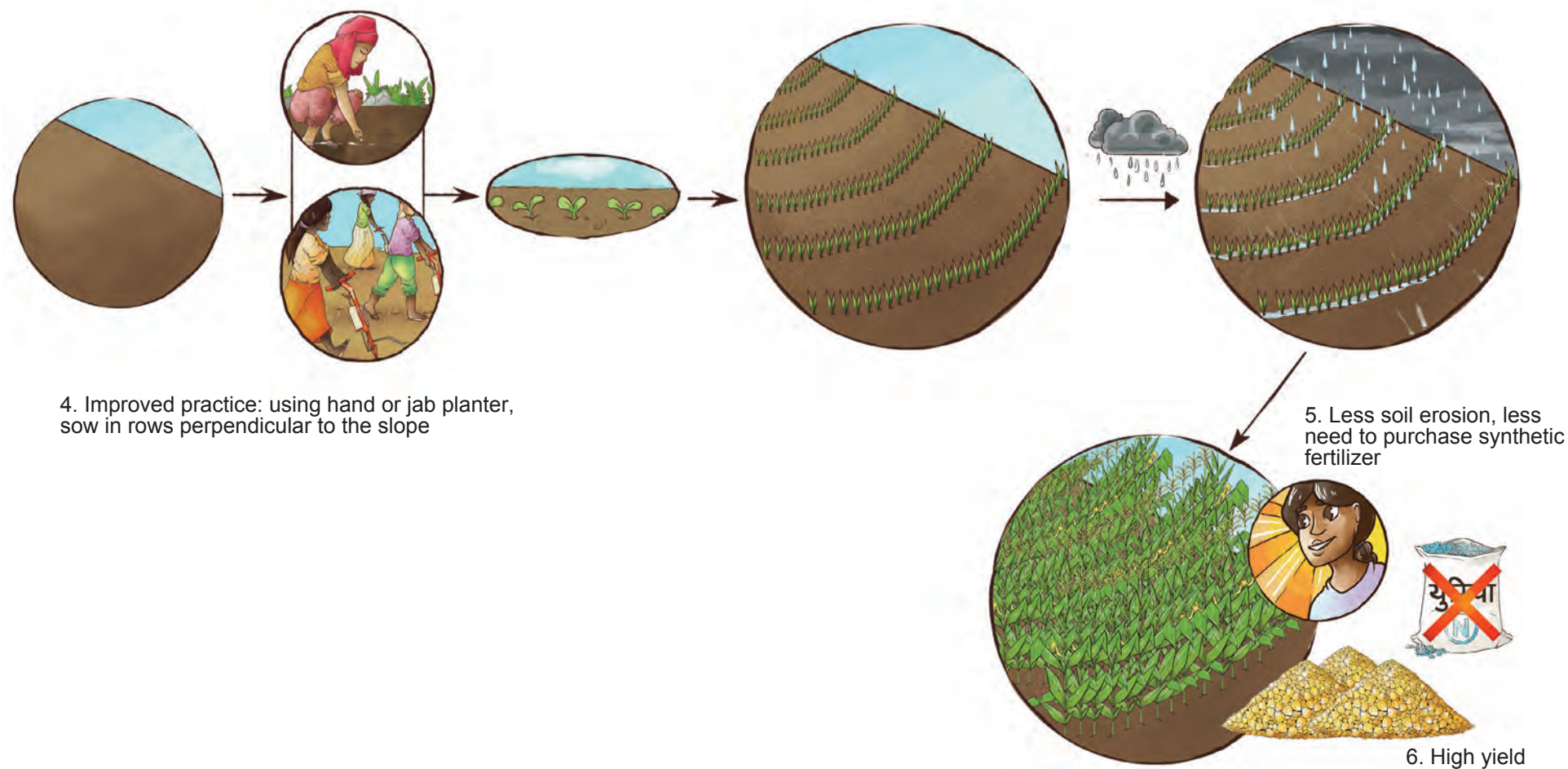
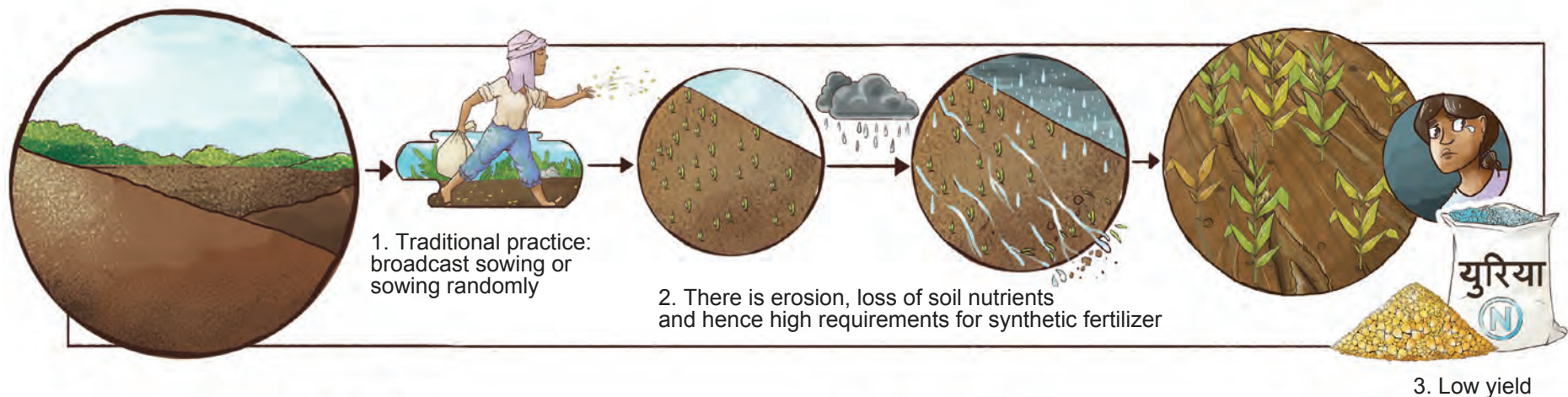
1. Traditional practice on slope

4. Improved practice: use stick to create shallow trenches perpendicular to slope



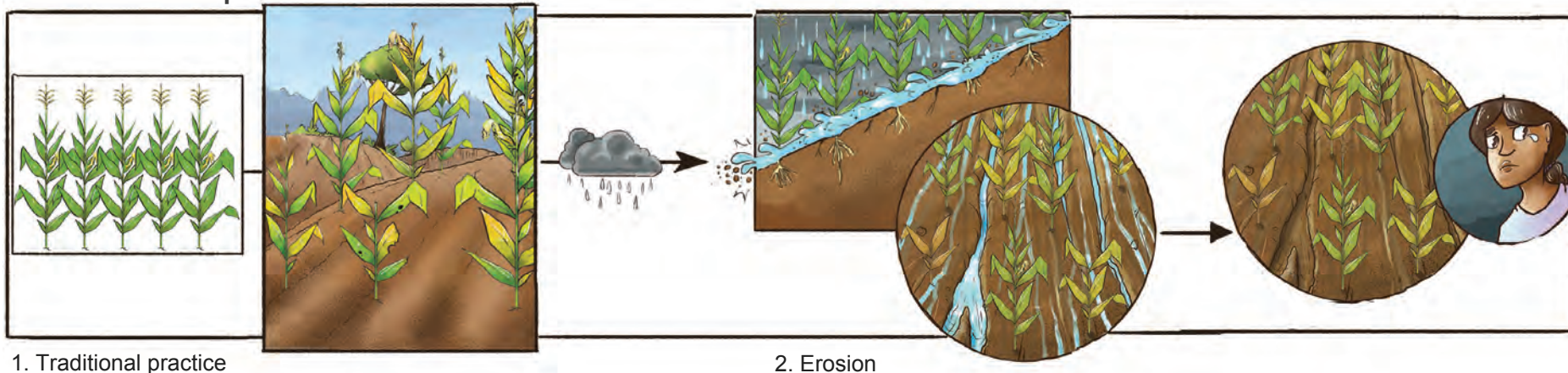


# Lesson: On non-terraced, sloped land, sowing crops in rows perpendicular to the slope will reduce soil erosion and reduce fertilizer need



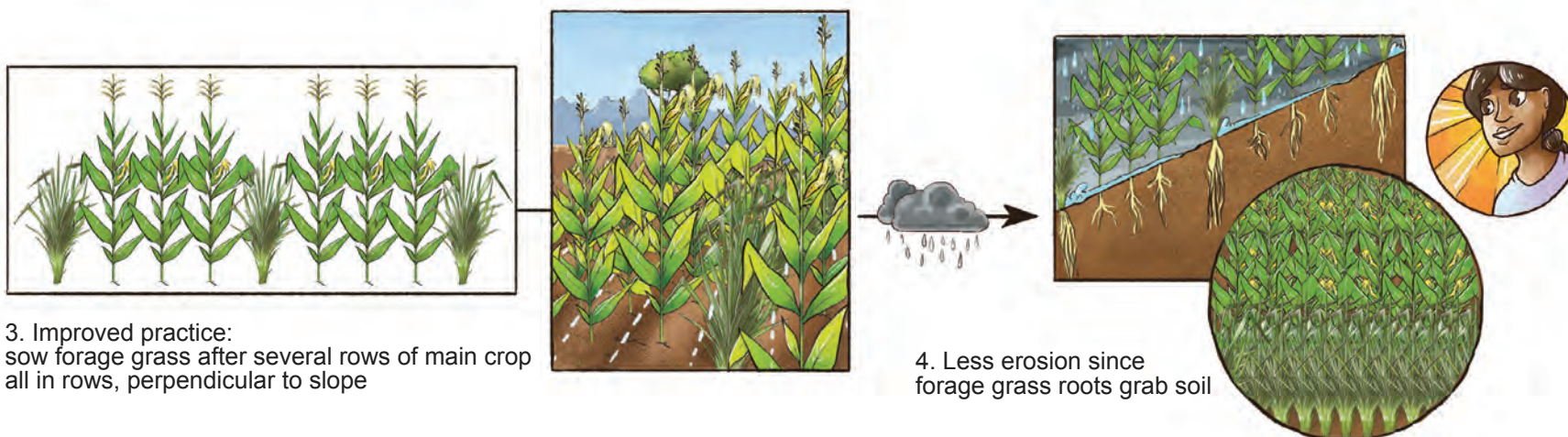


# Lesson: On sloped, non-terraced land, sowing vetiver or other forage grasses will reduce erosion and prevent water loss



1. Traditional practice

2. Erosion



3. Improved practice:  
sow forage grass after several rows of main crop  
all in rows, perpendicular to slope

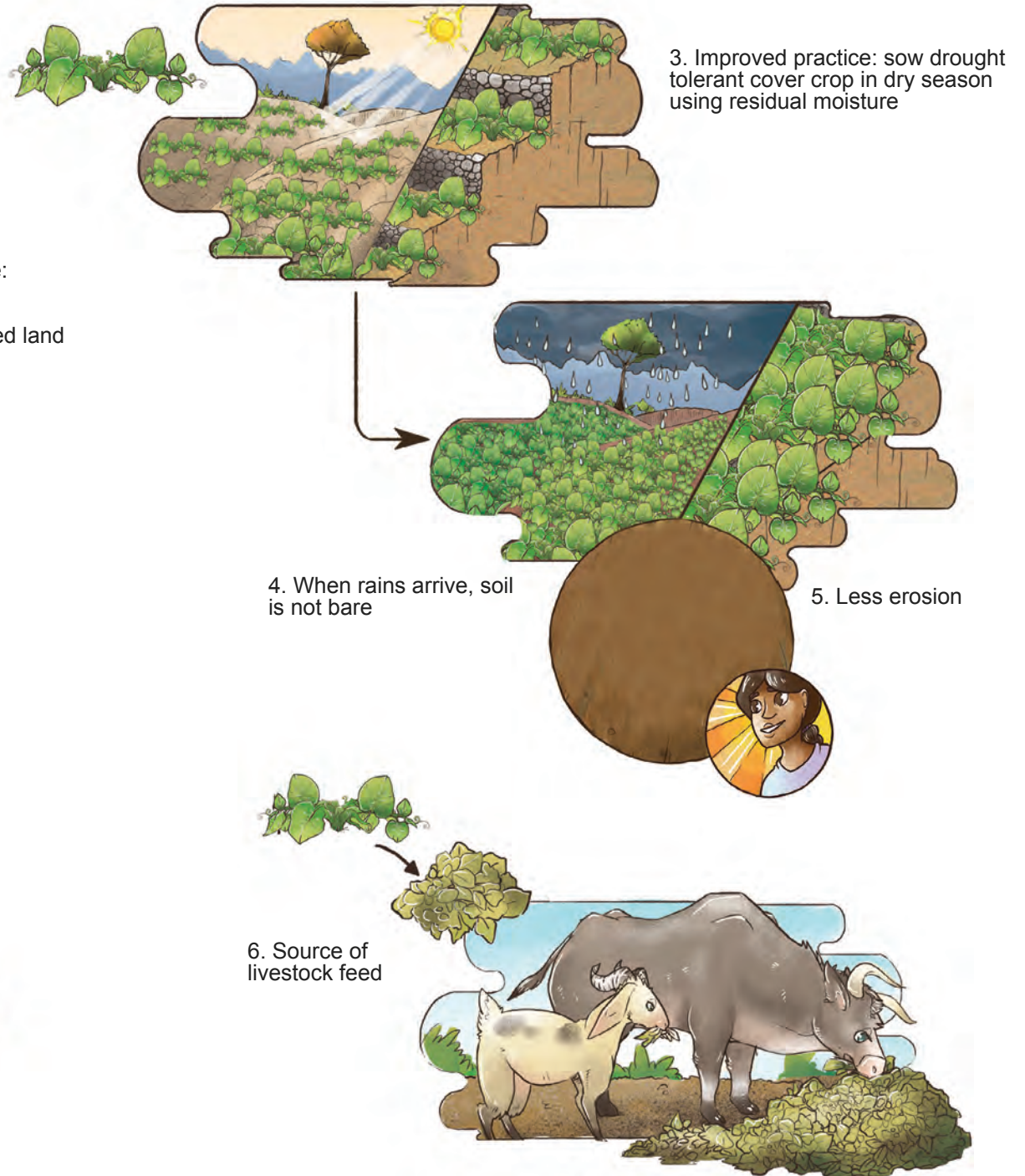
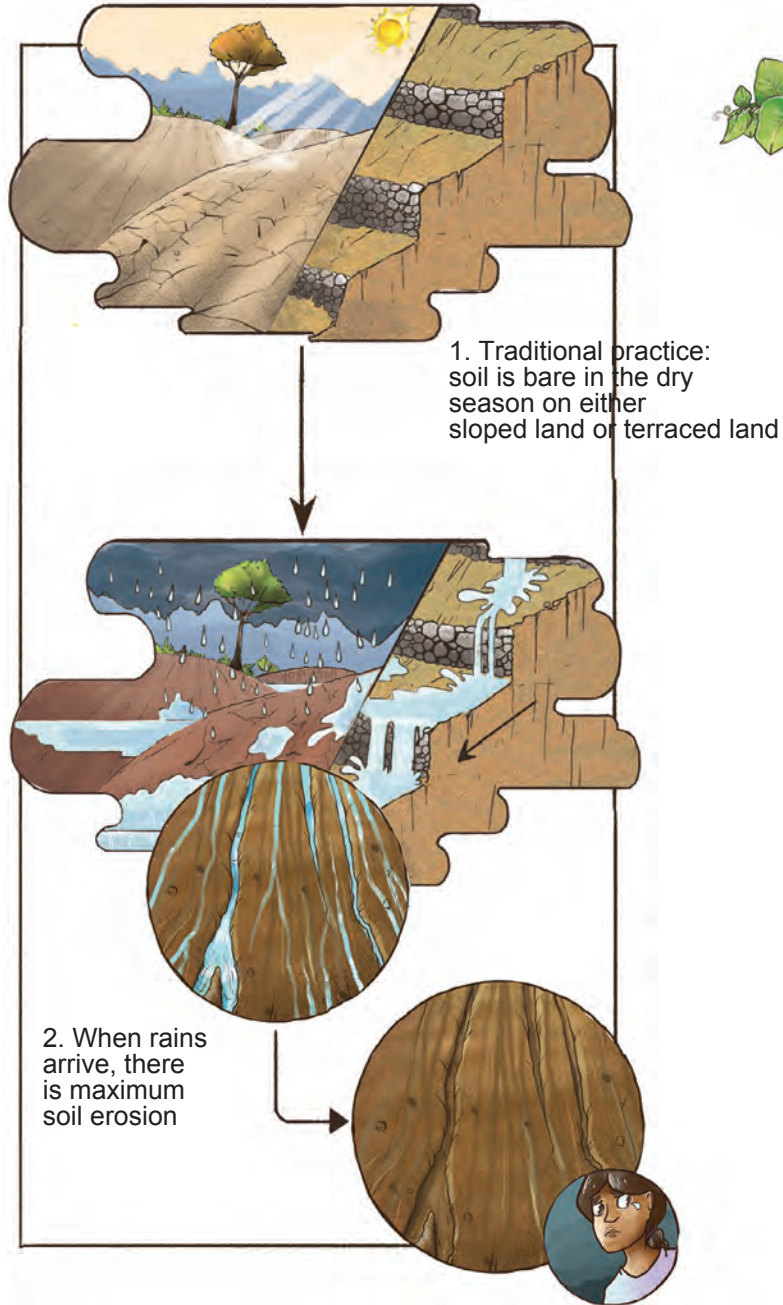
4. Less erosion since  
forage grass roots grab soil

5. Forage  
grass can  
be fed to  
livestock





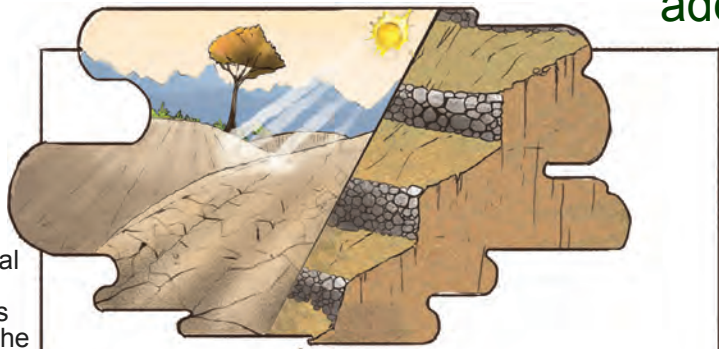
# Lesson: Sowing a spreading type cover crop prior to the transition between the dry season and the wet season will reduce soil erosion and provide livestock feed in the dry season



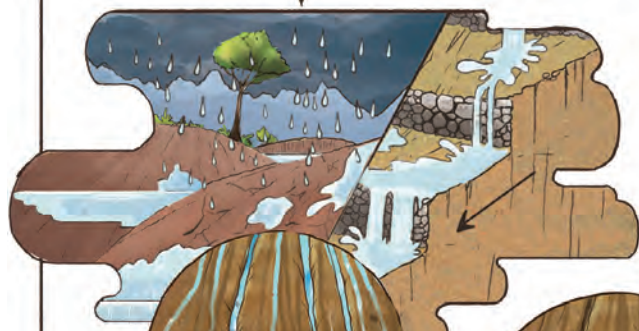


# Lesson: Planting vetch in the dry season will reduce soil erosion, provide animal fodder and add nutrients to soil.

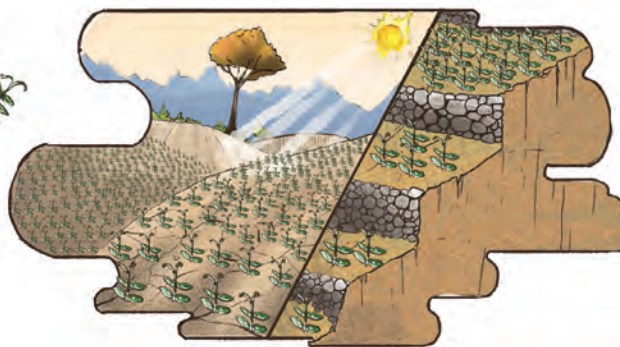
1. Traditional practice: nothing is sown in the dry season



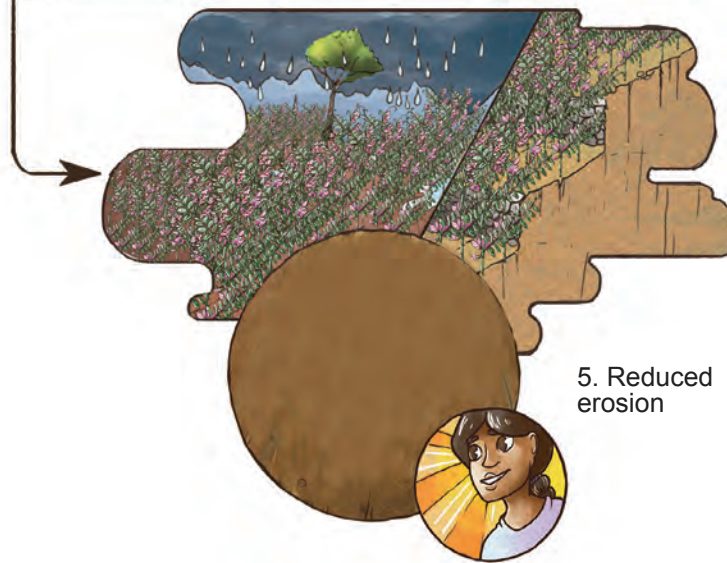
2. Soil erosion when first rain arrives



3. Little animal fodder in the dry season



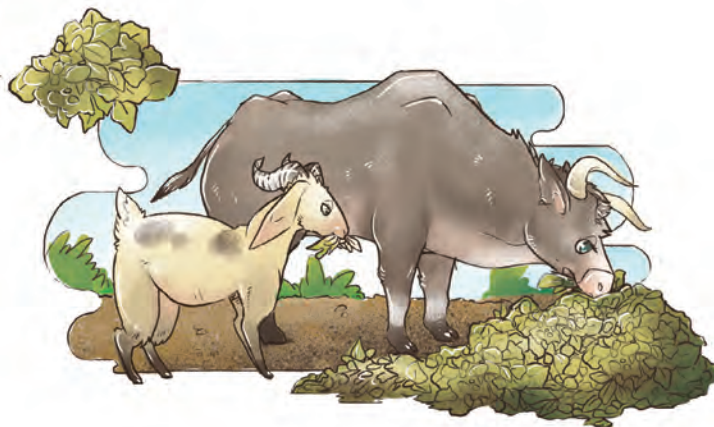
4. Improved practice: sow vetch prior to the beginning of the rainy season



5. Reduced erosion



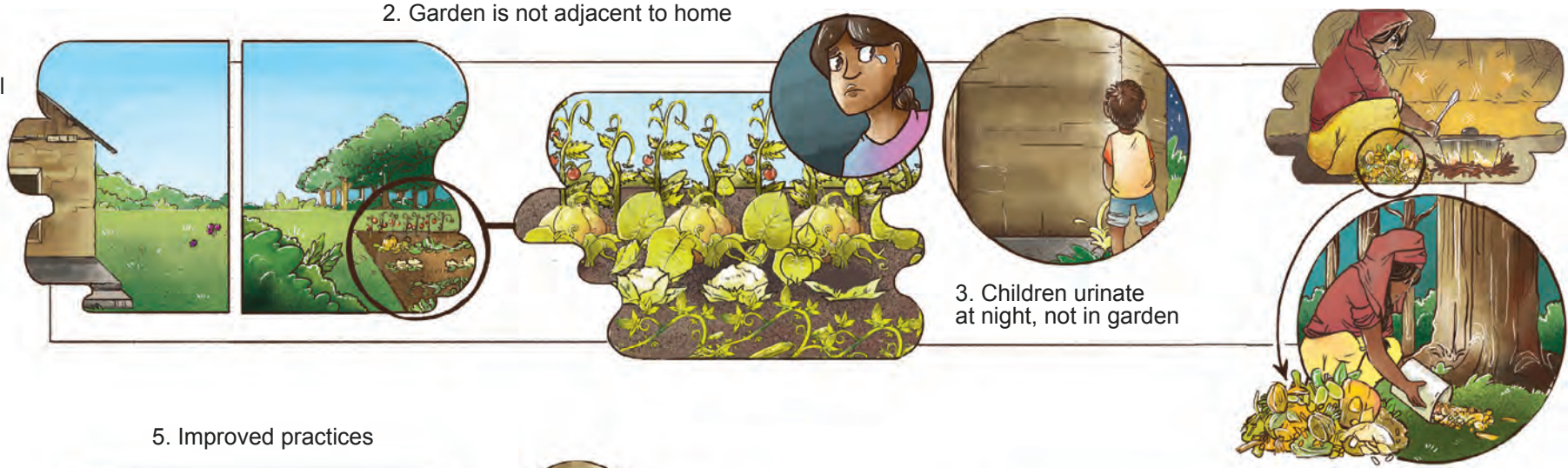
6. Good animal fodder in dry season





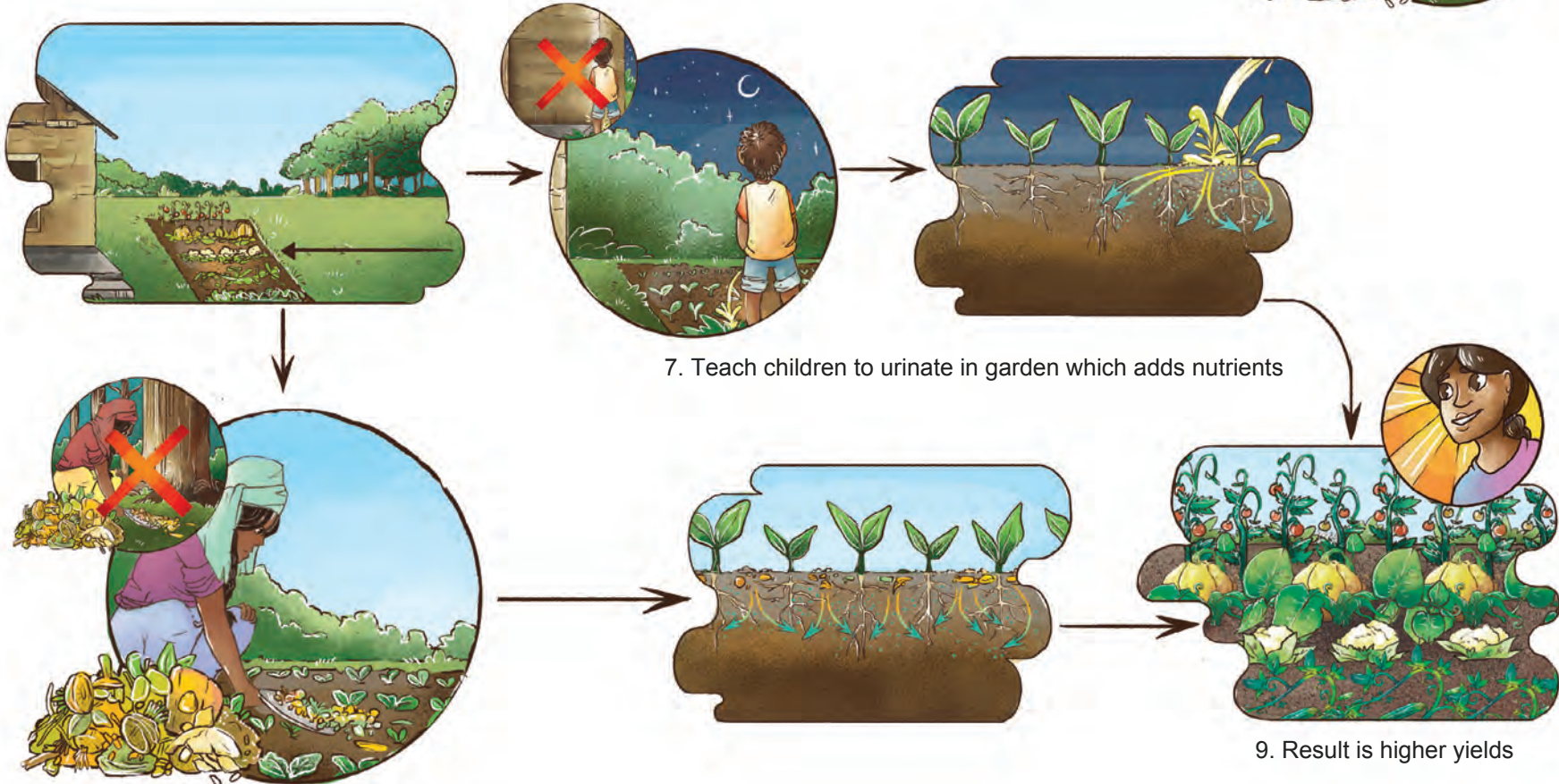
# Lesson: Simple practices can improve yields of home gardens

1. Less ideal practices cause low yield



5. Improved practices

6. Shifting garden adjacent to home increases yields

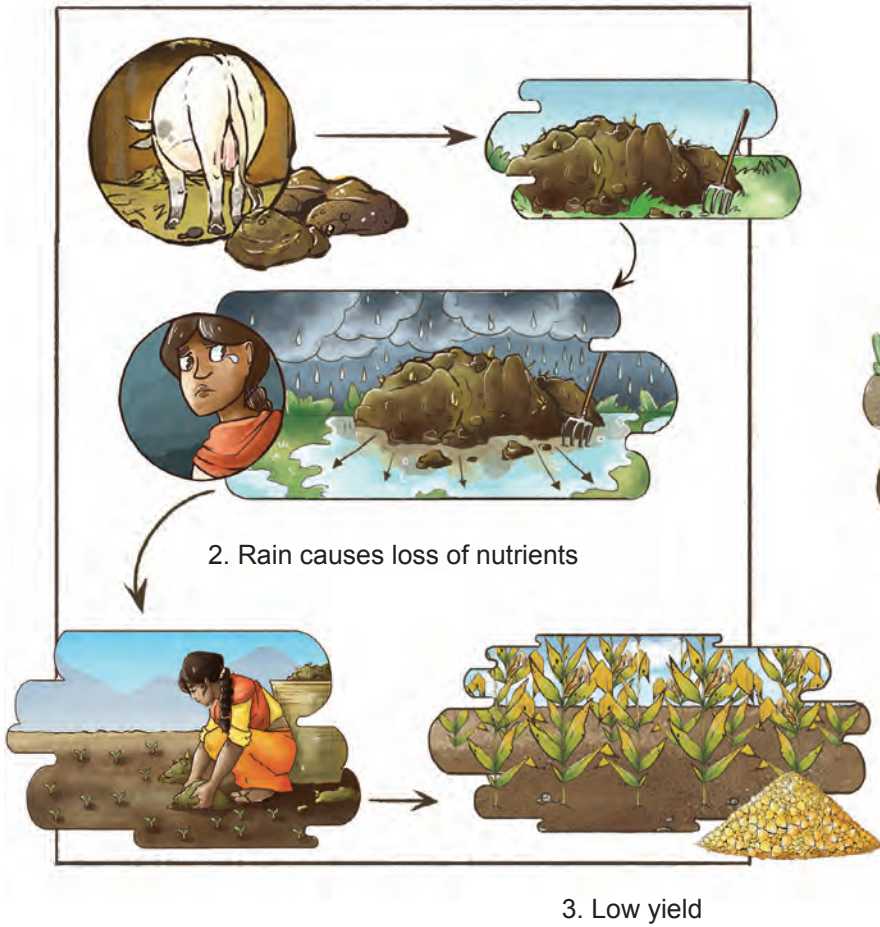


8. Add kitchen waste to garden which adds nutrients as it decomposes

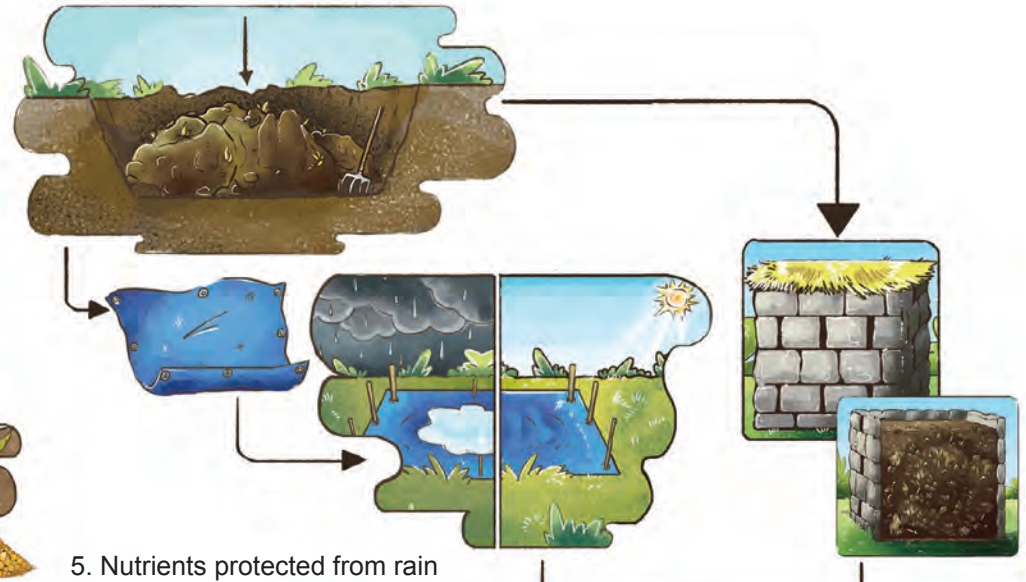


# Lesson: Covering manure from rain will prevent loss of its nutrients

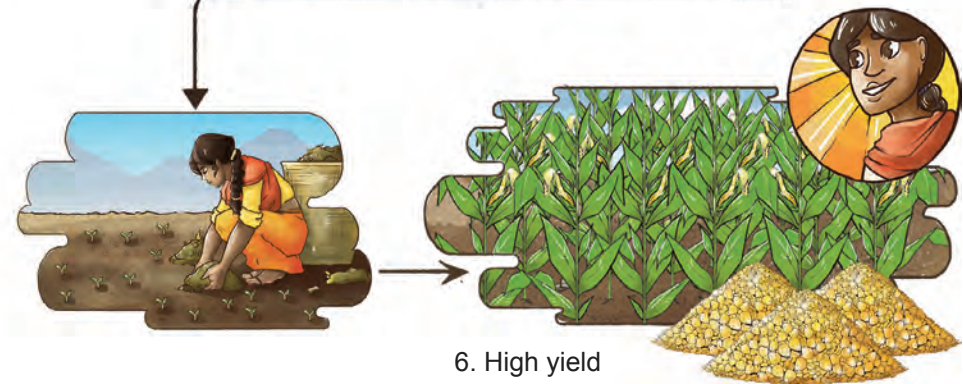
1. Traditional practice of storing manure in the open on the ground



4. Improved practices: store manure in pit or inside mud/stone walls and cover

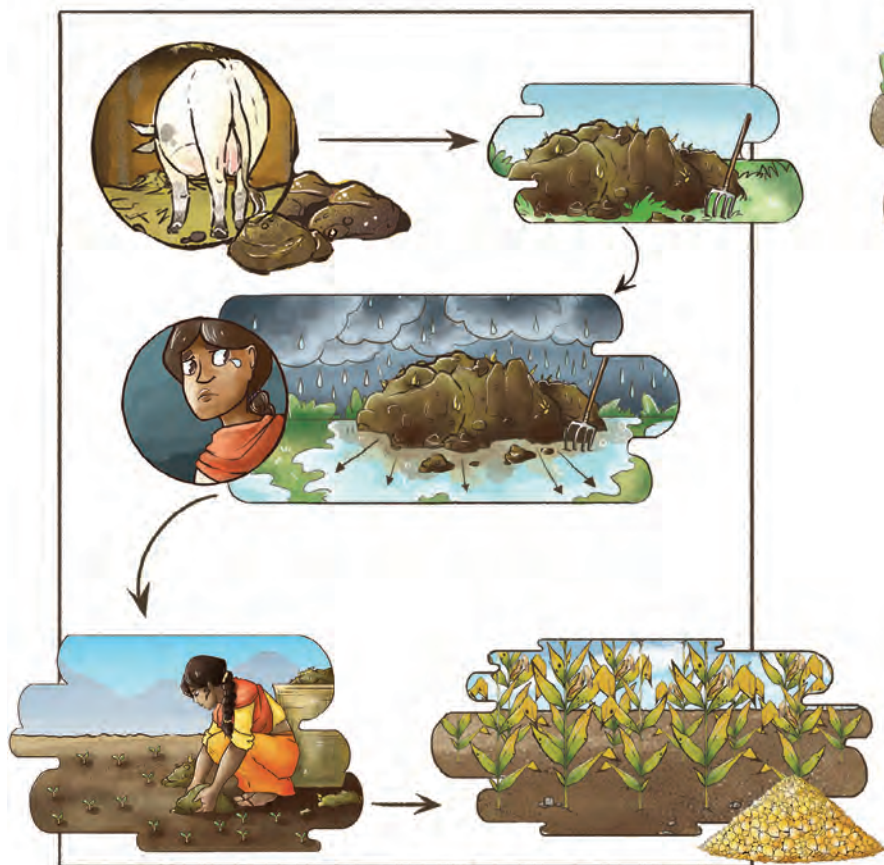


5. Nutrients protected from rain



# Lesson: Covering manure from rain will prevent loss of its nutrients

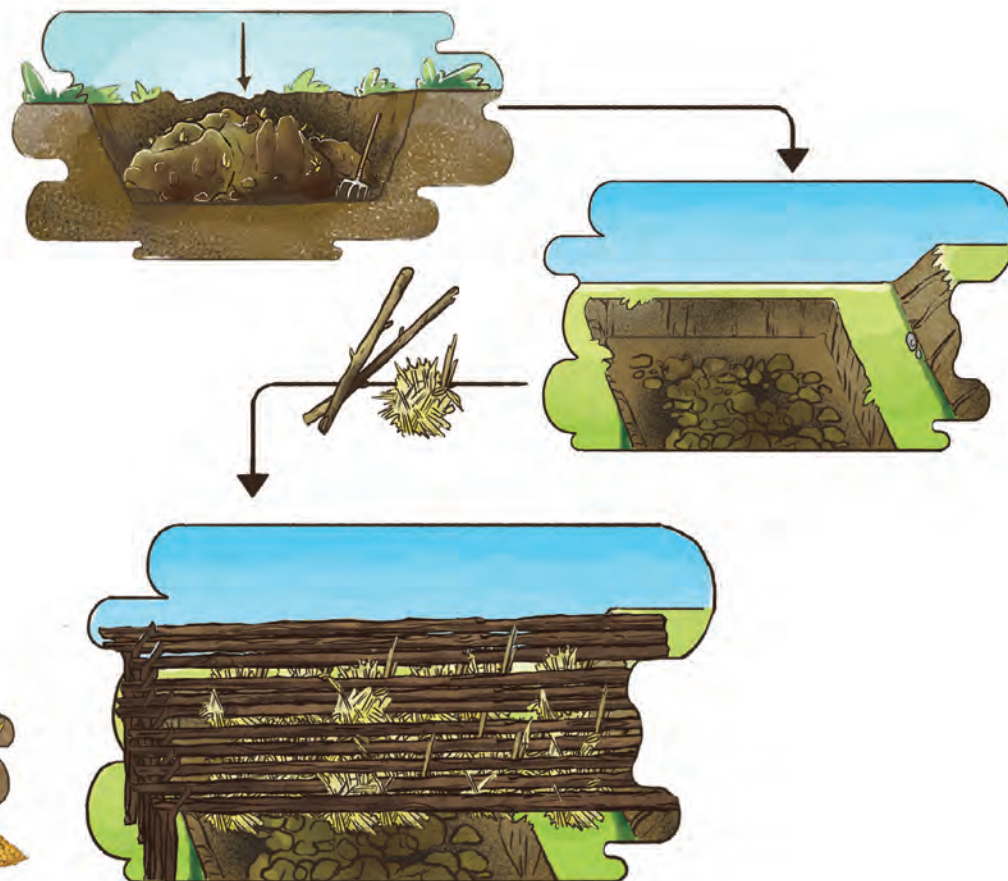
1. Traditional practice of storing manure in the open on the ground



2. Rain causes loss of nutrients

3. Low yield

4. Improved practices: store manure in pit and cover with wood and thatch



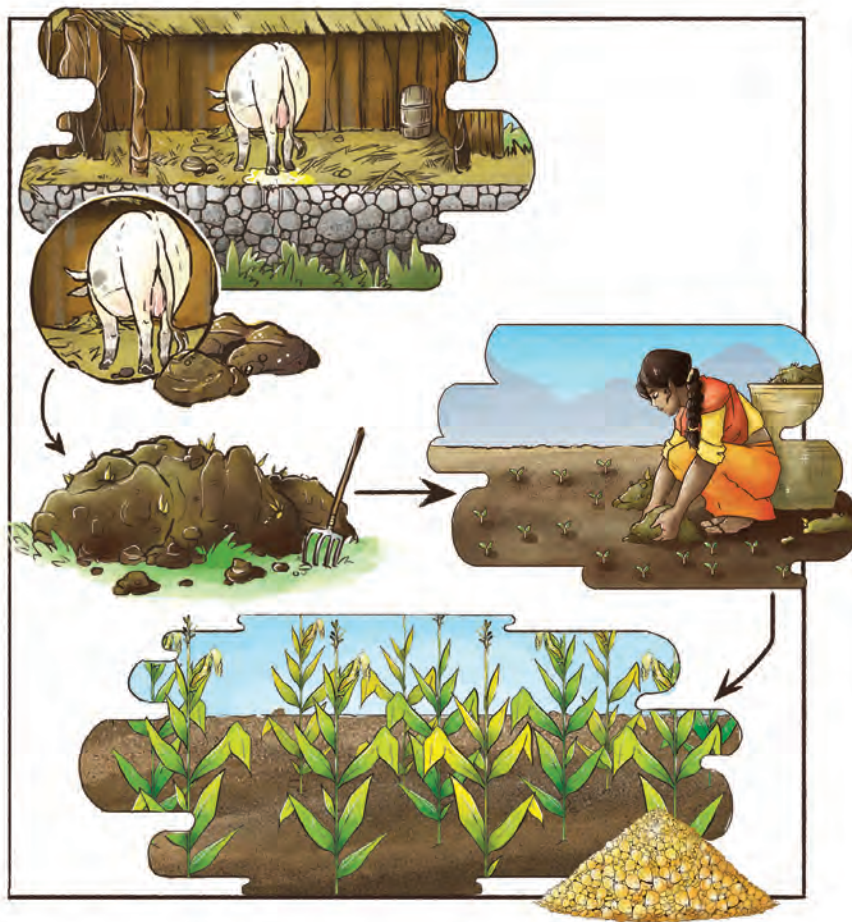
5. Nutrients protected from rain

6. High yield

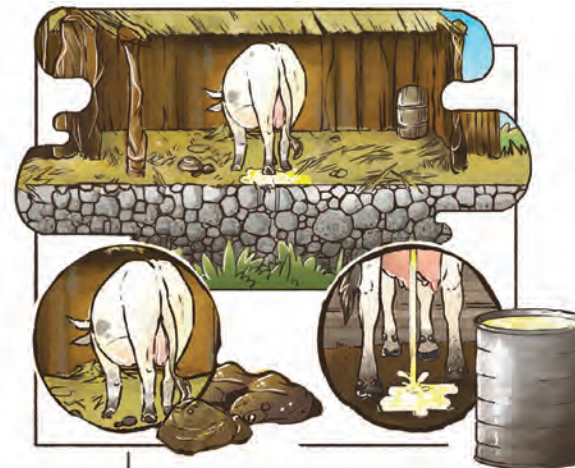


# Lesson: There are methods to improve the nutrients of manure (Part 1)

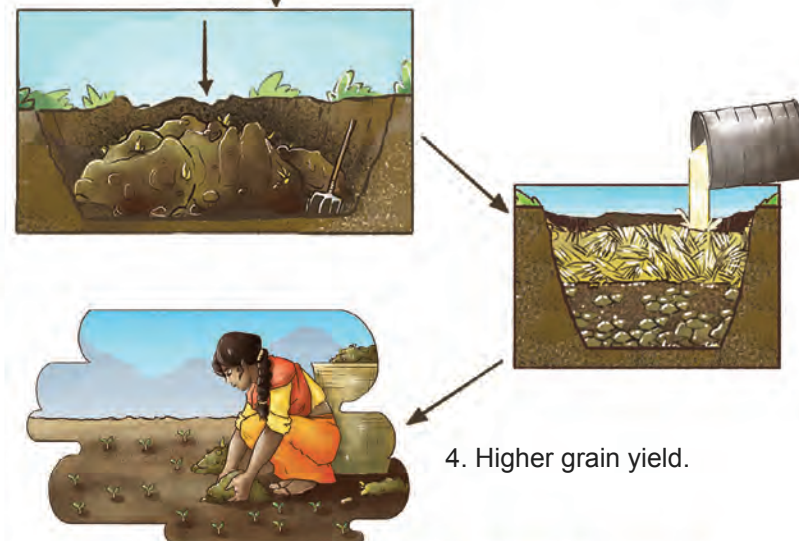
1. Traditional practice: livestock urine is not collected



2. Manure gives lower grain yield.



3. New practice: combine urine with manure



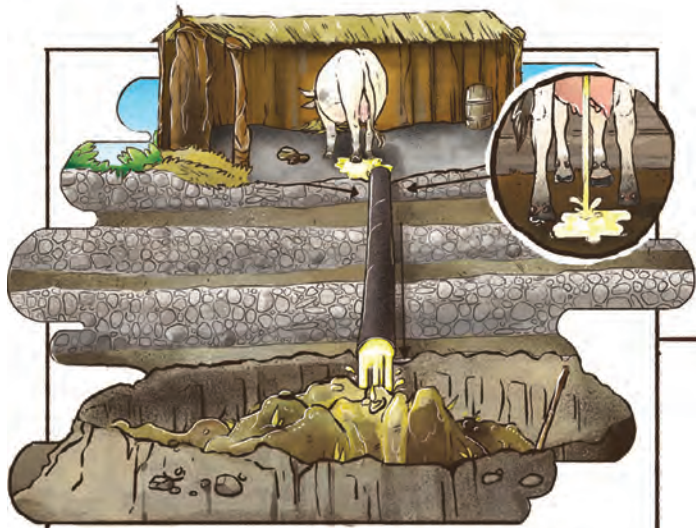
4. Higher grain yield.



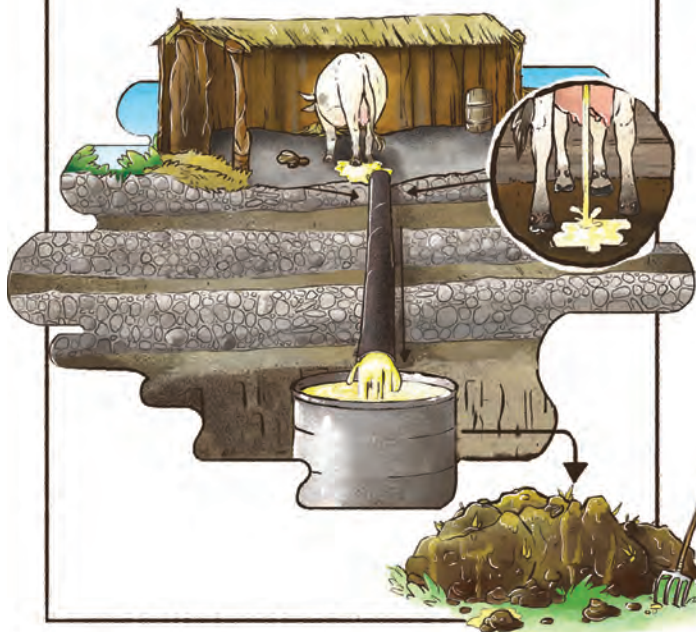


# Lesson: There are methods to improve the nutrients of manure (Part 2)

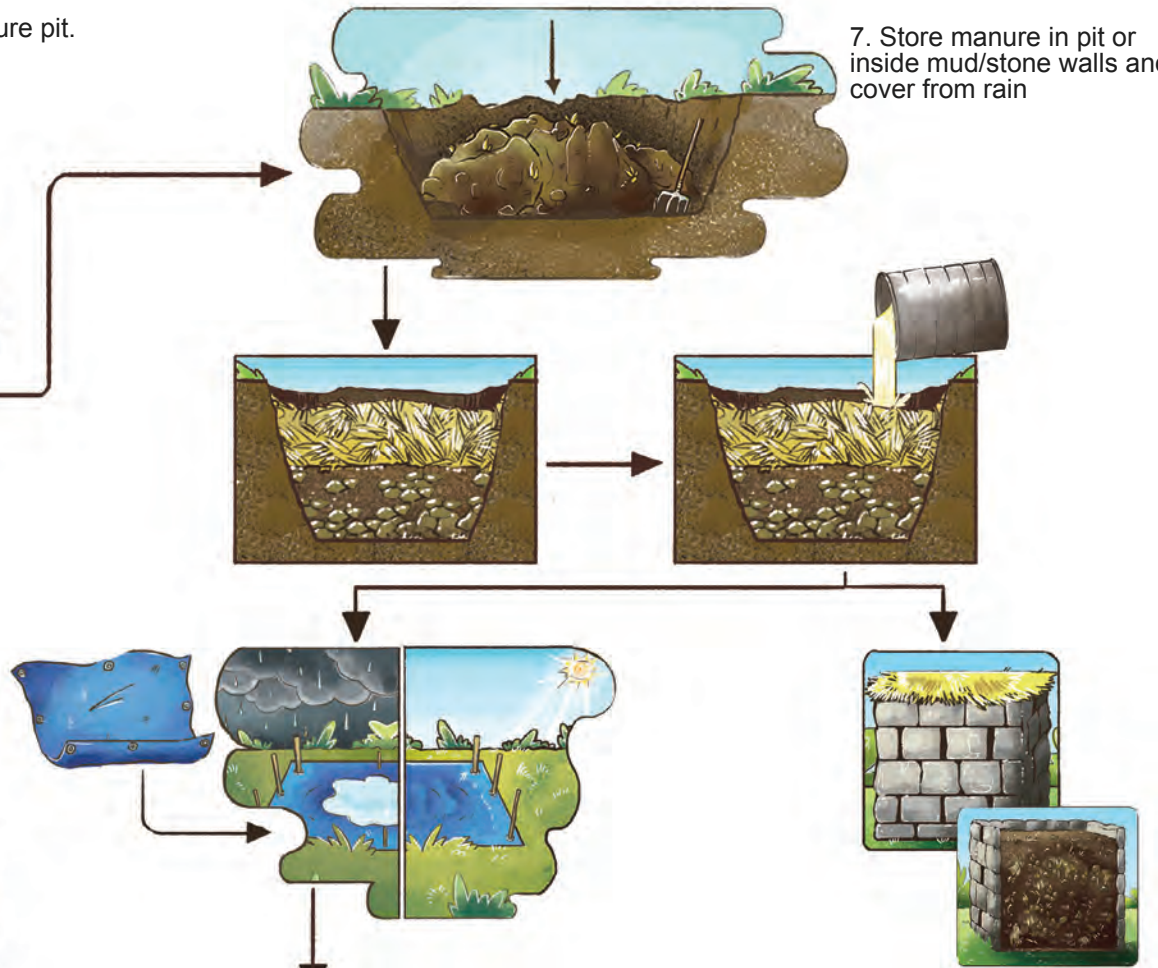
5. Collect urine by using concrete floor that is sloped towards a pipe, and empties into the manure pit.



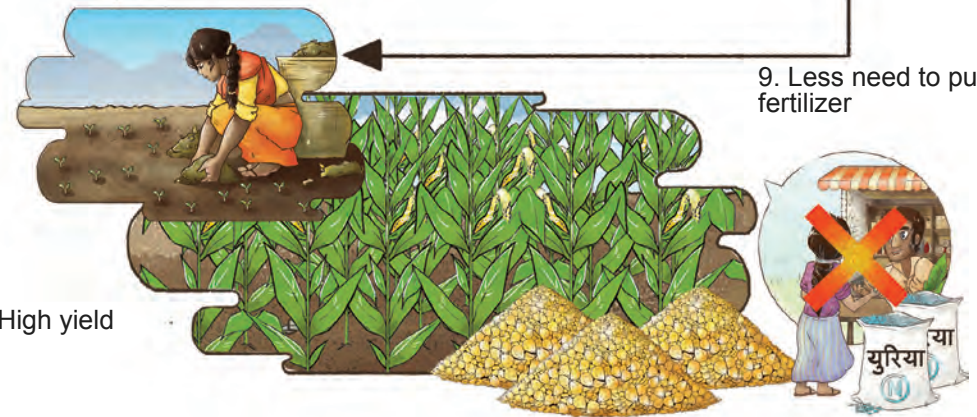
6. Alternative: urine pipe can go to a drum from which urine can be added to manure



7. Store manure in pit or inside mud/stone walls and cover from rain



8. High yield



9. Less need to purchase fertilizer



# Lesson: Adding manure in layers with straw and soil in a container or pit will improve its nutrients

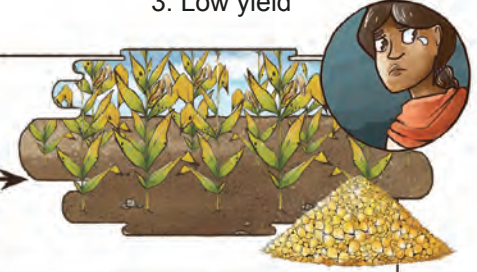
1. Traditional practice is to collect manure and store on ground or in pit



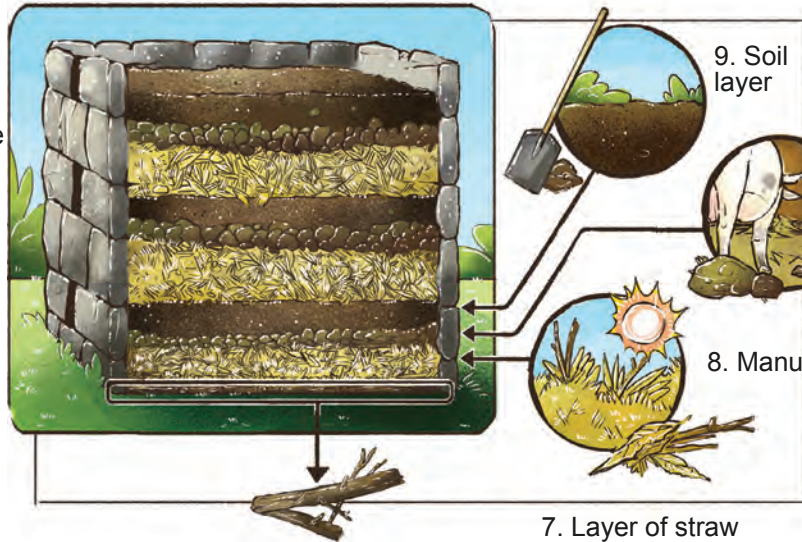
2. Spread manure



3. Low yield



4. Improved practice is to store manure inside walls, elevated, with repeating layers of straw, manure and soil



9. Soil layer

8. Manure layer

7. Layer of straw

10. Optional: purchase thermometer at vendor and place in heap

11. If heap was built properly, it should become hotter over a period of weeks.

12. Let compost incubate for several weeks



6. Bottom should be sticks to prevent water from soaking up



13. Spread in field



14. Higher yields





# Lesson: Adding manure in layers with straw and soil in a container or pit will improve its nutrients (continued)

15. Every few weeks, check compost heap

17. If clump is very wet, then mix heap from top to bottom

16. Clump with hand

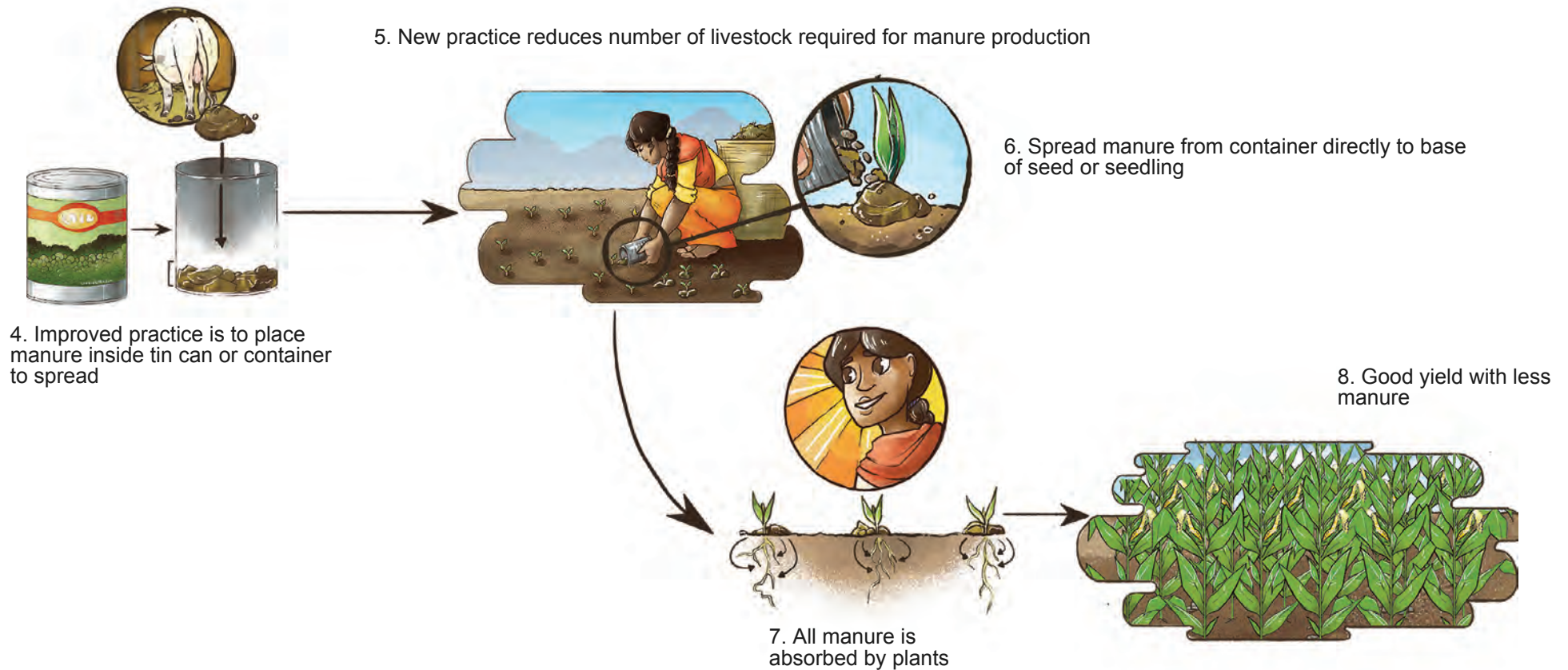
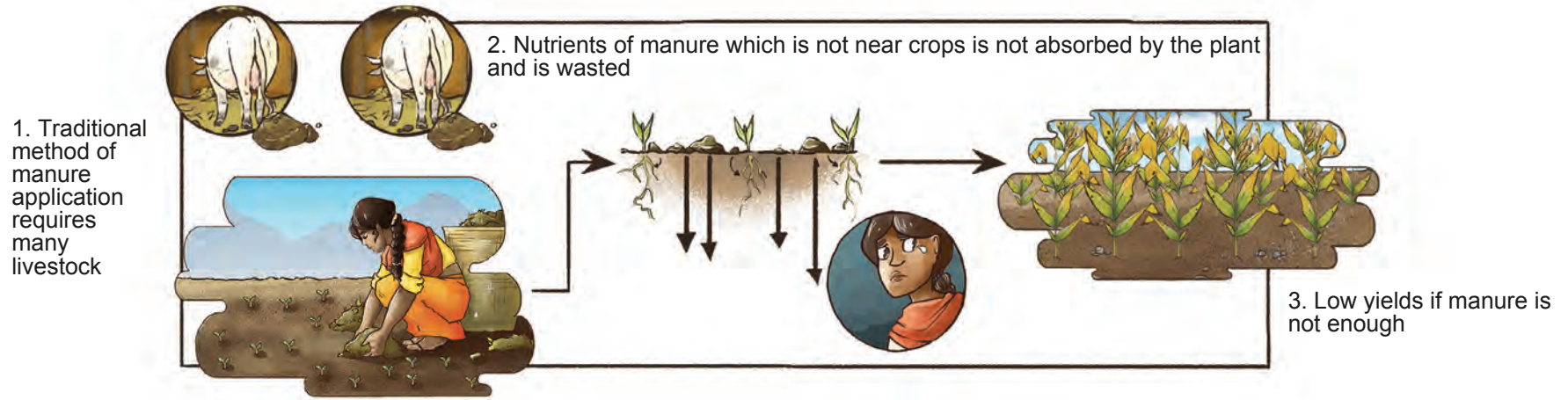


18. If the clump does not stick into a ball, then add water

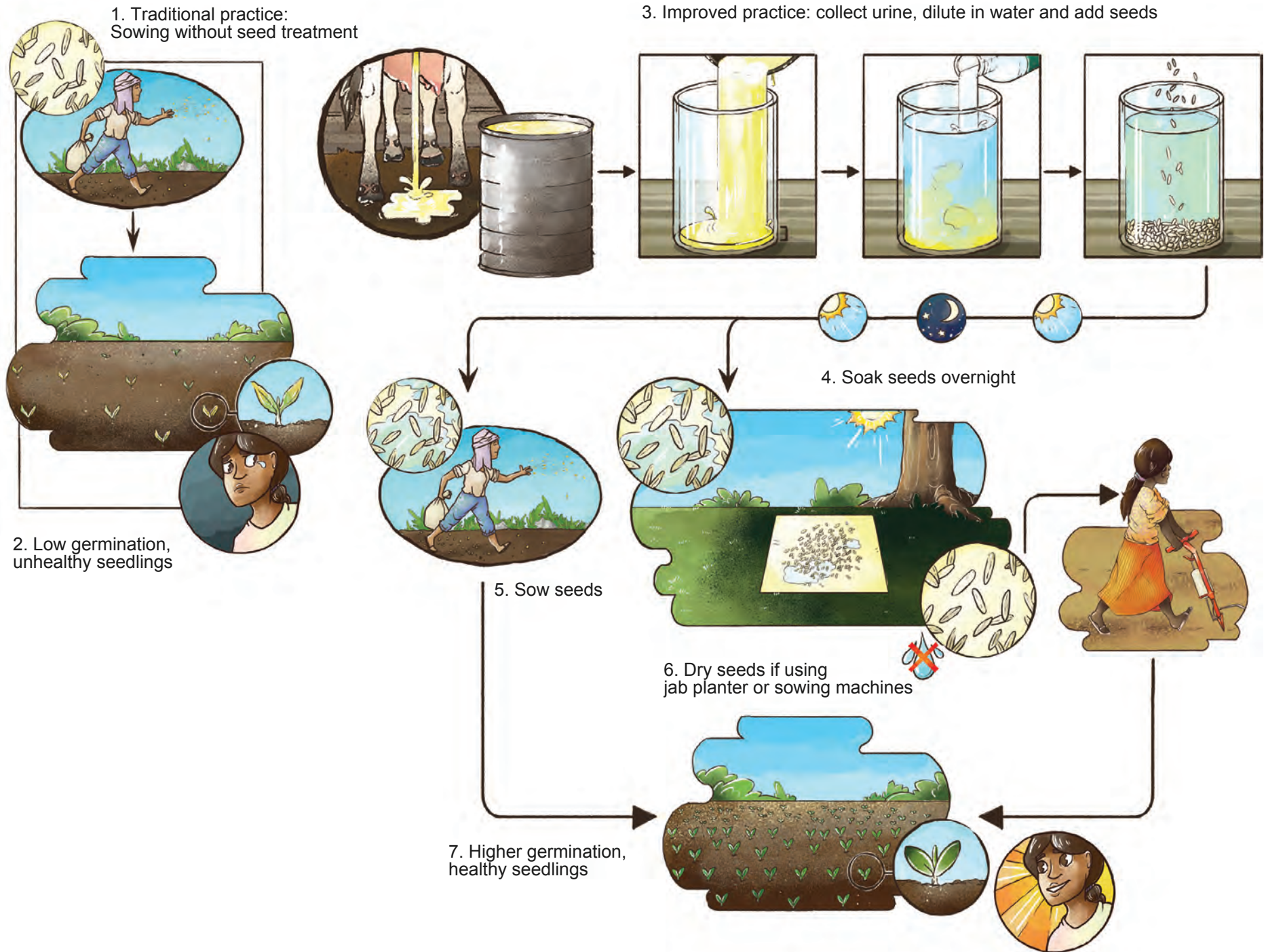




# Lesson: Rather than traditional method of spreading manure, adding small amounts of manure directly to each seedling will reduce the total quantity of manure required



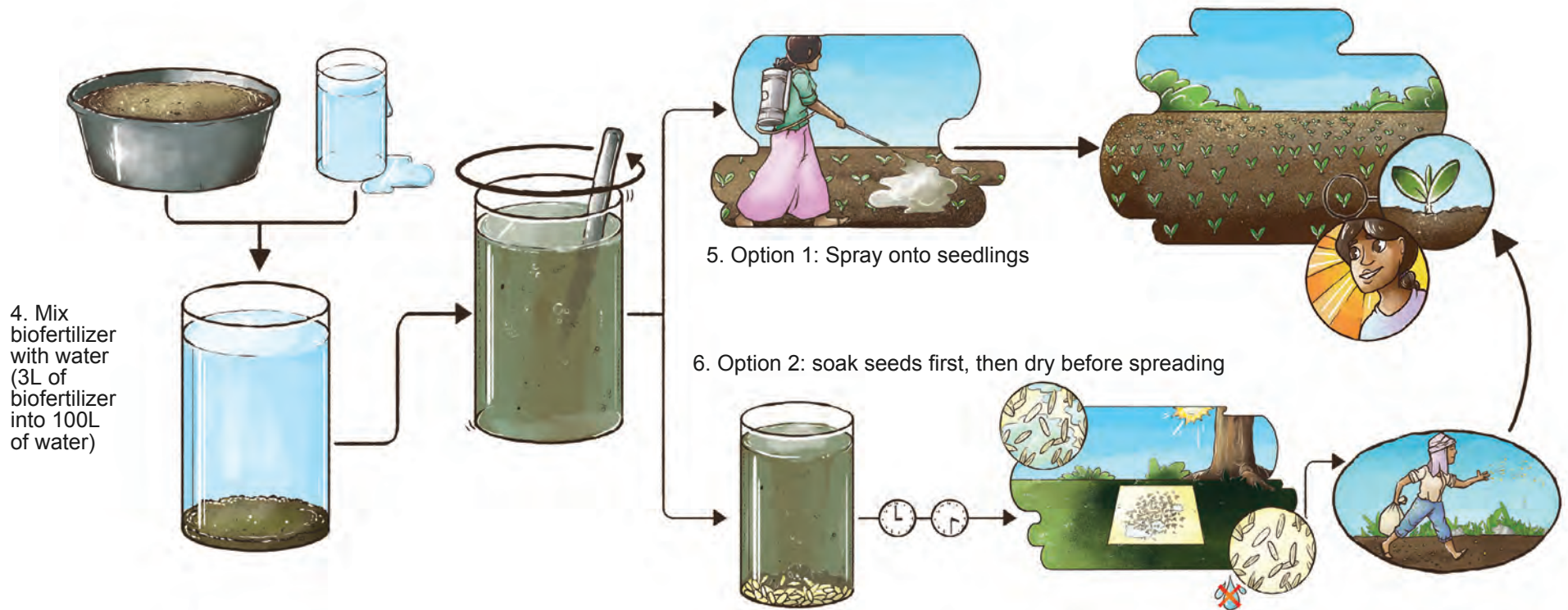
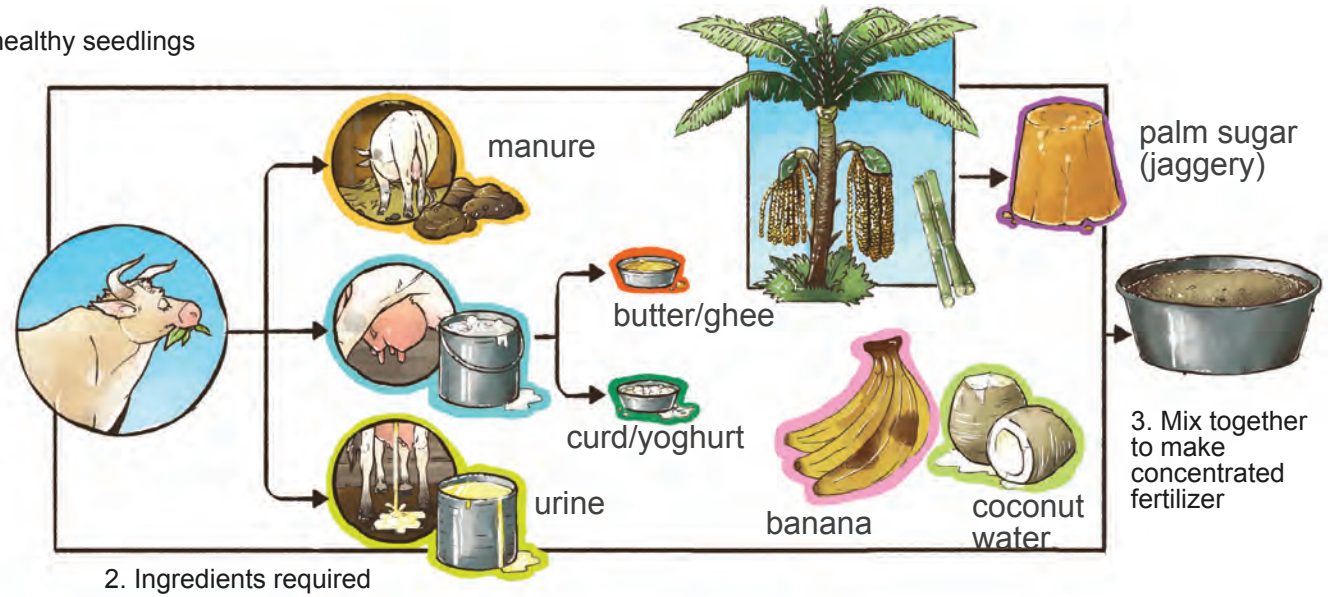
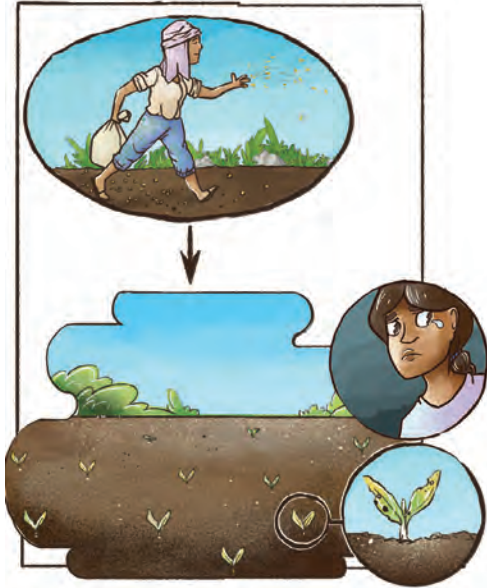
# Lesson: Treatment of seeds with livestock urine will improve seed germination and health





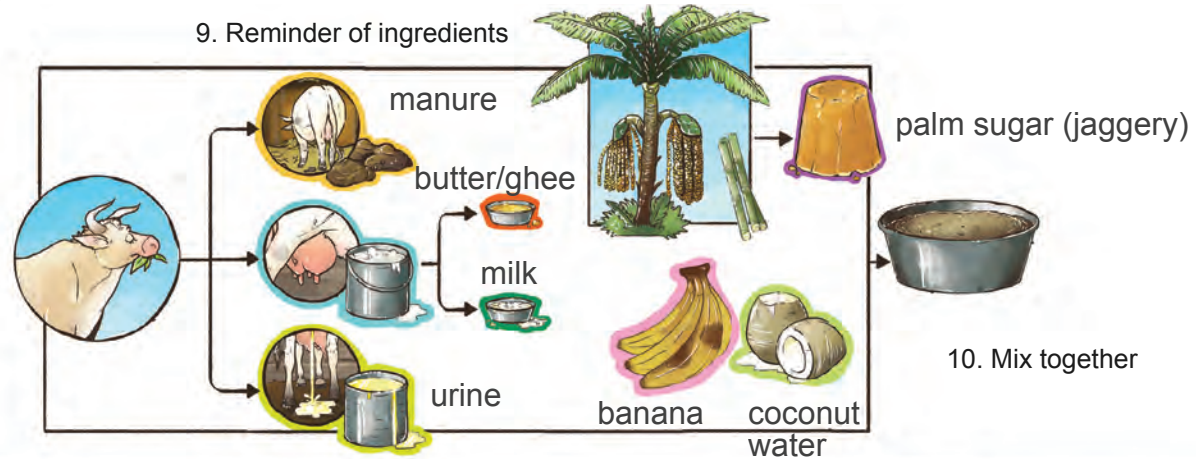
# Lesson: An indigenous biofertilizer improves germination and improves seedling health (panchakavya) (part I)

1. Traditional practice: Low germination, unhealthy seedlings



# Lesson: An indigenous biofertilizer improves germination and improves seedling health (panchakavya)(part 2)

8. Details of biofertilizer recipe: Mixtures should be kept in shade and kept open but covered with a mosquito net



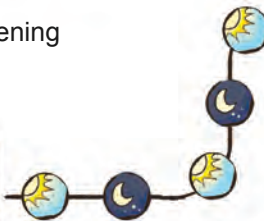
11. Mix 7kg manure and 1kg butter/ghee



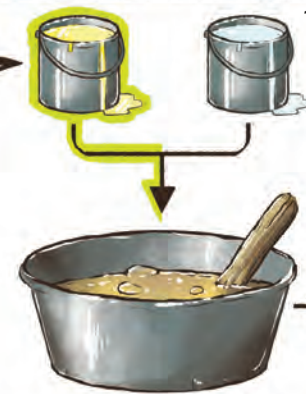
12. Mix morning and evening



13. Keep for 3 days



14. Add 10L cow urine and 10L water



15. Mix each morning and evening for 15 days



17. Incubate for 15 more days

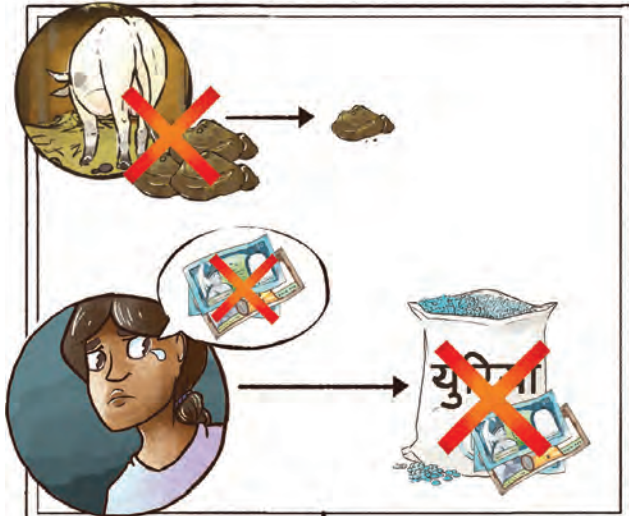


16. After 15 days, add:  
cow milk - 3L  
yoghur/curd - 2L  
fresh coconut water - 3L  
jaggery/palm sugar - 3kg  
ripe banana - 12 bananas

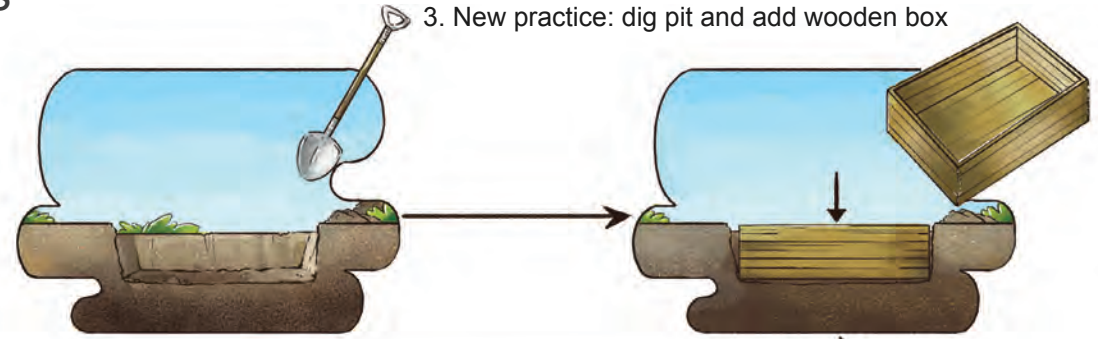


# Lesson: Manure made with the help of worms can be an alternative to livestock manure or synthetic fertilizers for home gardens

1. Traditional sources of livestock manure or synthetic fertilizer may not be available or expensive

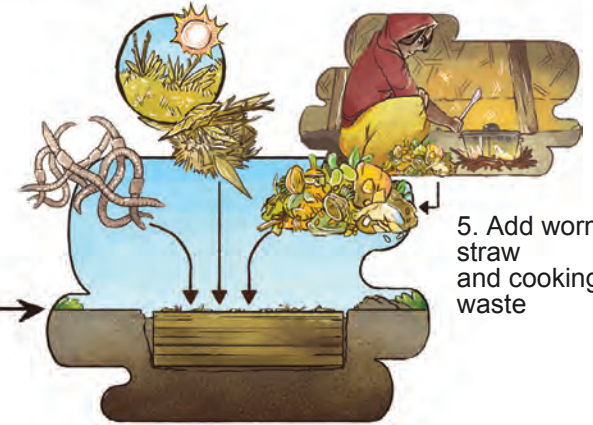


2. Low yields



3. New practice: dig pit and add wooden box

4. Collect earthworms after rain



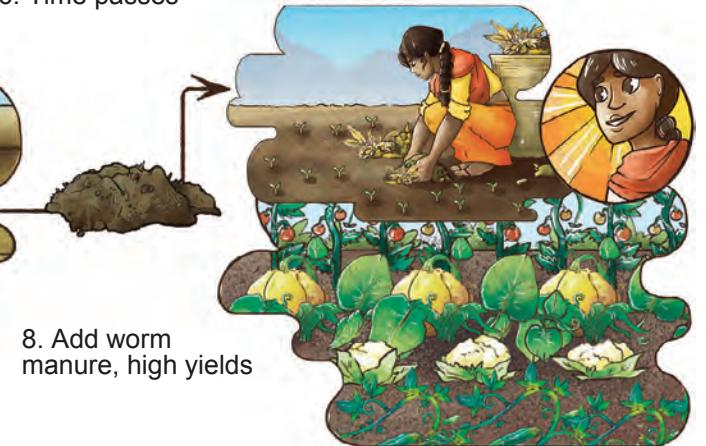
5. Add worms, straw and cooking waste

6. Time passes



7. Worms will eat straw and waste and convert to manure

8. Add worm manure, high yields

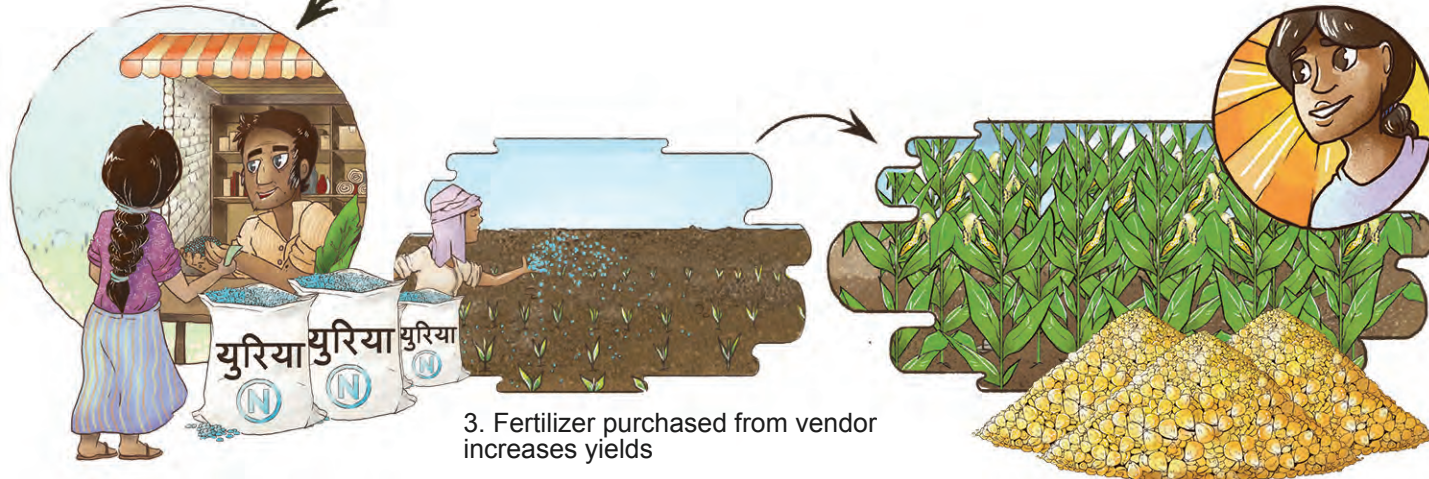
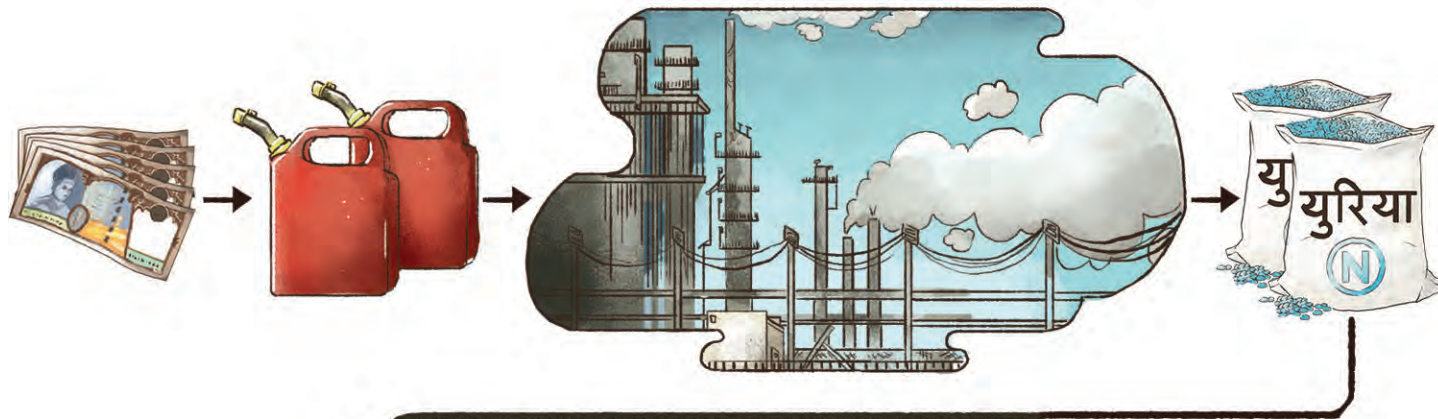




# Lesson: Synthetic nitrogen fertilizer raises crop yields



2. Synthetic nitrogen fertilizer is created in factories using natural gas or petrol, hence when petrol prices increase, fertilizer price will increase

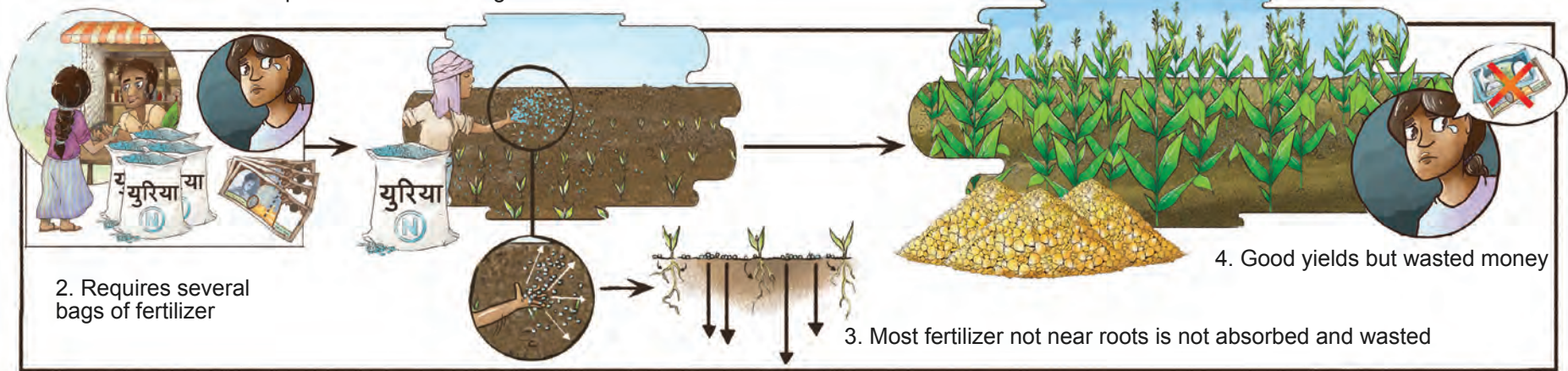


3. Fertilizer purchased from vendor increases yields

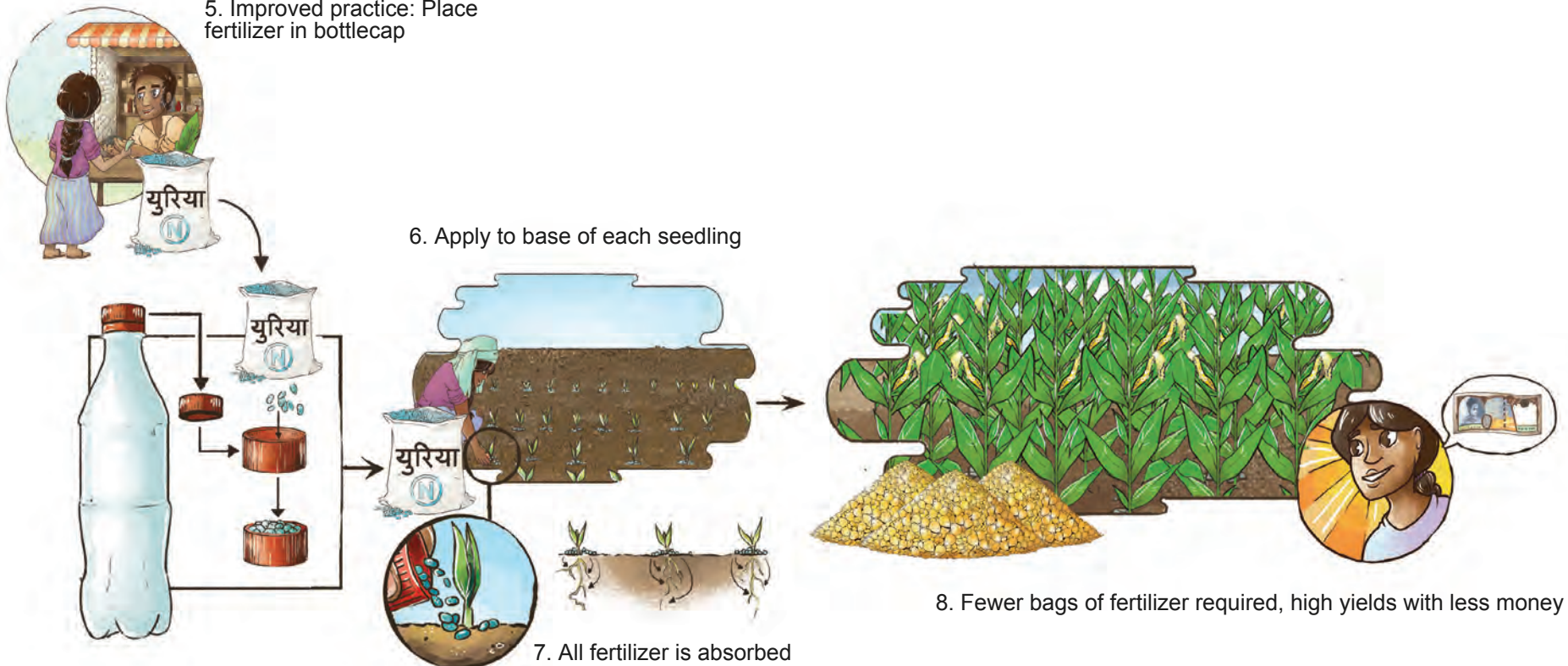


# Lesson: Rather than random broadcasting of fertilizer, adding small amounts using a bottle cap directly to each seed or seedling reduces the total amount of fertilizer required

1. Traditional practice: broadcasting fertilizer



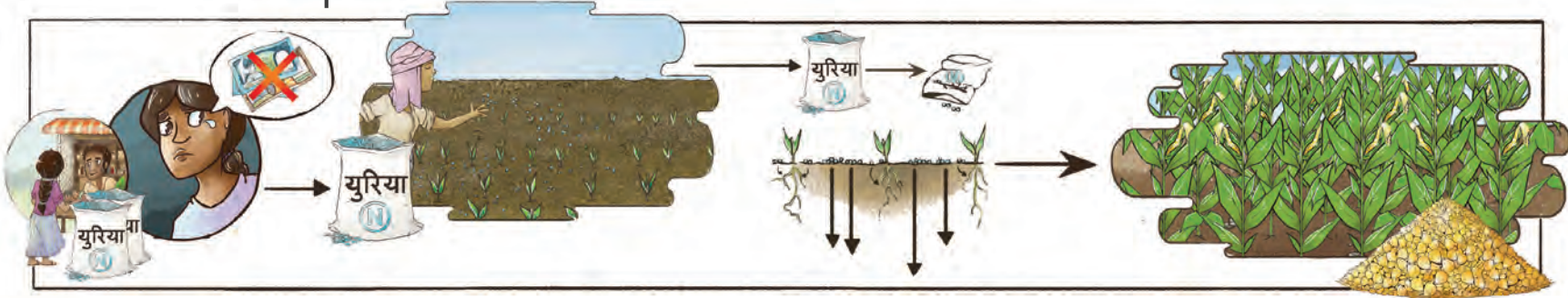
5. Improved practice: Place fertilizer in bottlecap





# Lesson: Rather than applying all fertilizer in a single dose, splitting the doses will reduce the amount of fertilizer required

1. Traditional practice of applying fertilizer in a single dose



2. Plants are small and will not absorb fertilizer

3. Money wasted, lower yield

4. Improved practice is initially apply only 1/2 or 1/3 bag of fertilizer



5. At a later stage, apply remaining fertilizer



6. All fertilizer is absorbed

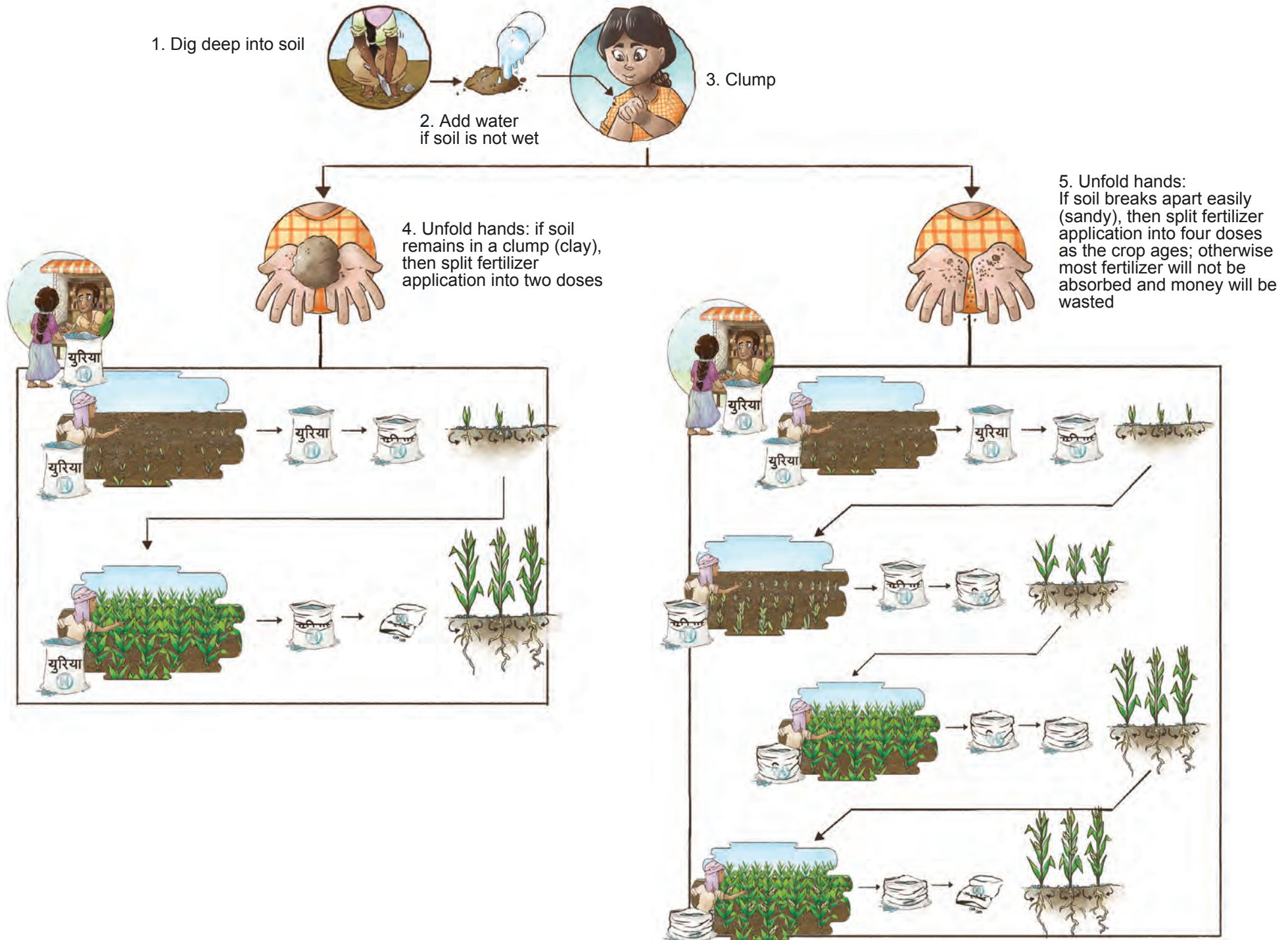


7. High yields with less fertilizer and hence less money



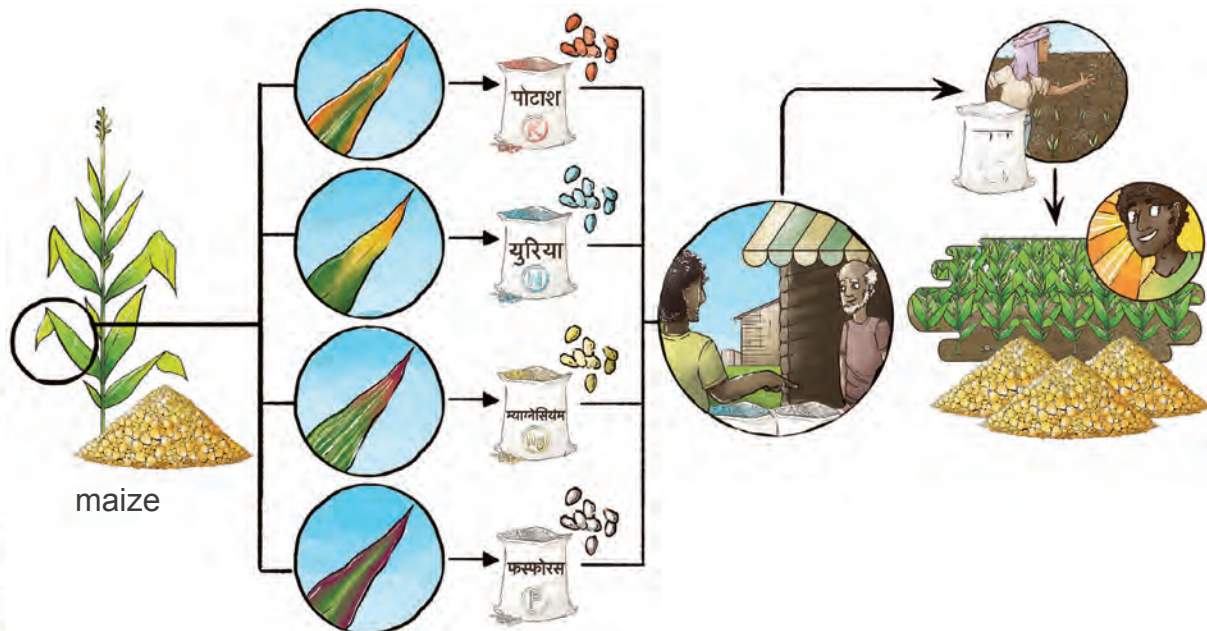


# Lesson: Artificial fertilizers should be applied differently on different soil-texture types

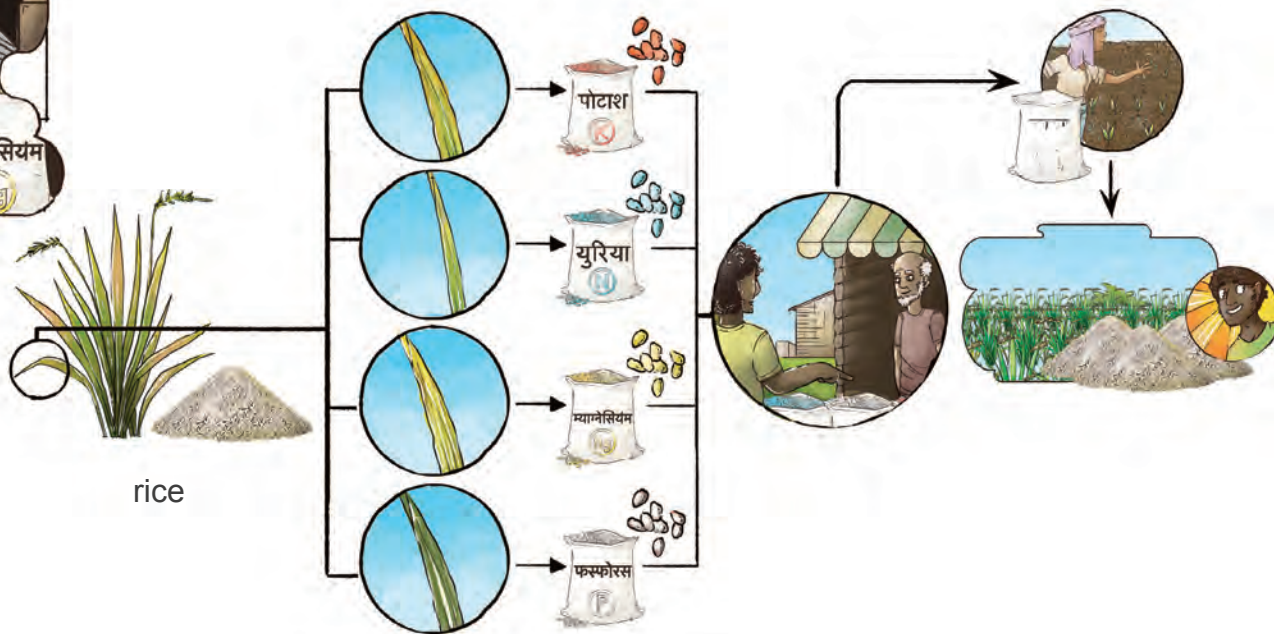


# Lesson: A colour change in crop leaves can potentially indicate that one type of fertilizer is lacking

1. Traditional practice: crops are sick but the reason is unknown. To fix, a farmer purchases different fertilizers or pesticides but none may solve the problem.

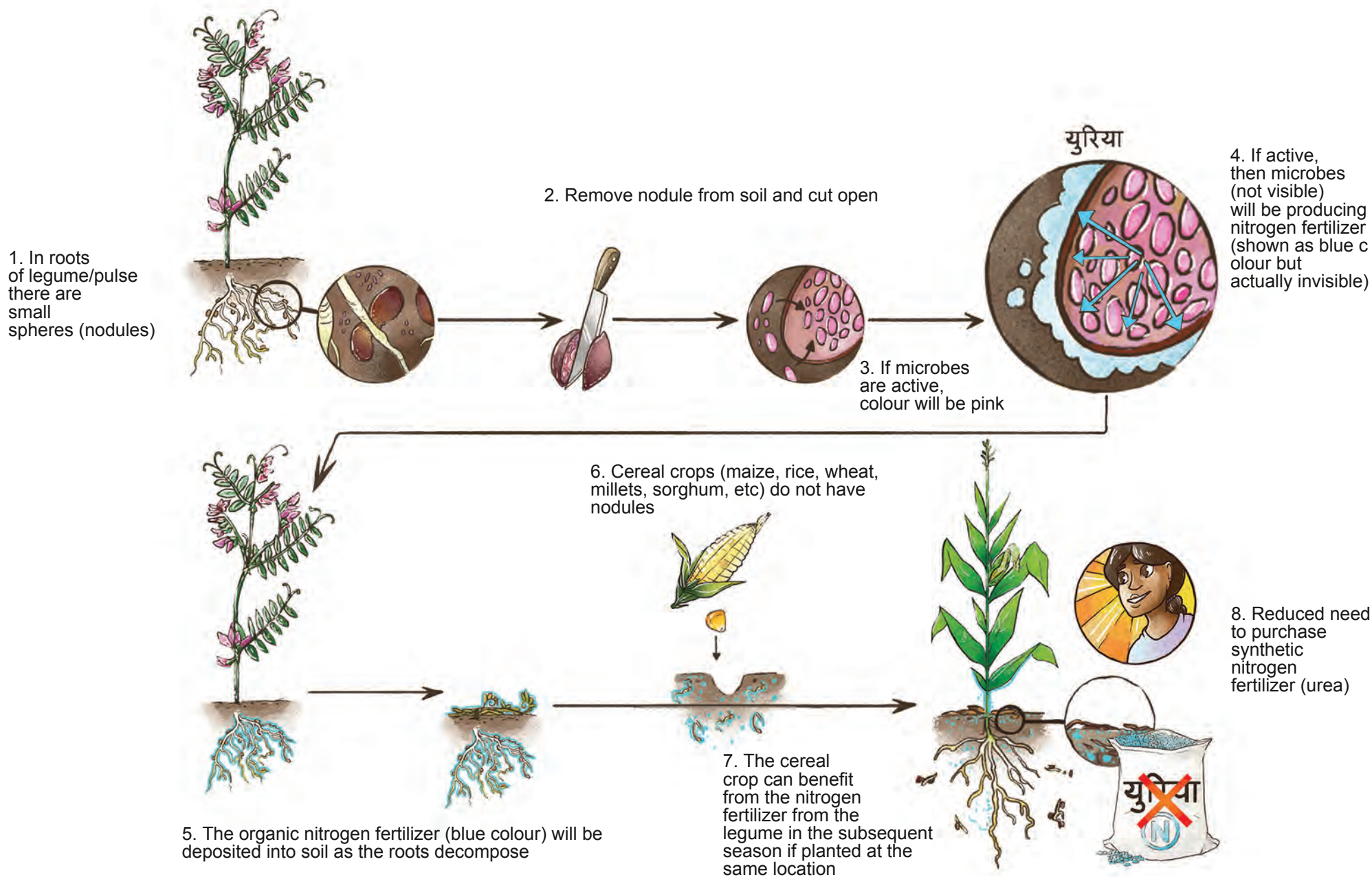


2. Improved practice is look for a change in the colour and pattern on the leaves, then purchase the appropriate fertilizer if needed to achieve good yields





Background educational lesson: A legume (bean) or pulse can produce organic nitrogen fertilizer by associating with beneficial microbes (rhizobia) that inhabit spherical organs in the roots called nodules. If active the nodules are reddish in colour.

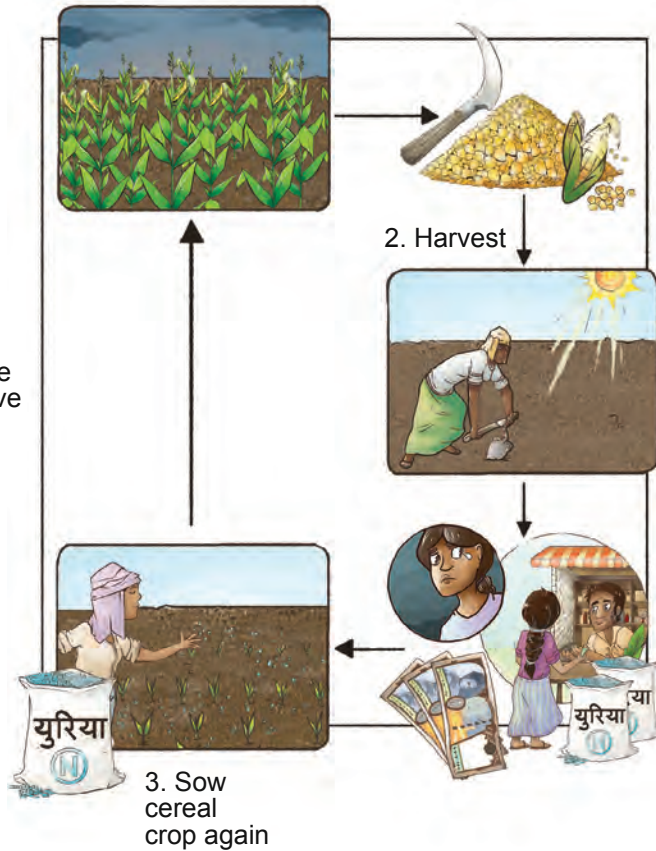


# Background educational lesson: The roots of legume and pulses have little spheres in which helpful microbes make natural nitrogen fertilizer to reduce need to purchase artificial fertilizer.

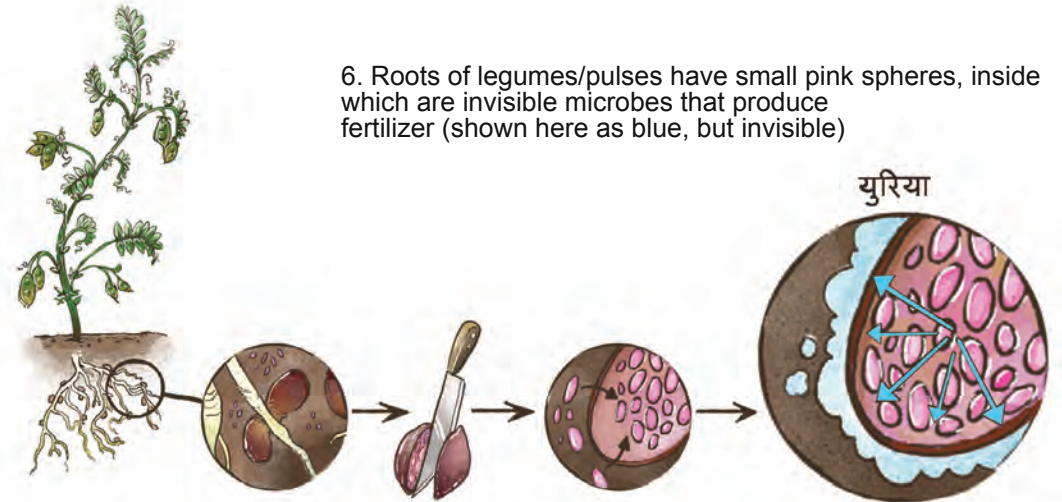
5. Improved practice: Plant legumes or pulses (e.g. lentil) as intercrop or in next season

1. Bad practice: plant sole crop of maize wheat, rice, millet in all seasons (no legumes, no pulses)

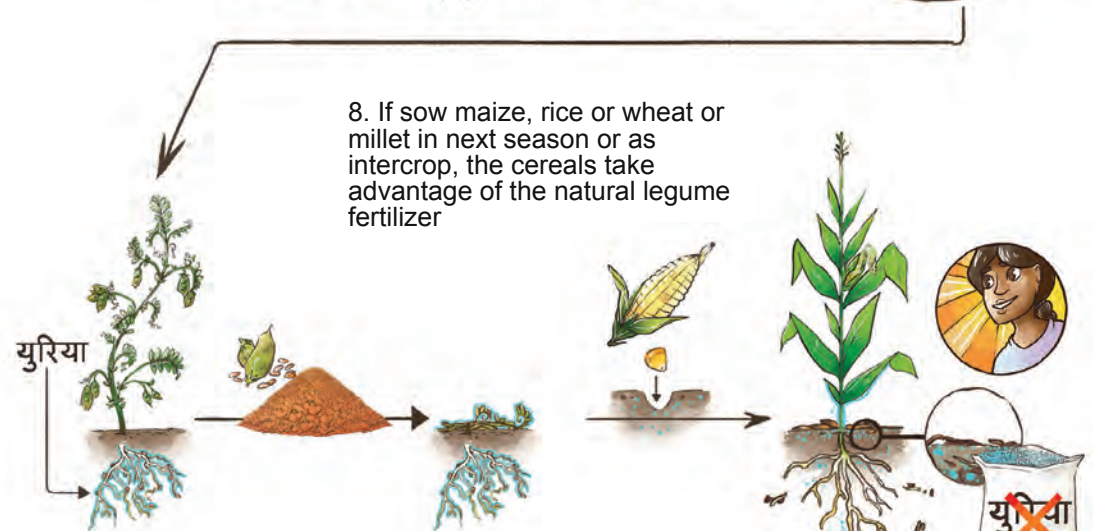
4. Must purchase expensive nitrogen fertilizer



6. Roots of legumes/pulses have small pink spheres, inside which are invisible microbes that produce fertilizer (shown here as blue, but invisible)



8. If sow maize, rice or wheat or millet in next season or as intercrop, the cereals take advantage of the natural legume fertilizer



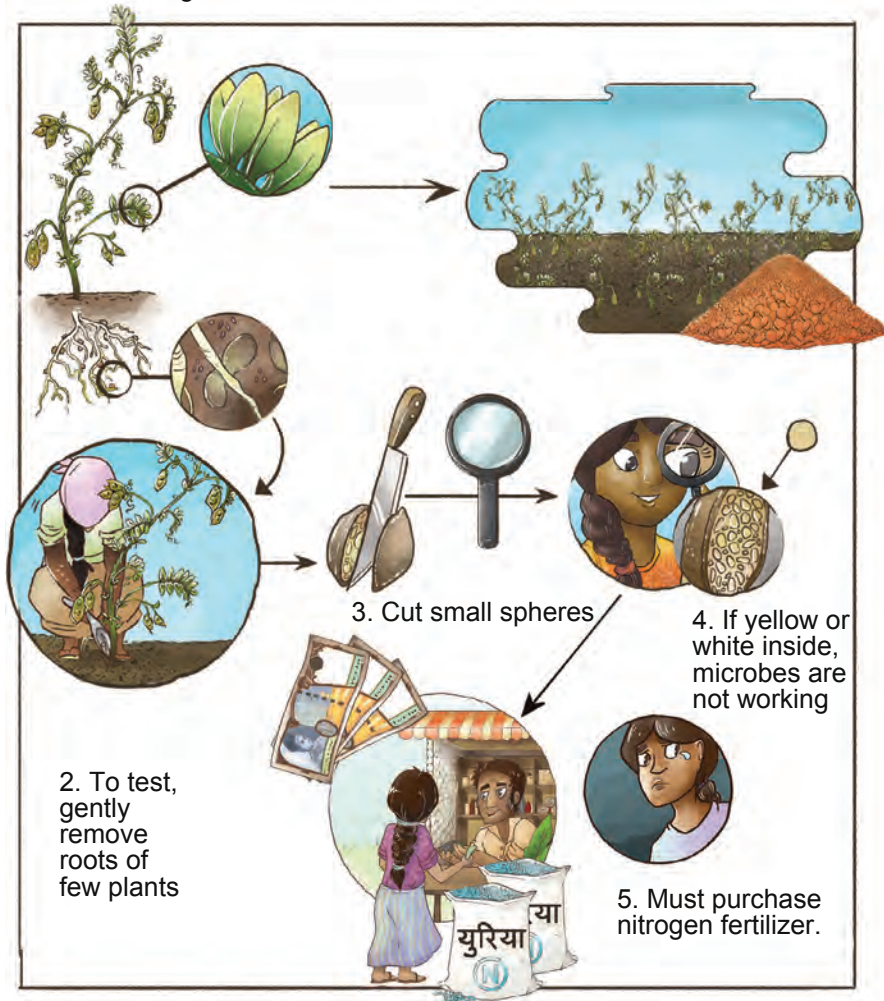
7. After legume grain is harvested, the roots and leaves remain rich in fertilizer (blue) which is deposited into the soil when they decompose

9. Less need to purchase nitrogen fertilizer

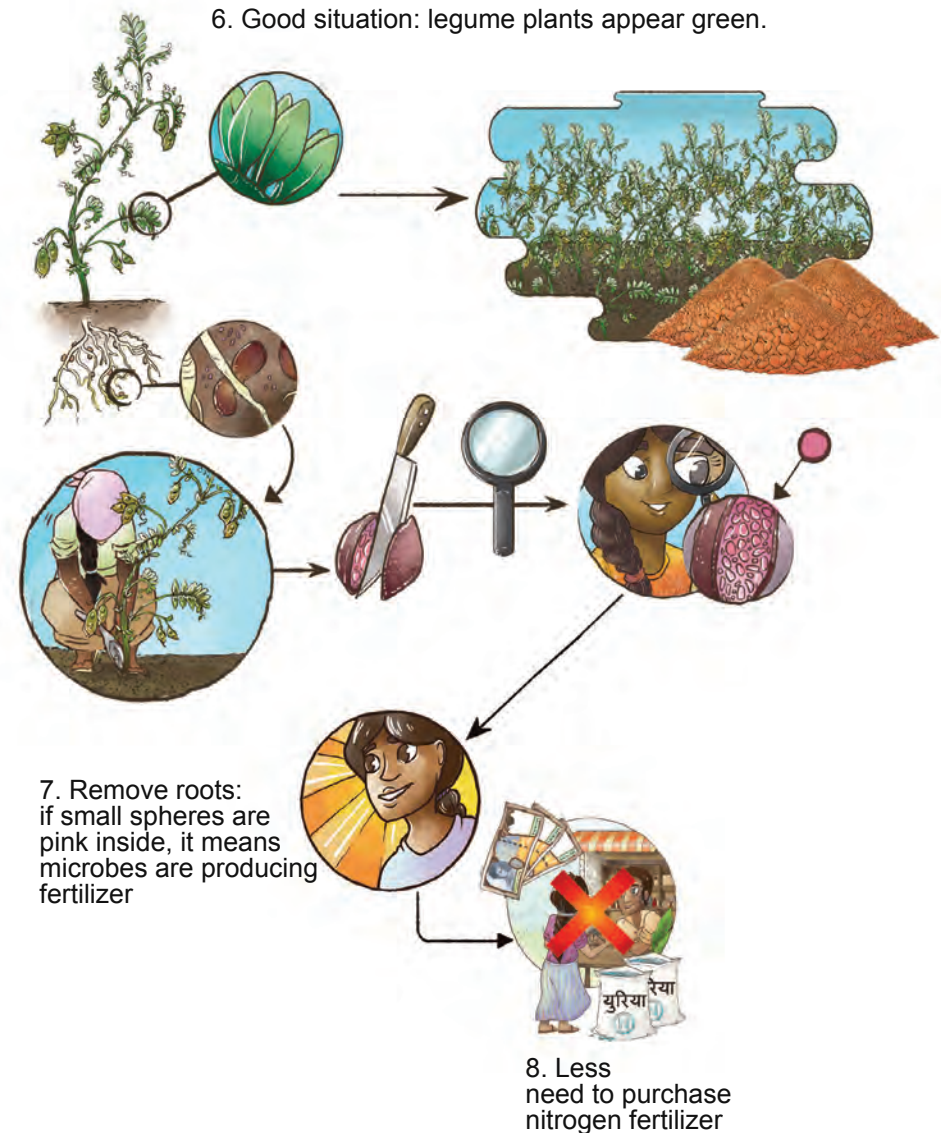


# Lesson: If small spheres on legume roots are only yellow inside, they do not contain healthy microbes to make natural nitrogen fertilizer, but a pink colour inside means they are producing fertilizer

1. Problem: legume leaves such as lentil are yellow causing low yields: might be disease or lack of fertilizer



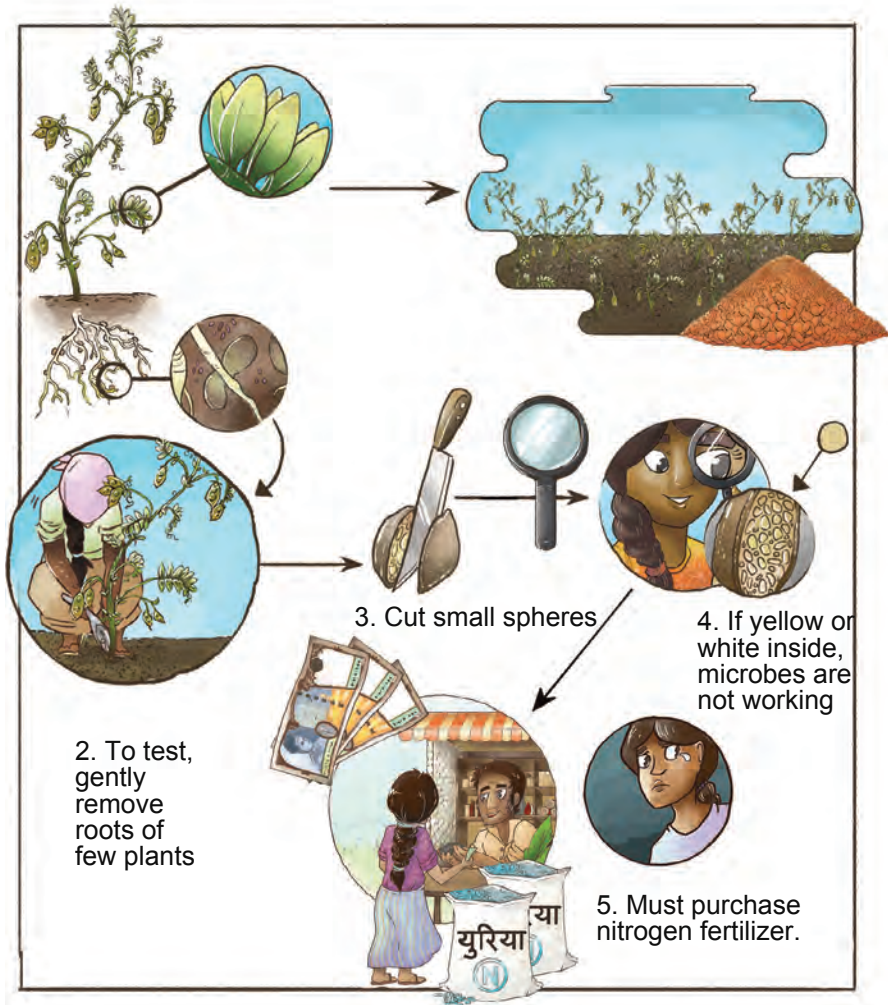
6. Good situation: legume plants appear green.





Lesson: If helpful microbe inside small spheres of legume roots are not making natural nitrogen fertilizer, the problem may be fixed in the future by purchasing healthy microbes called rhizobia and coating onto seeds. Seeds may also be purchased already coated with the microbes.

1. Problem: legumes or pulses are yellow, growing slowly, with low yield



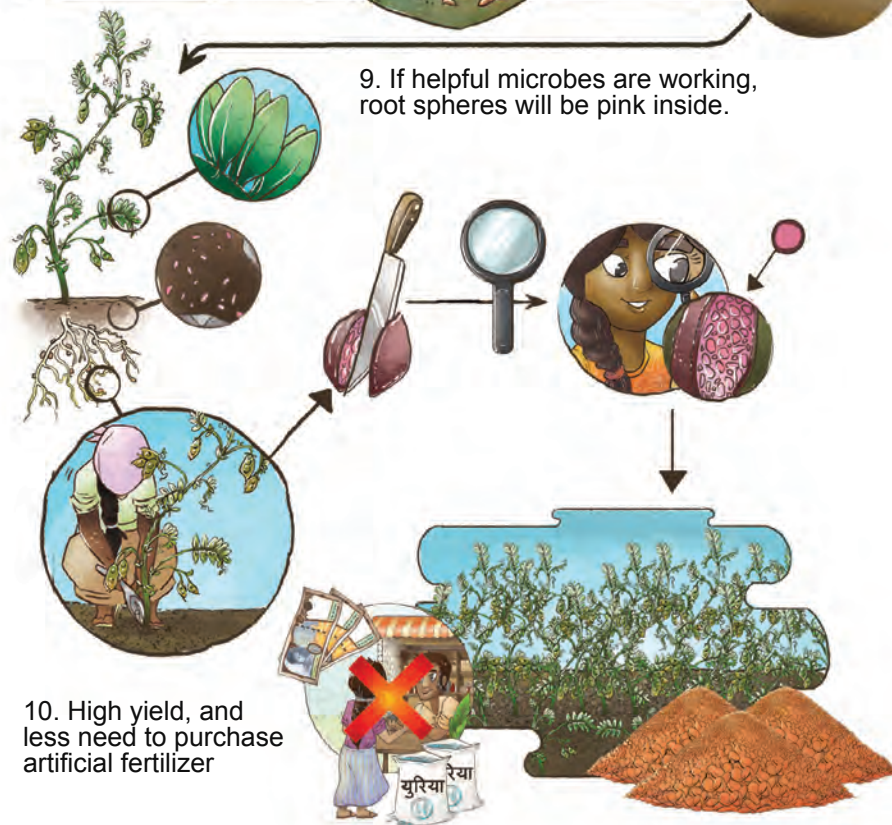
6. Solution: next time, purchase microbes in a bag (shown as pink inside green powder but invisible)

7. To attach microbes onto seeds, add sticky substance (white) to microbes (pink), plus seeds (brown), then shake



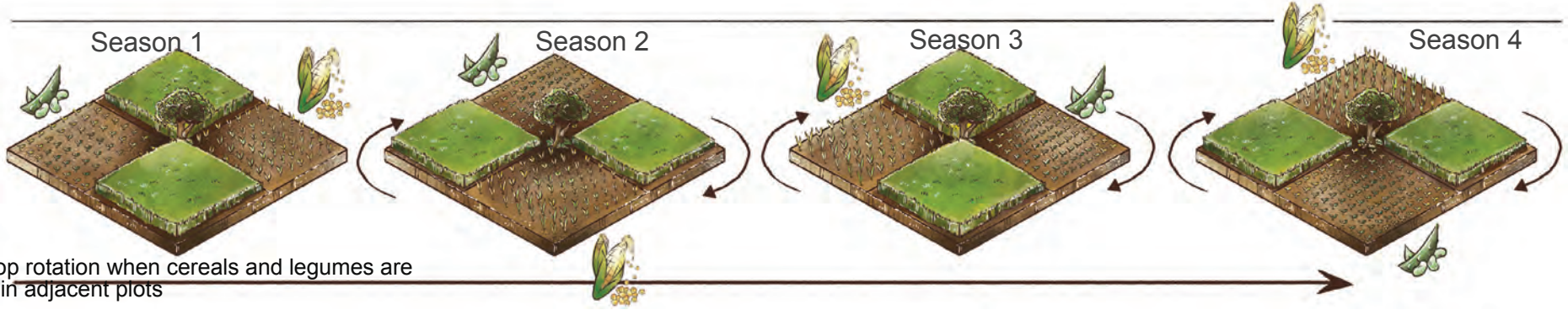
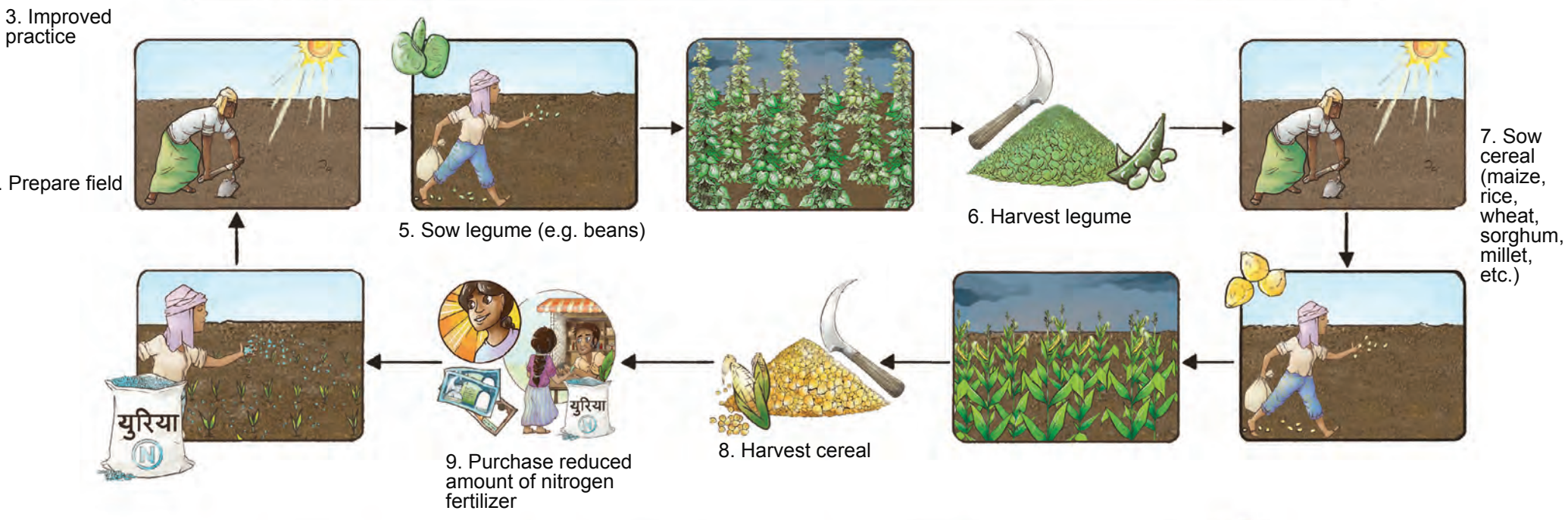
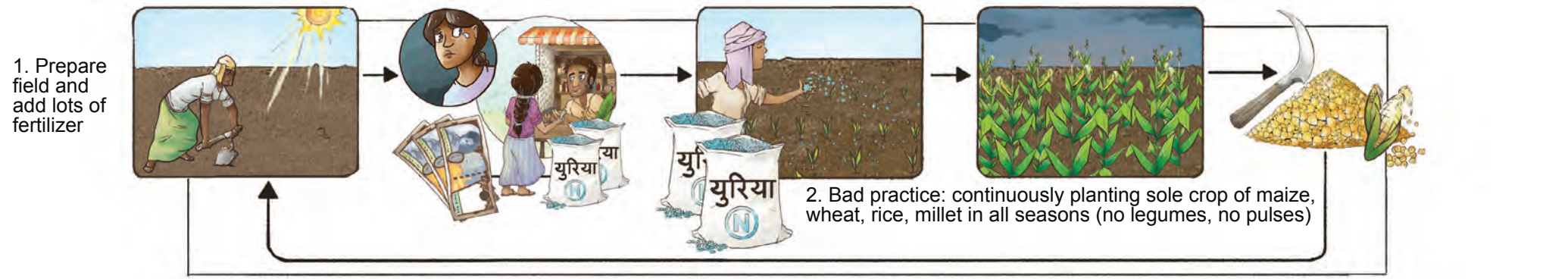
9. If helpful microbes are working, root spheres will be pink inside.

8. Sow seeds coated with microbes.





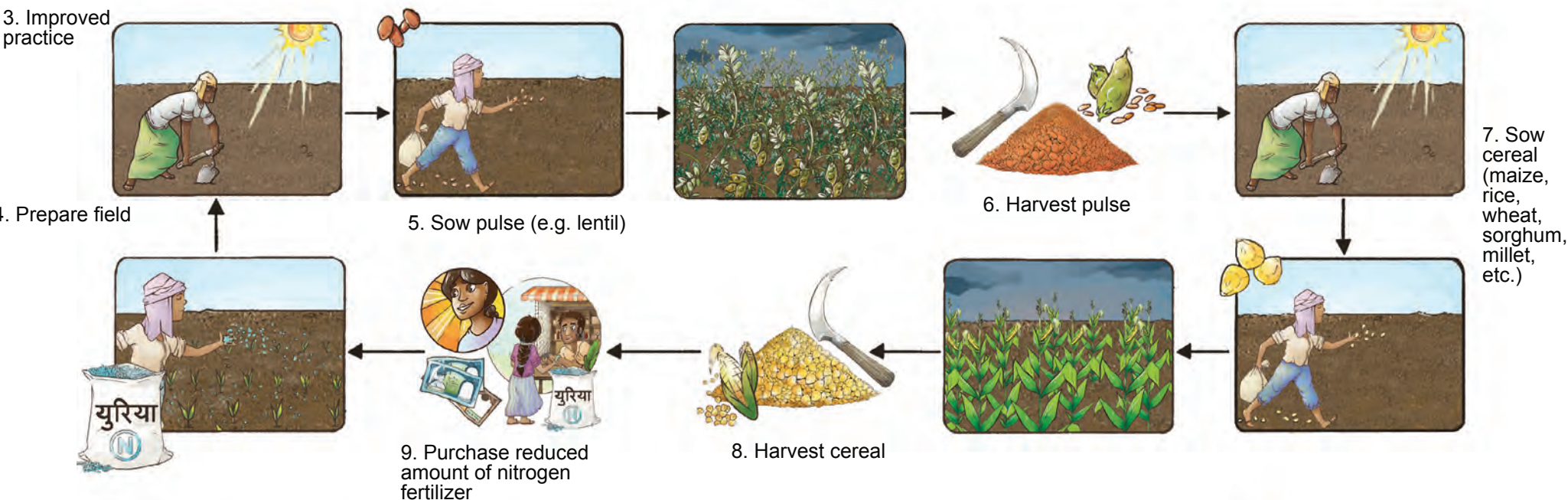
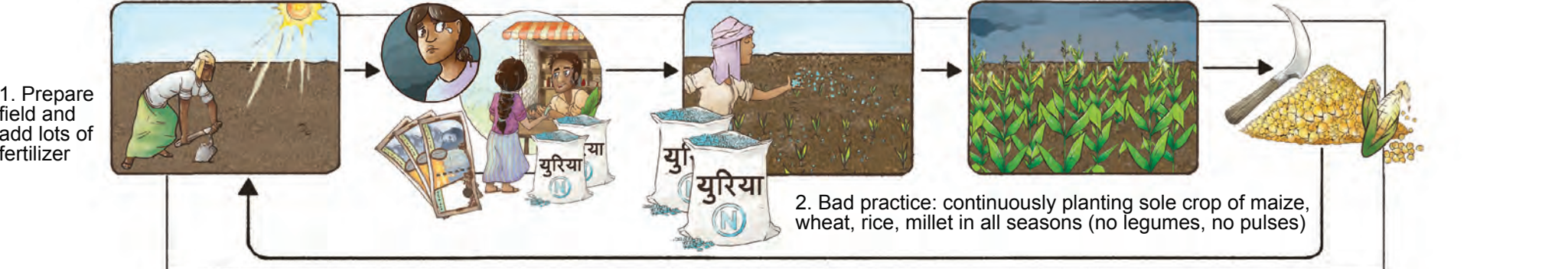
Lesson: Rotating a cereal crop (e.g. maize) with a legume crop (e.g. beans) will reduce need to purchase artificial nitrogen fertilizer and will reduce pests/disease.



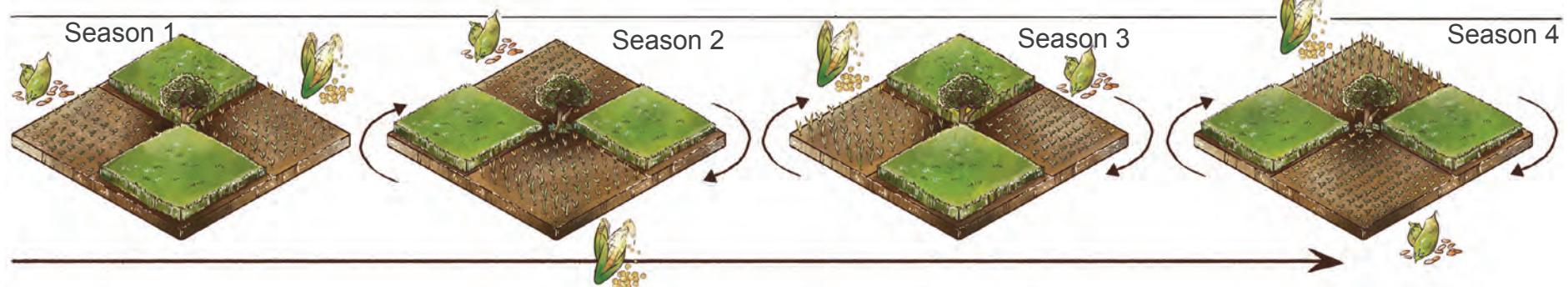
10. Crop rotation when cereals and legumes are grown in adjacent plots



**Lesson: Rotating a cereal crop (e.g. maize) with a legume pulse crop (e.g. lentils) will reduce need to purchase artificial nitrogen fertilizer and will reduce pests/disease.**



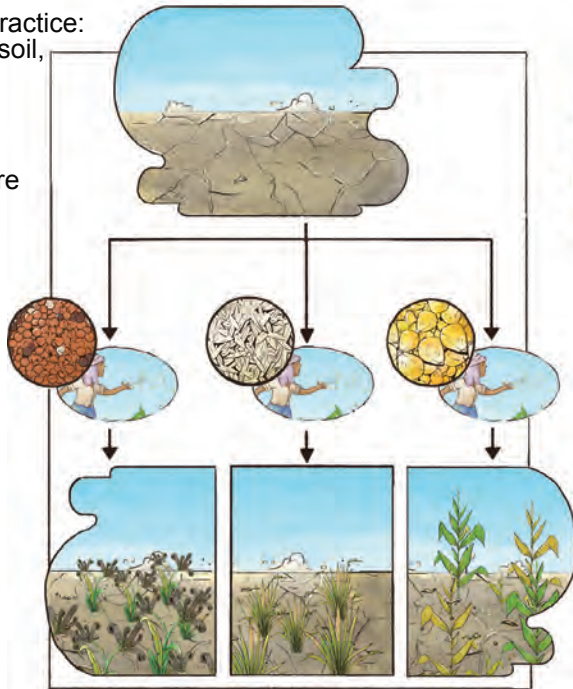
10. Crop rotation when cereals and legumes are grown in adjacent plots





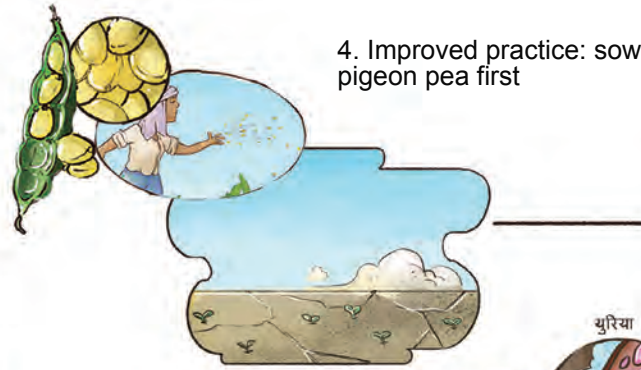
# Lesson: When soil is poor, it is better to plant pigeon pea first instead of a cereal crop

1. Bad practice: on poor soil, cereals such as maize, millet or rice are sown

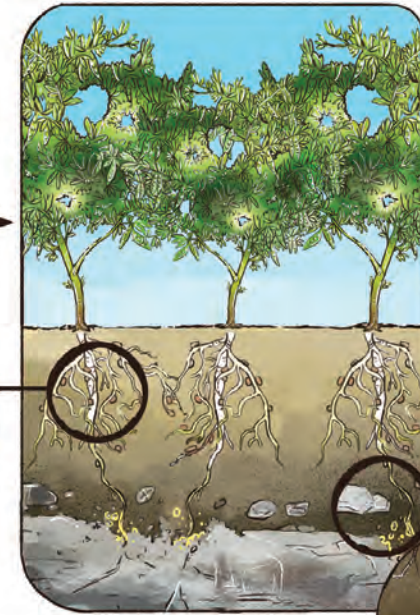


2. Low yields

3. Yields would be higher if synthetic fertilizer was added, but this costs money



4. Improved practice: sow pigeon pea first



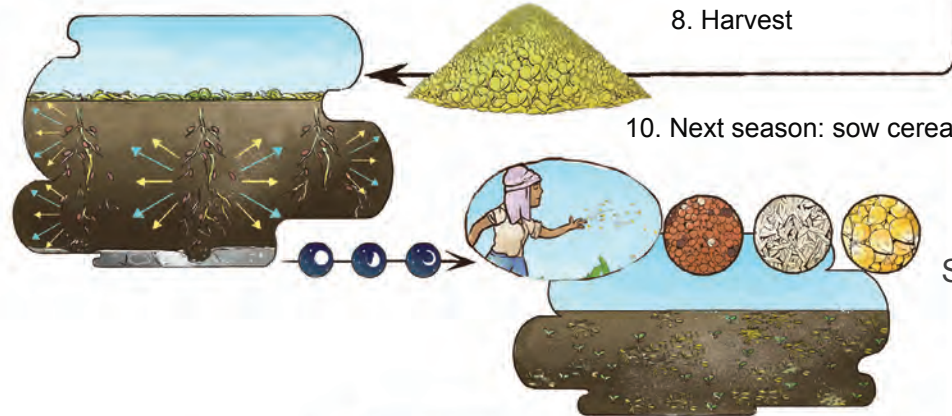
5. Mature pigeon pea

7. Long roots dissolve deep rock phosphorus (yellow colour)

6. Roots have pink spheres which produce natural nitrogen fertilizer (blue colour)

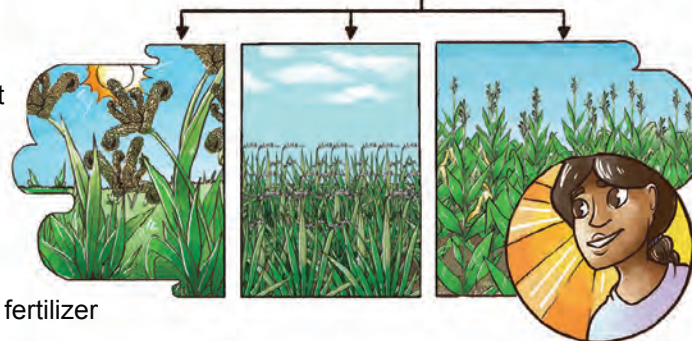


8. Harvest

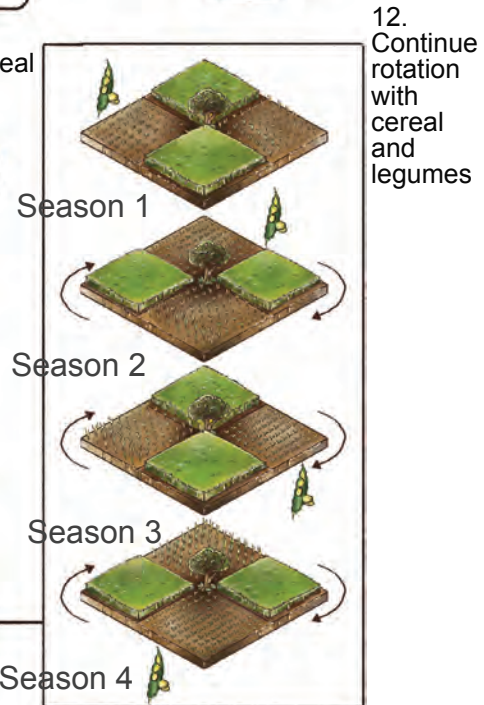


10. Next season: sow cereal

9. Remaining pigeon pea roots decompose and deposit nitrogen (blue) and phosphorus (yellow) into soil



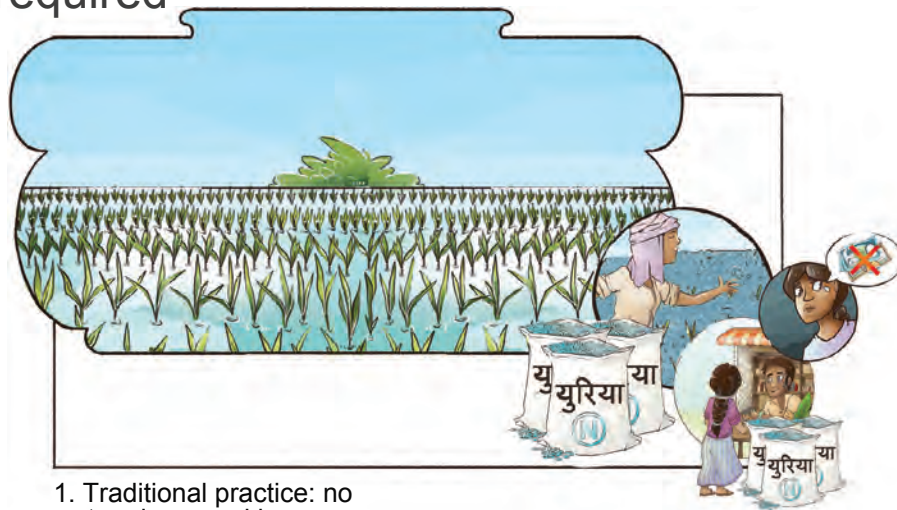
11. Cereal crop will now grow without fertilizer



12. Continue rotation with cereal and legumes

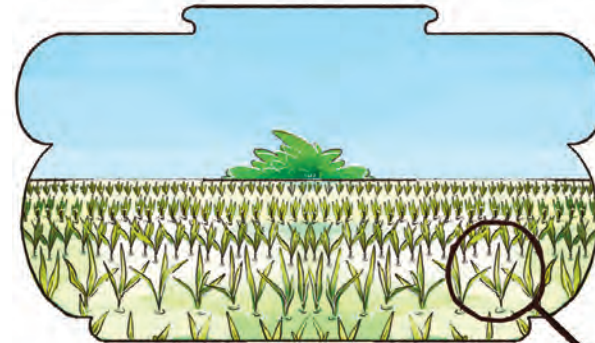


# Lesson: In a rice paddy, water algae called Azolla can reduce the amount of nitrogen fertilizer required



1. Traditional practice: no water algae, and hence many bags of artificial nitrogen fertilizer must be applied

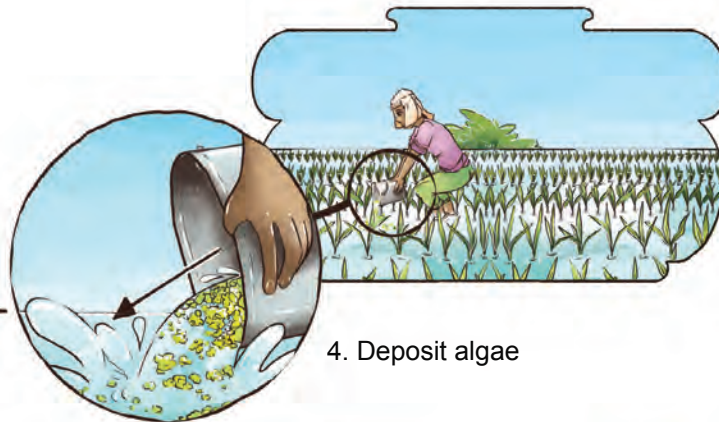
2. Improved practice: go with buckets to rice paddy with green algae



3. Collect algae



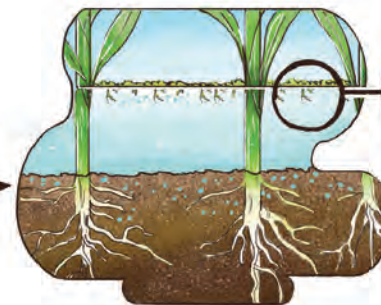
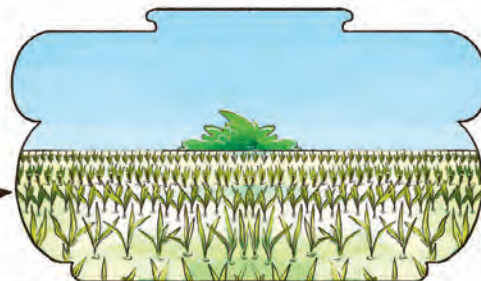
6. Algae associates with microbes to produce natural nitrogen fertilizer



4. Deposit algae



5. Algae will grow



7. Good yield with fewer bags of artificial nitrogen fertilizer needed

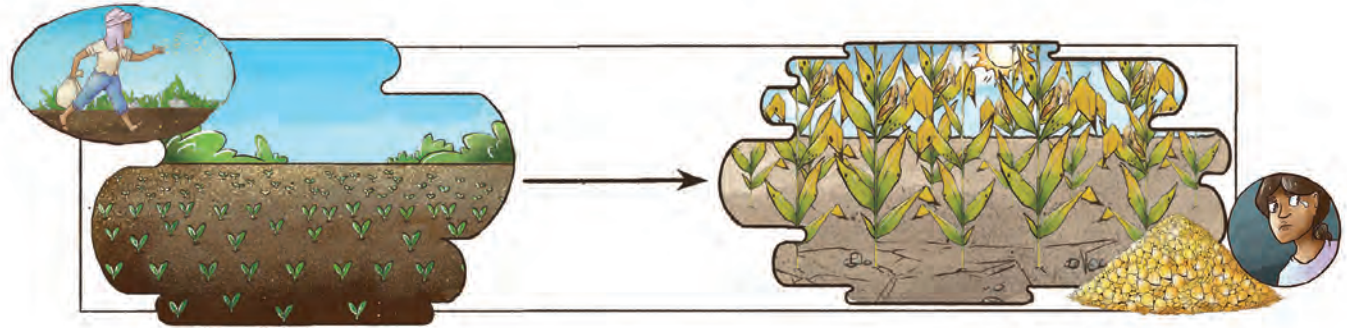




## Chapter 6: Water

# Lesson: If the climate is becoming dryer, then shift from traditional crops such as maize or rice to drought tolerant crops such as finger millet, pearl millet, fava beans or lentils

1. Traditional practice may be to grow maize or rice but yields are low when rain is low



2. Select drought tolerant crops

finger millet



fava bean



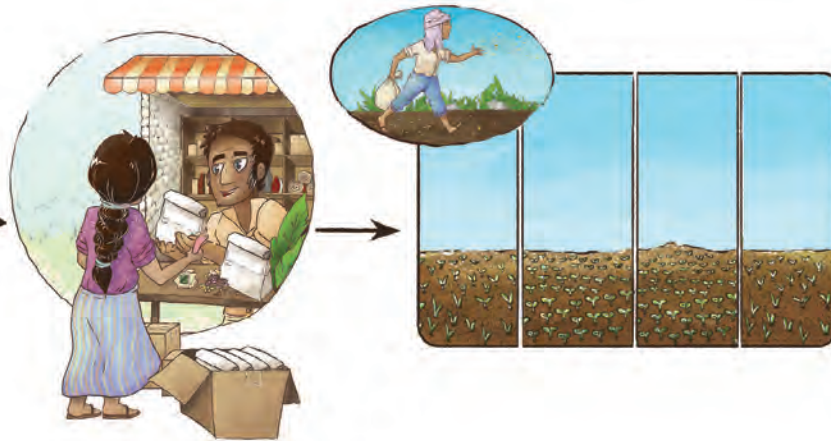
lentil



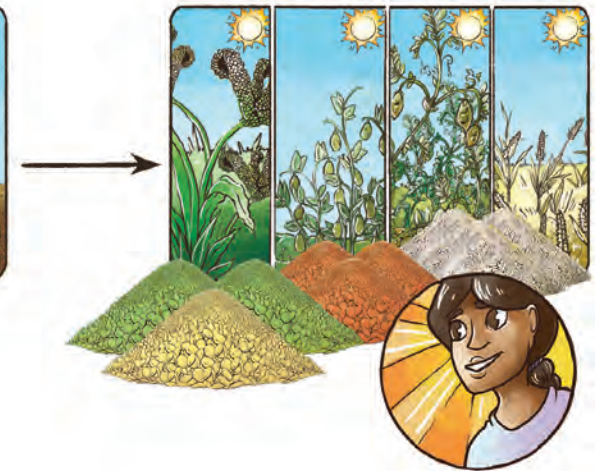
pearl millet



3. Purchase seed from vendor

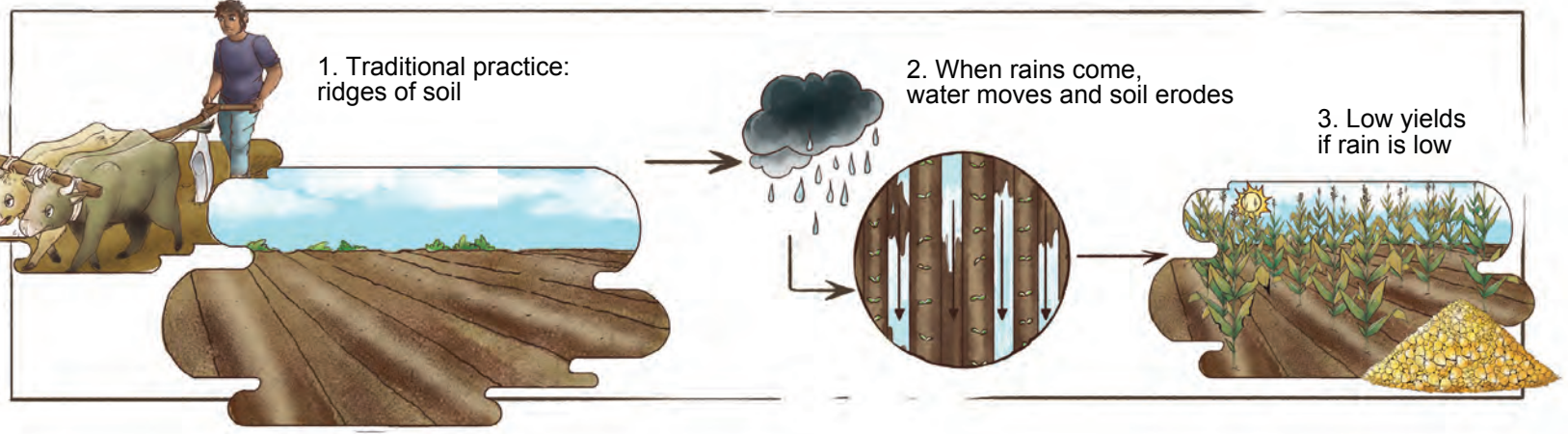


4. Good yields with low rainfall





# Lesson: Connecting soil ridges with small walls of soil can conserve rainwater and reduce soil erosion on sloped land



## 4. Improved practice

5. Add a rear disc to the back of ridging plow

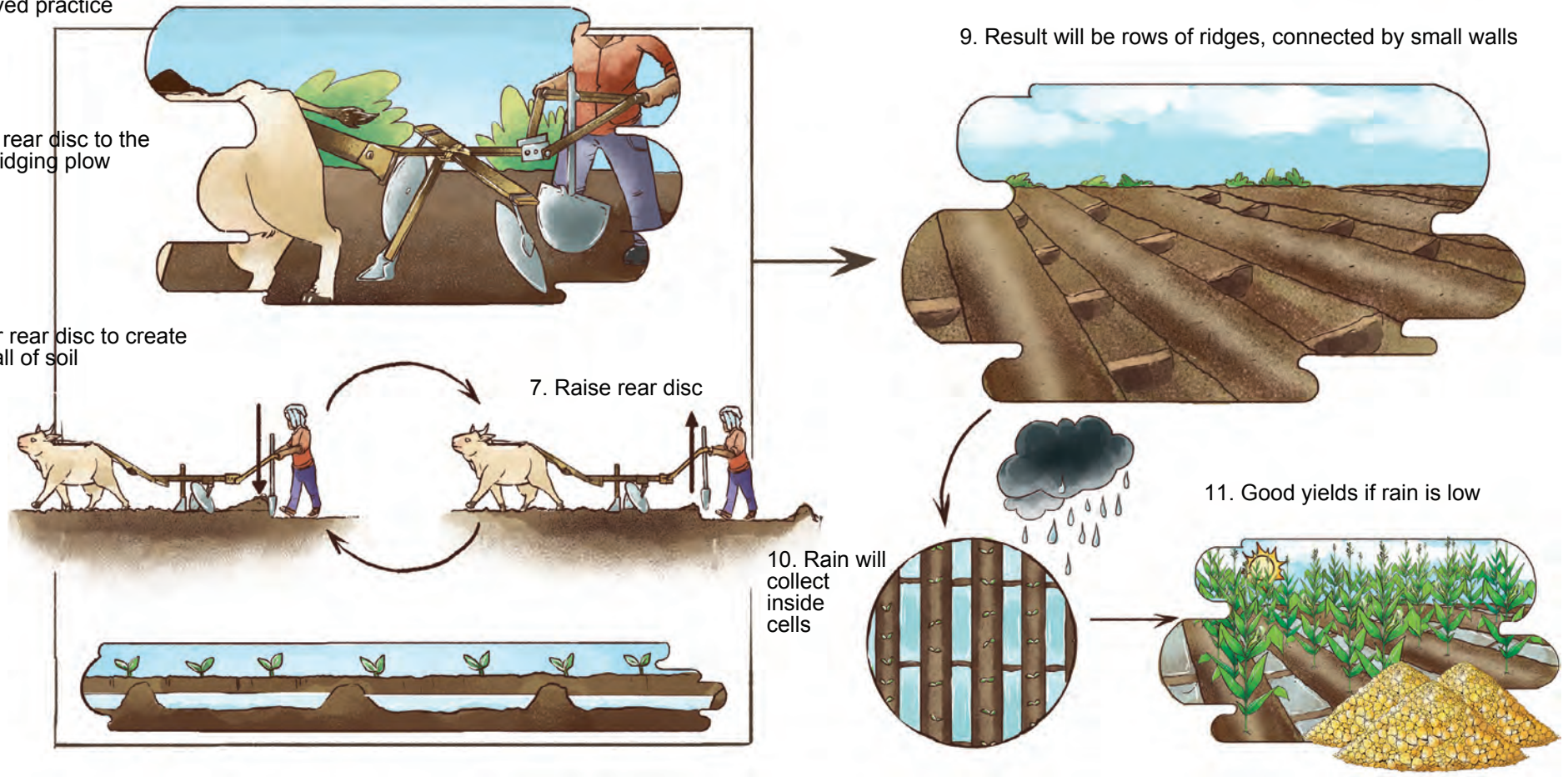
6. Lower rear disc to create small wall of soil

7. Raise rear disc

9. Result will be rows of ridges, connected by small walls

11. Good yields if rain is low

10. Rain will collect inside cells



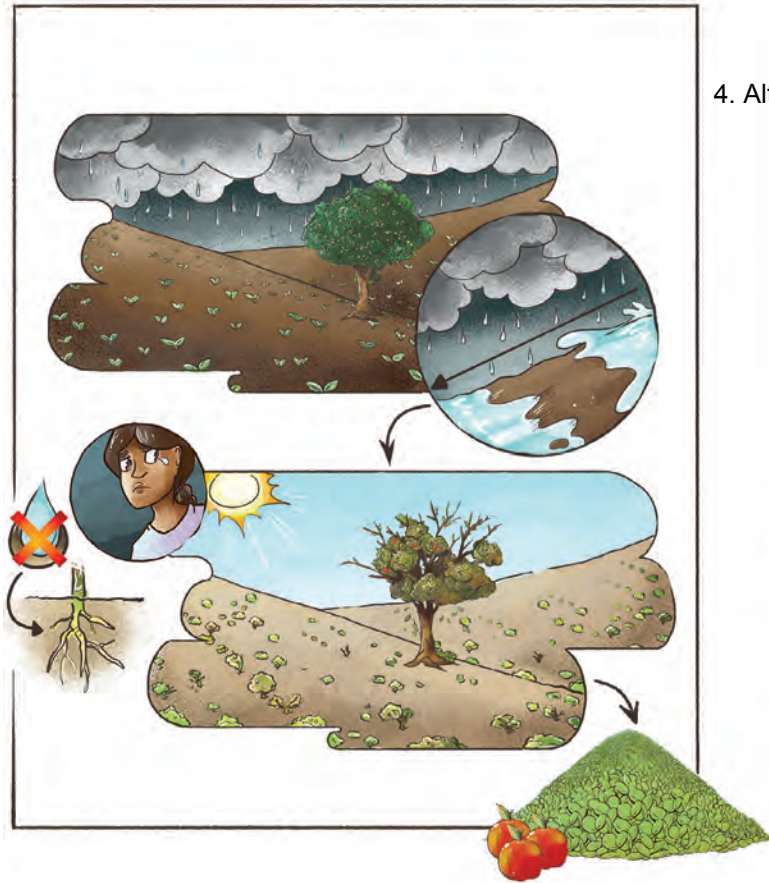


# Lesson: There are simple methods to collect rainwater on slightly sloped land for dry season

3. Improved practice: create soil bund that surrounds fruit tree to collect rainwater

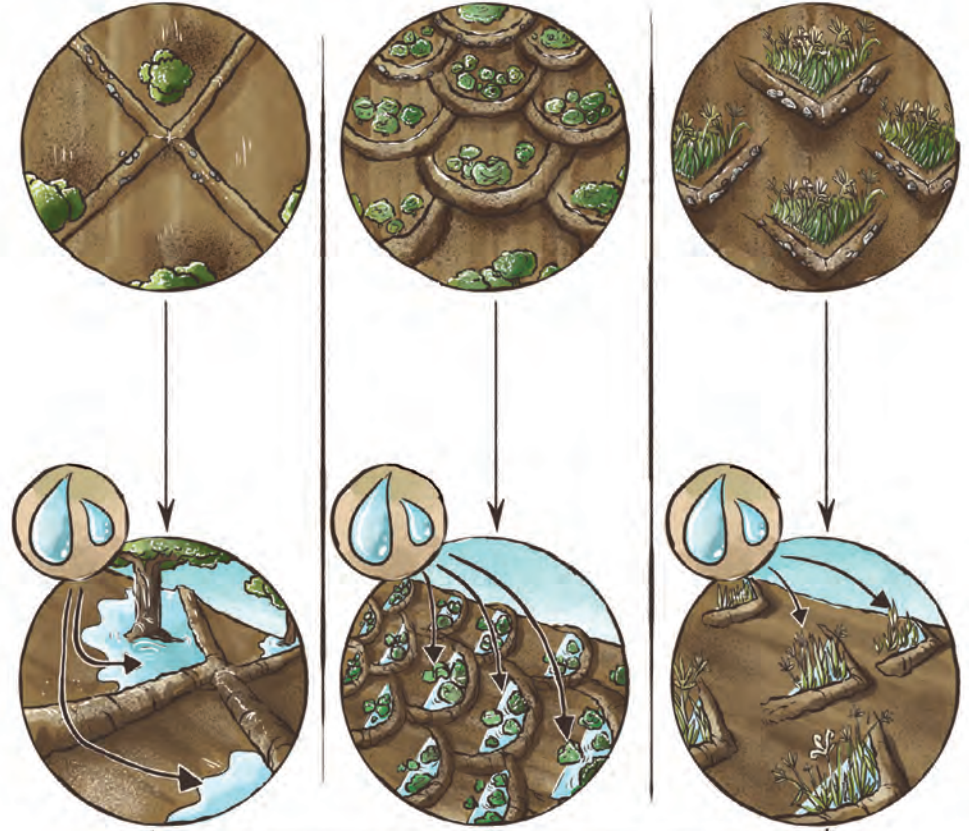


1. Traditional practice: water is lost



2. Low yields when rain is low (e.g. apple)

4. Alternative designs



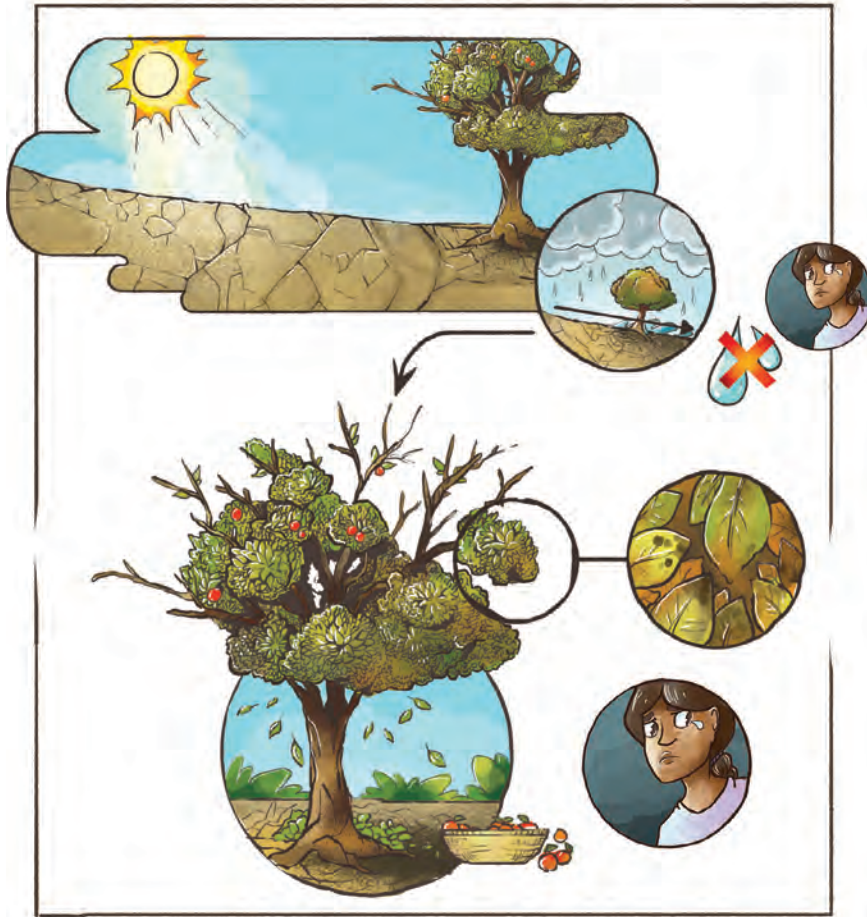
5. Improved yields





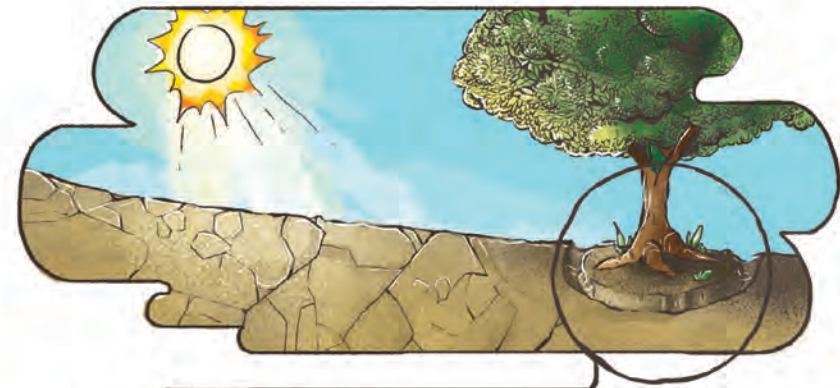
# Lesson: Fruit trees can be grown in dry climates by harvesting rainwater around tree using a bund or pit

1. Traditional practice: no water collected

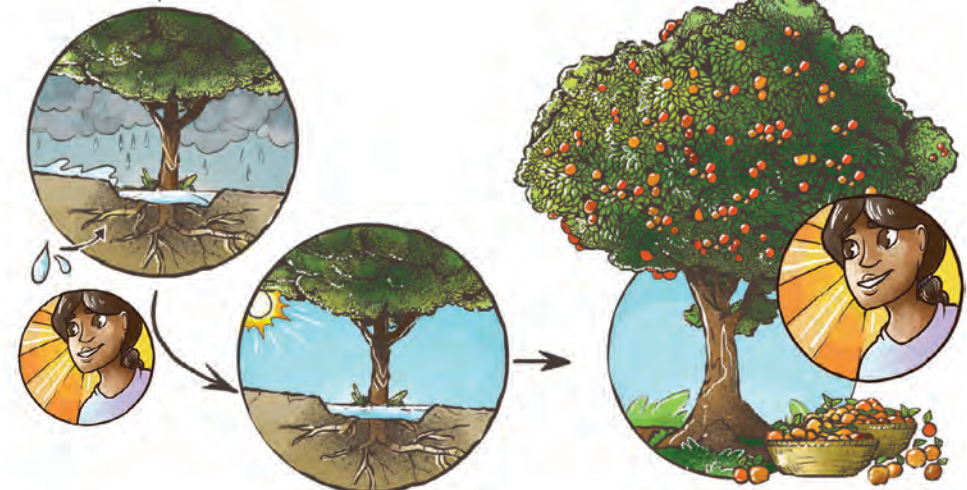


2. Low fruit yield (e.g. apple)

3. Improved practice: create short wall or pit around tree



4. Rain collected

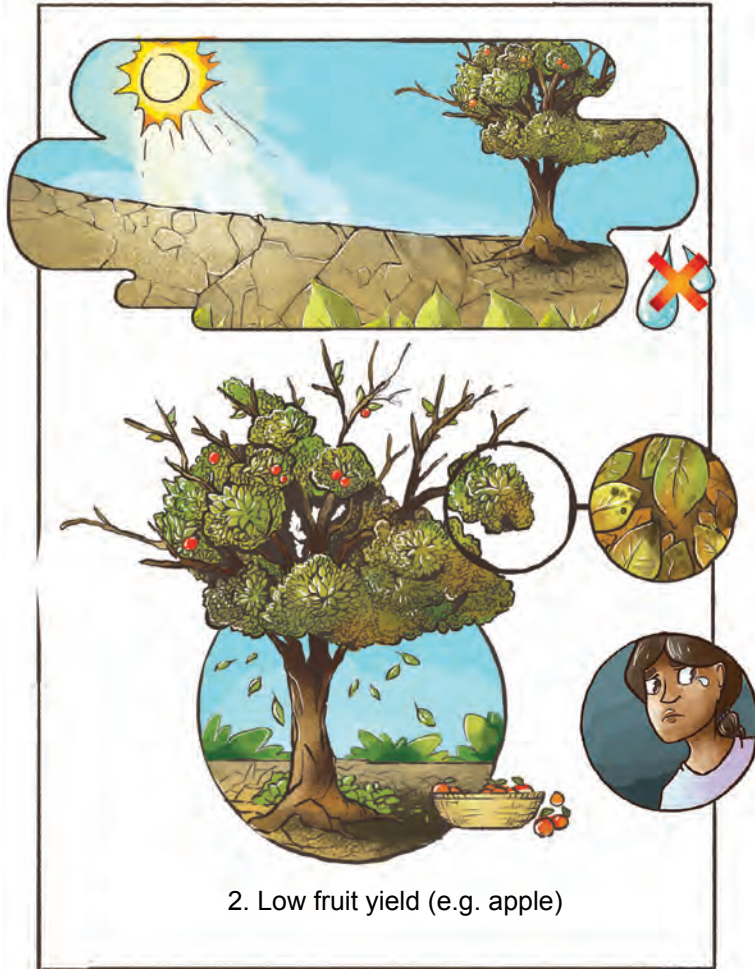


5. High fruit yield



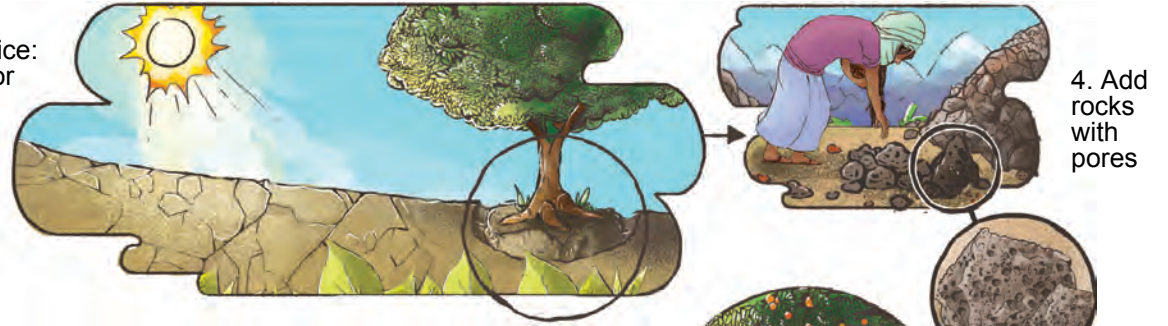
# Lesson: Fruit trees can be grown in dry climates by harvesting rainwater around tree using porous rocks

1. Traditional practice: no water collected



2. Low fruit yield (e.g. apple)

3. Improved practice: create short wall or pit around tree

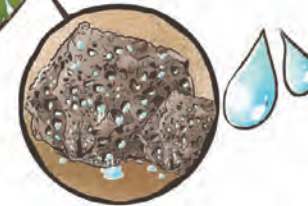


4. Add rocks with pores

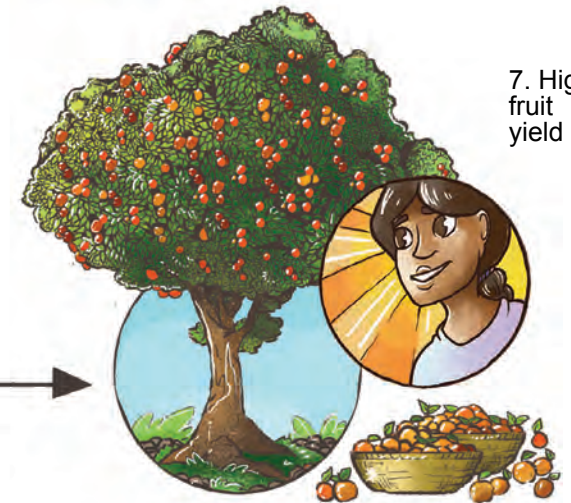
6. Water from rocks will drip onto free roots



5. Morning dew will collect inside pores

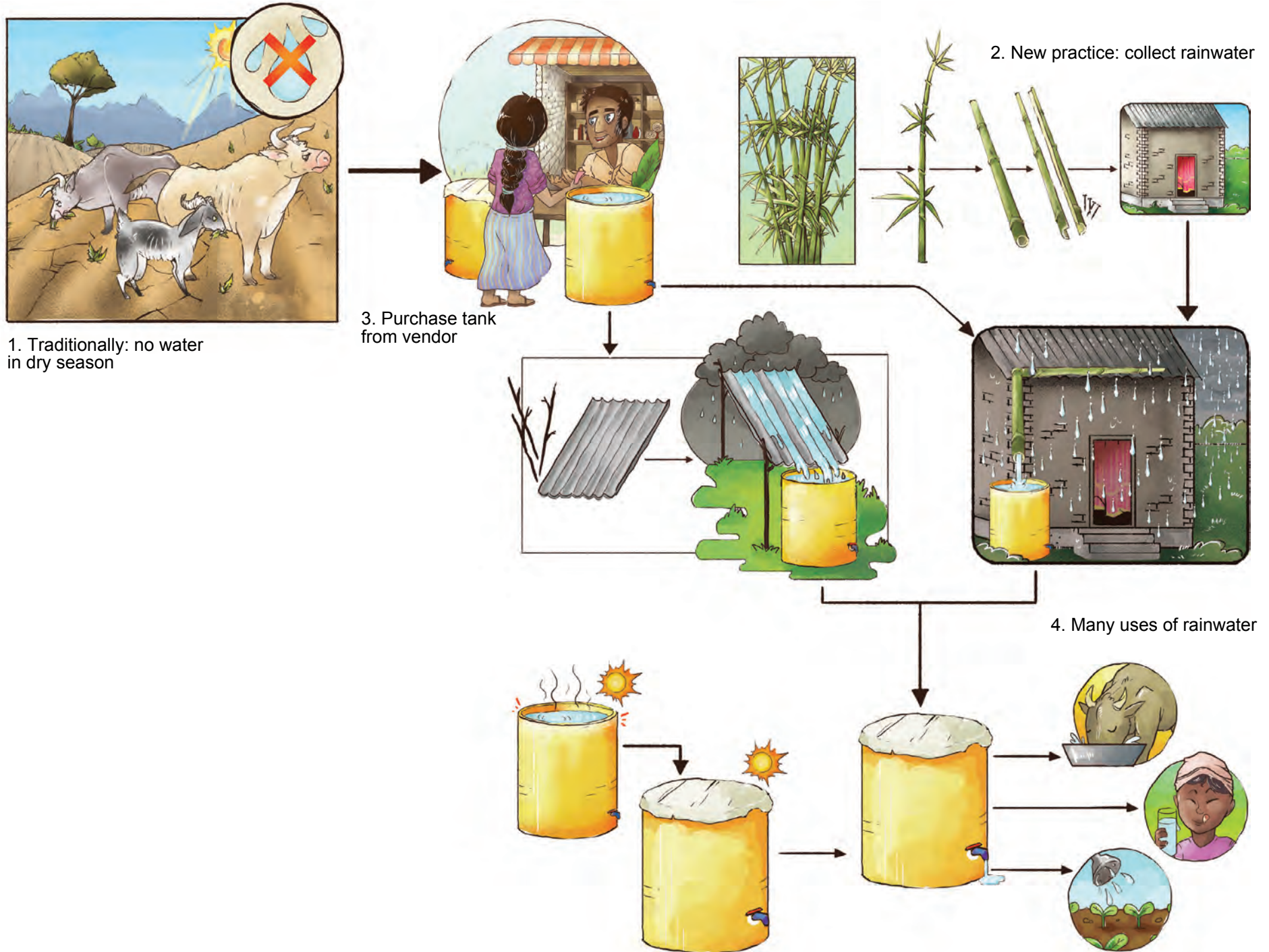


7. High fruit yield

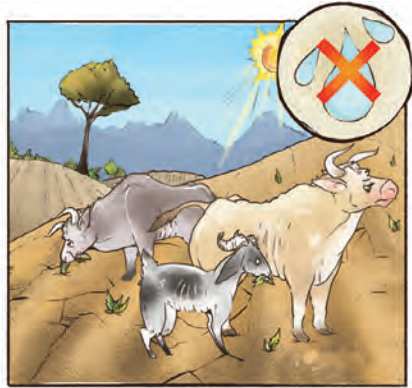




# Lesson: Rainwater can be collected



# Lesson: Cheap foldable plastic tanks or tarpaulins can be used to collect rainwater

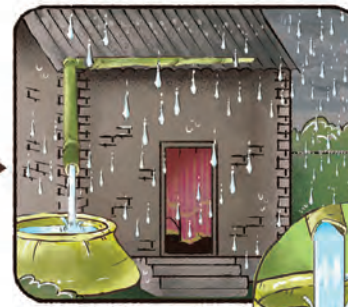


1. Traditional situation: rainfall is lost

2. In dry season, no water



3. New practice is to purchase folding plastic water tank



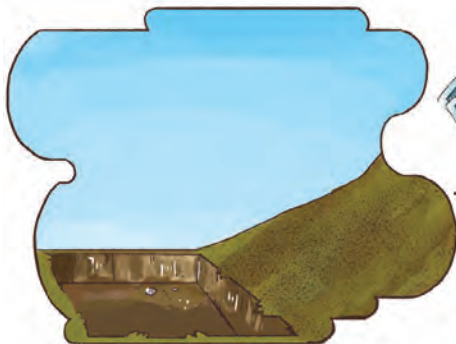
4. Collect rainwater



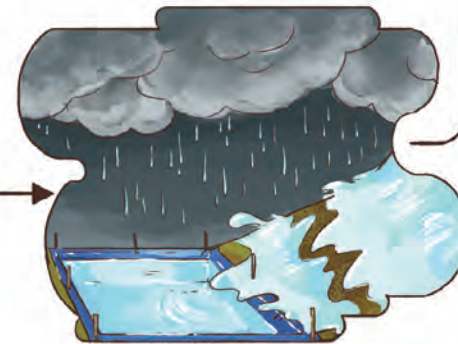
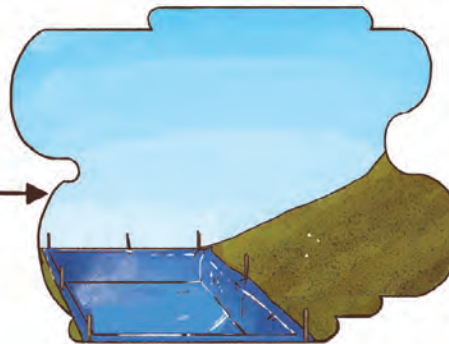
5. Many uses of rainwater



6. Second new practice is to dig pit at bottom of hill.



7. Purchase tarpaulin, then line pit

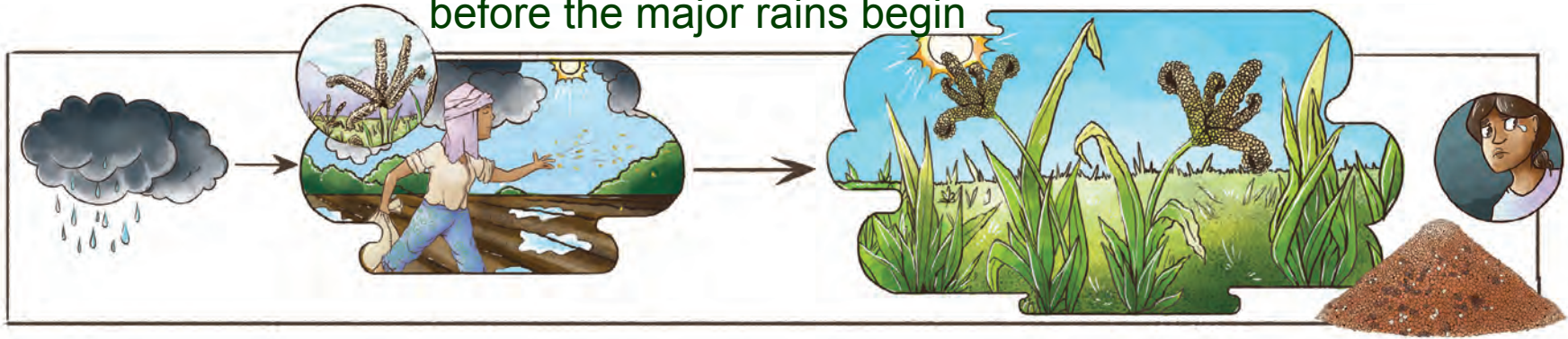


8. Collect rainwater in pit



# Lesson: Collected rainwater can be used to irrigate a millet nursery in order to enable sowing before the major rains begin

1. Traditional practice is to sow millet seeds after first rainfall



2. If growing season is short, then yield is low.

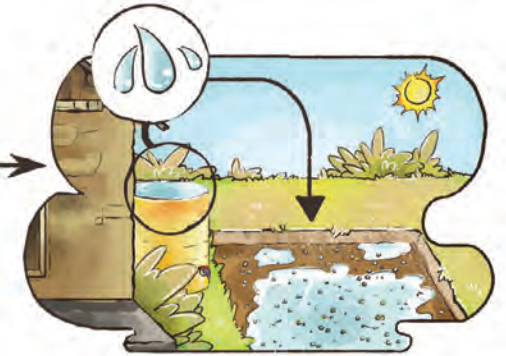
4. Prepare nursery at end of dry season



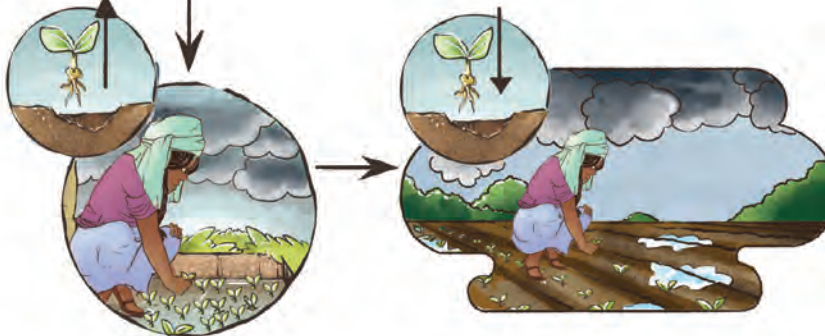
3. New practice is to collect rain during rainy season.



5. Sow seeds before first rainfall and irrigate from rainwater



6. When rains arrive, transplant seedlings to the field



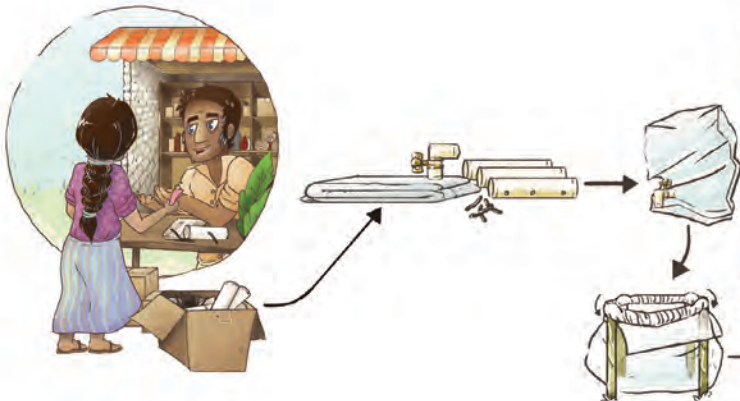
7. Yield is higher because the crop duration was increased



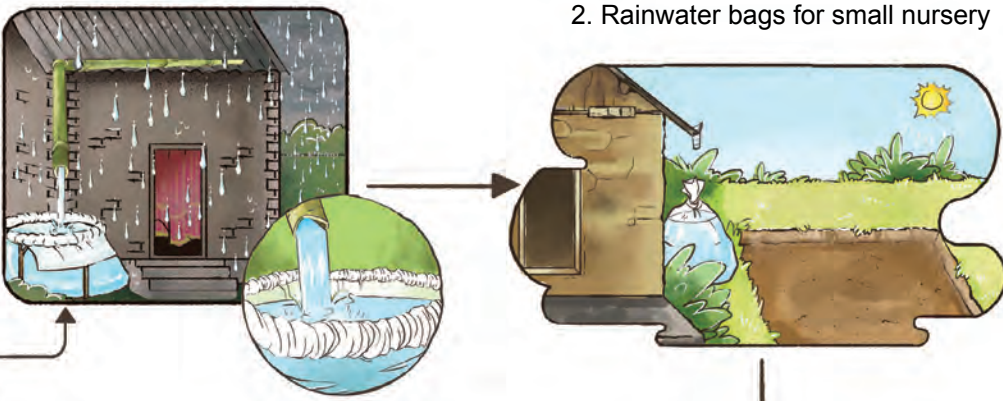


# Lesson: Collected rainwater can be connected to pipes with holes to feed water directly to roots

1. New practice is to purchase irrigation kit from vendor (plastic tank and pipes)



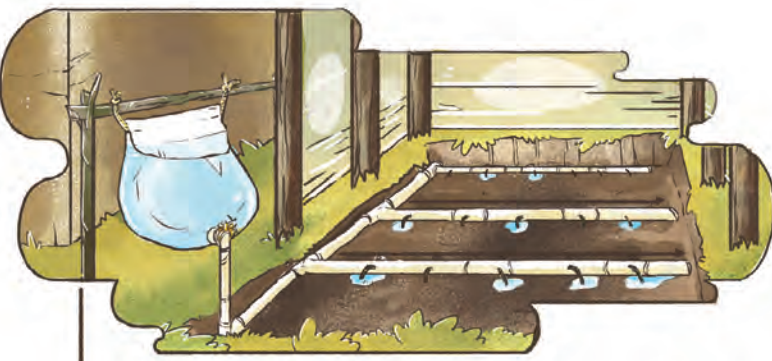
2. Rainwater bags for small nursery



3. Transfer collected water to greenhouse (high tunnel)



4. Attach rainwater bags to pipes with holes in small nursery.



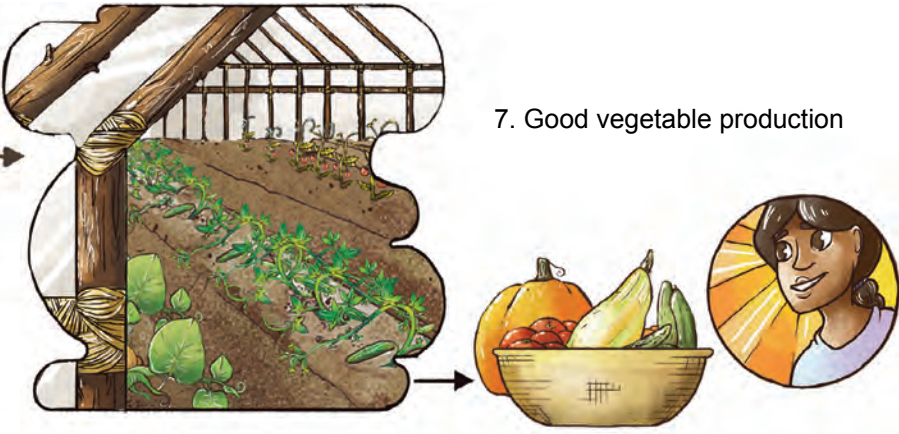
5. Sow seeds of vegetables



6. Water drips slowly



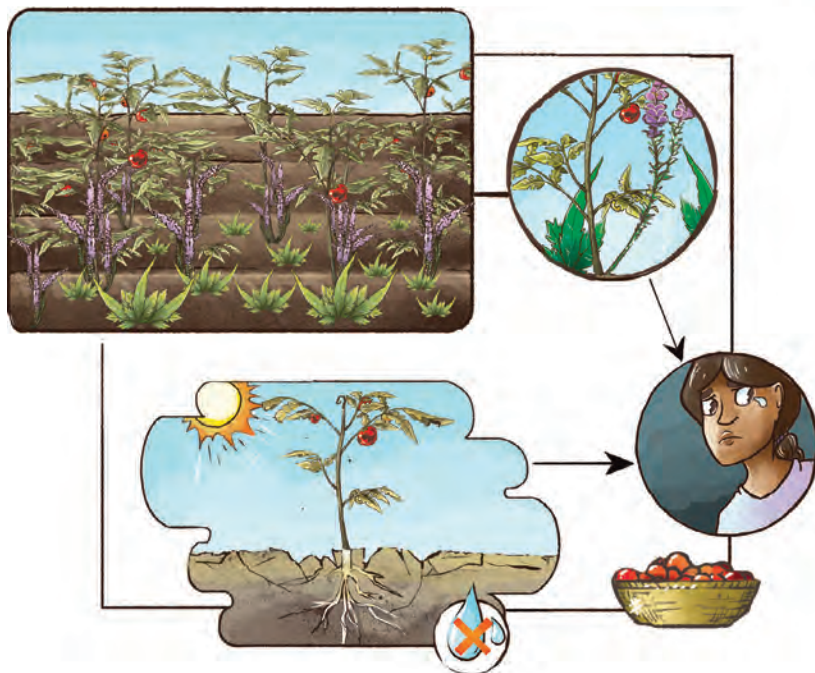
7. Good vegetable production





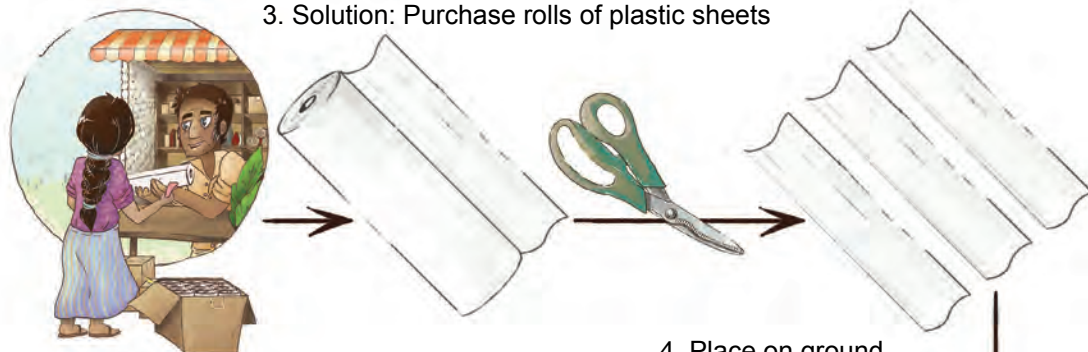
# Lesson: Use plastic mulch to suppress weeds in the garden, prevent water loss and keep soil warm.

1. Problem: in garden weeds can grow



2. Problem: In hot season with low rainfall, crops will not grow.

3. Solution: Purchase rolls of plastic sheets



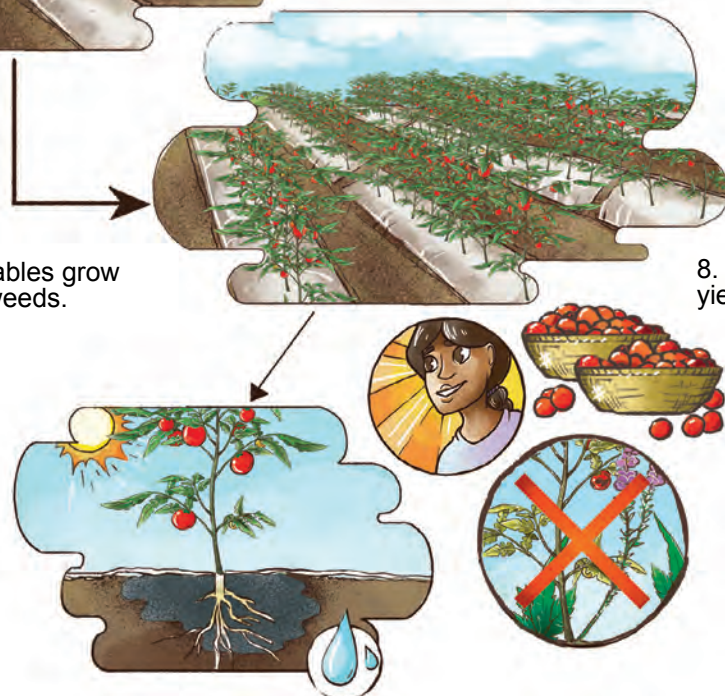
4. Place on ground, create holes.

5. Sow seeds in holes



6. Vegetables grow without weeds.

8. High yield

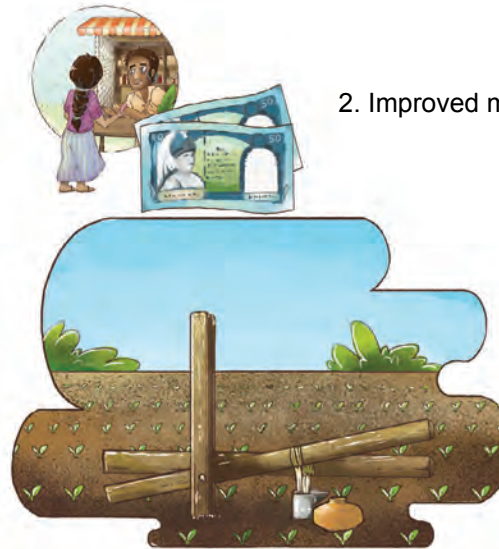


# Lesson: There are improved machines to pump water from a well that reduce labour

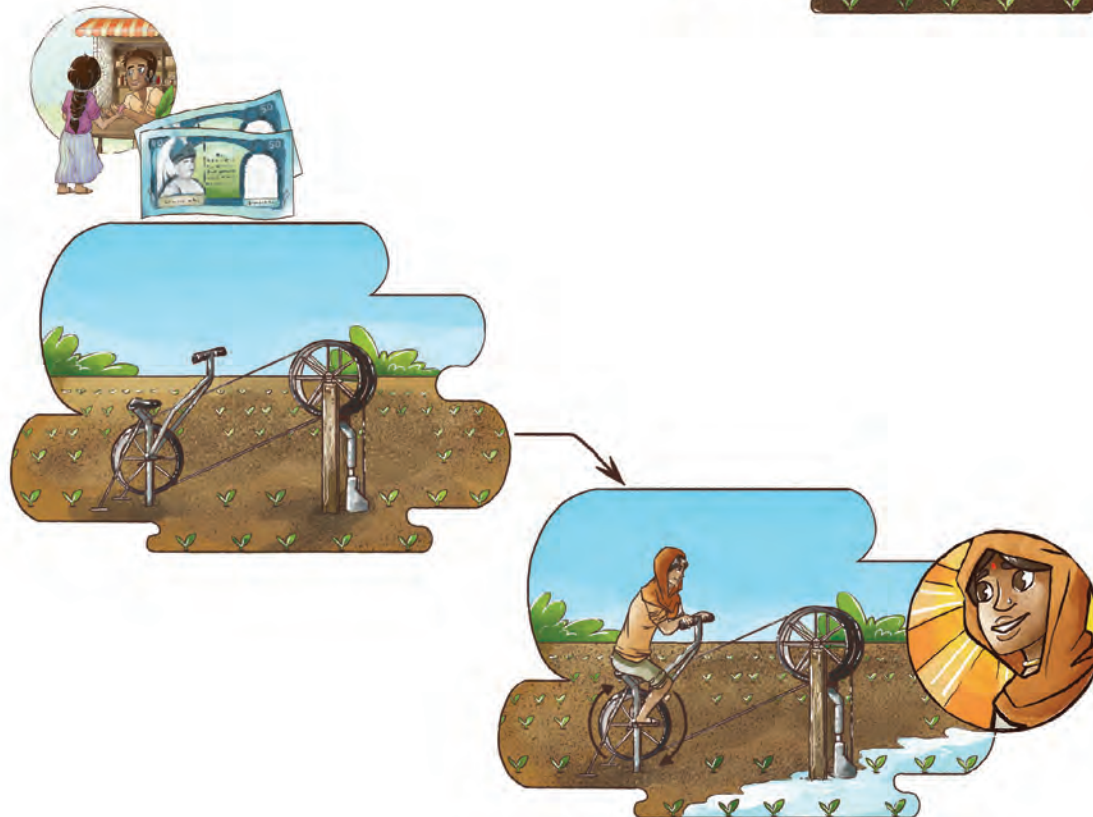
## 1. Traditional practice



## 2. Improved machine: foot treddle pump available at vendor



## 3. Alternative improved machine: bicycle pump available at vendor





## Chapter 7: Weeds

# Lesson: Kneepads can reduce pain at knees and prevent knees from becoming wet or cold such as during weeding

1. Traditional practice causes cold, pain on knees



2. New practice



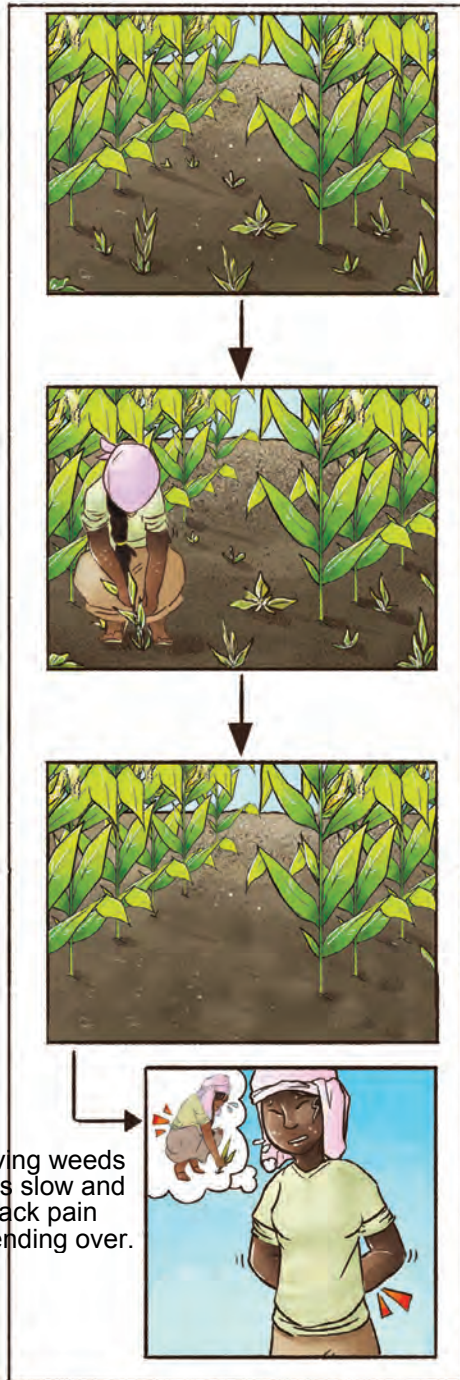
3. Purchase from vendor





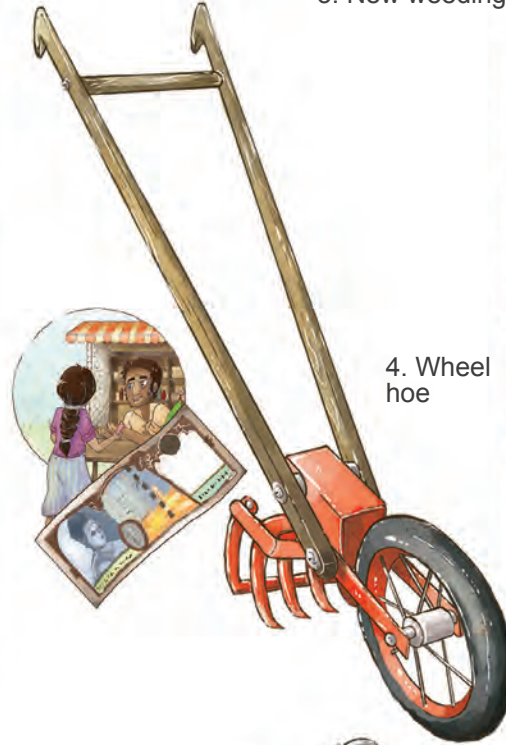
# Lesson: New tools to reduce drudgery of hand removal of weeds

1. Traditional practice



2. Removing weeds by hand is slow and causes back pain due to bending over.

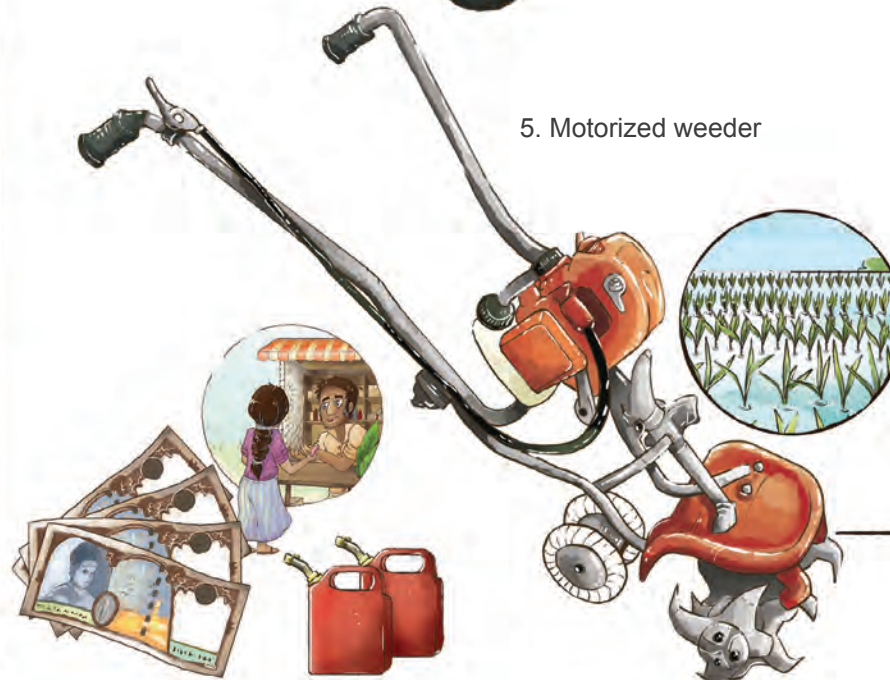
3. New weeding tools: ask nearby vendor to supply or ask local blacksmith to construct



4. Wheel hoe

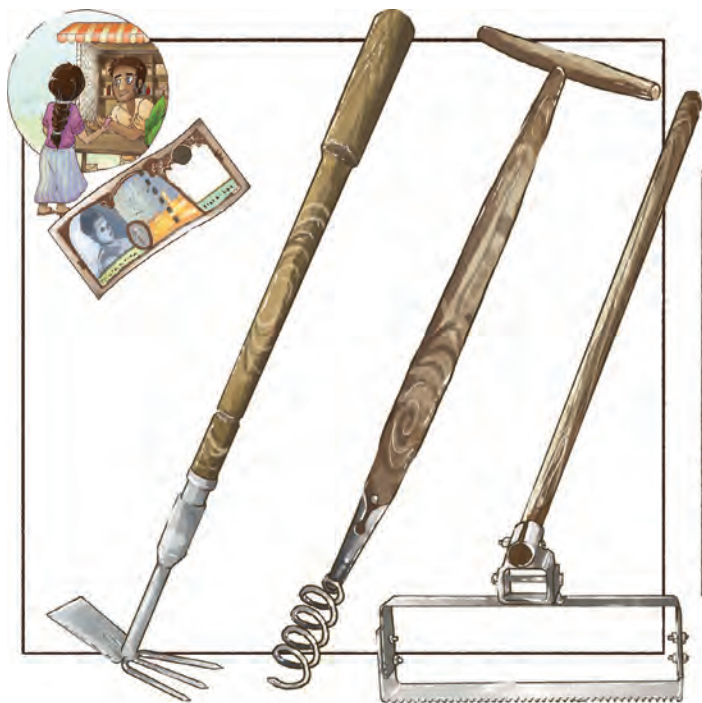


5. Motorized weeder

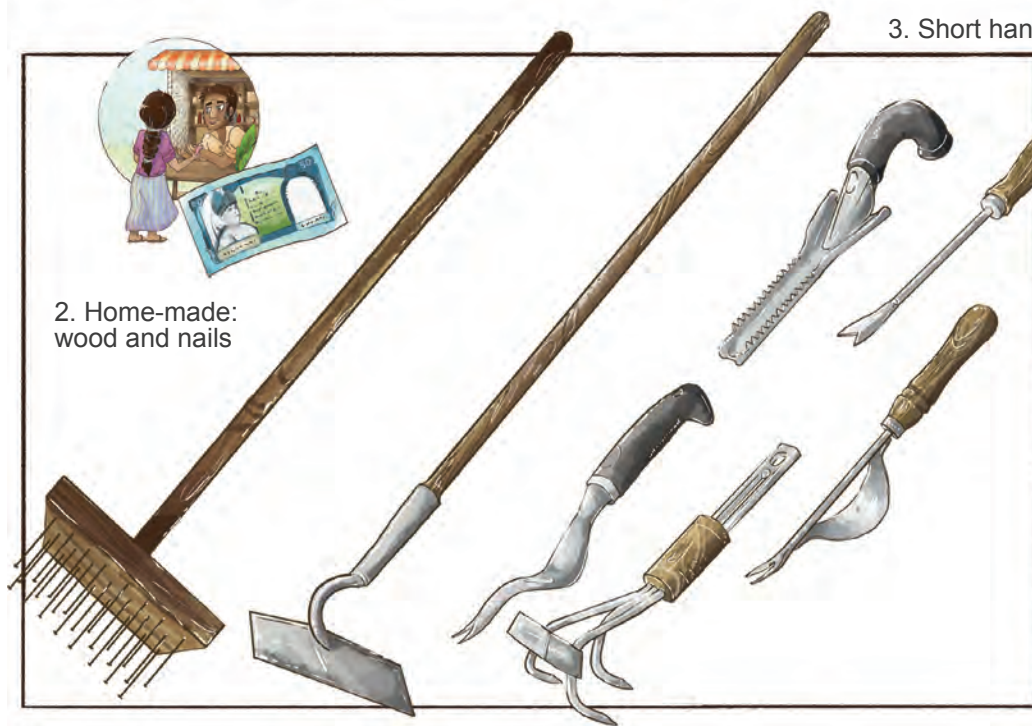
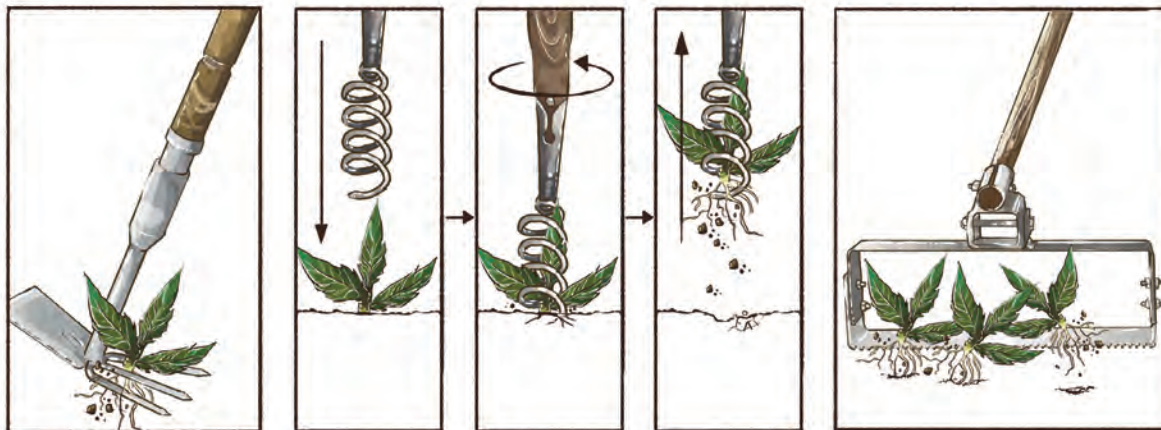




Lesson: New tools to reduce drudgery of hand removal of weeds: Long-handled, medium cost options.



1. Long handled weeders



2. Home-made: wood and nails

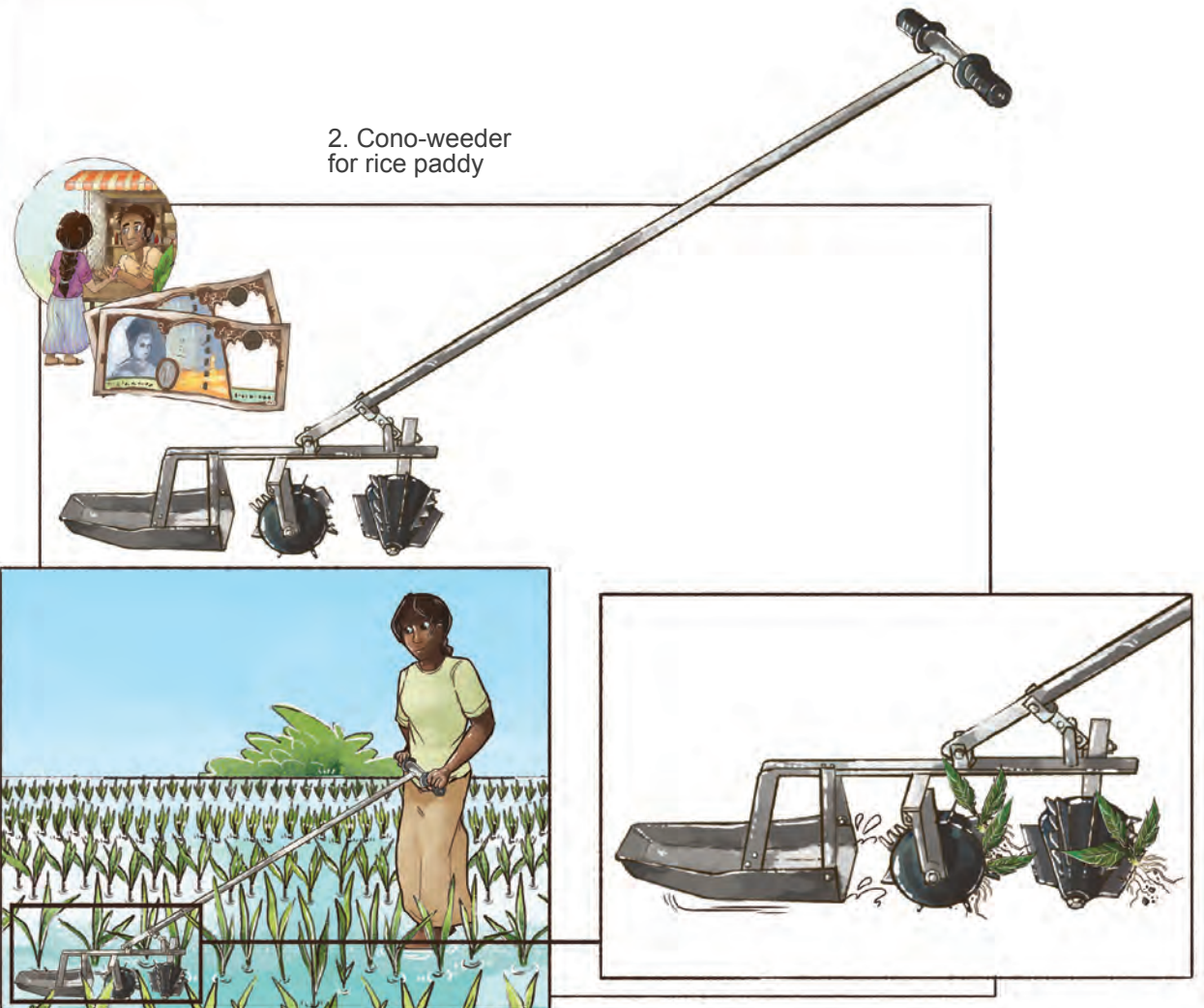
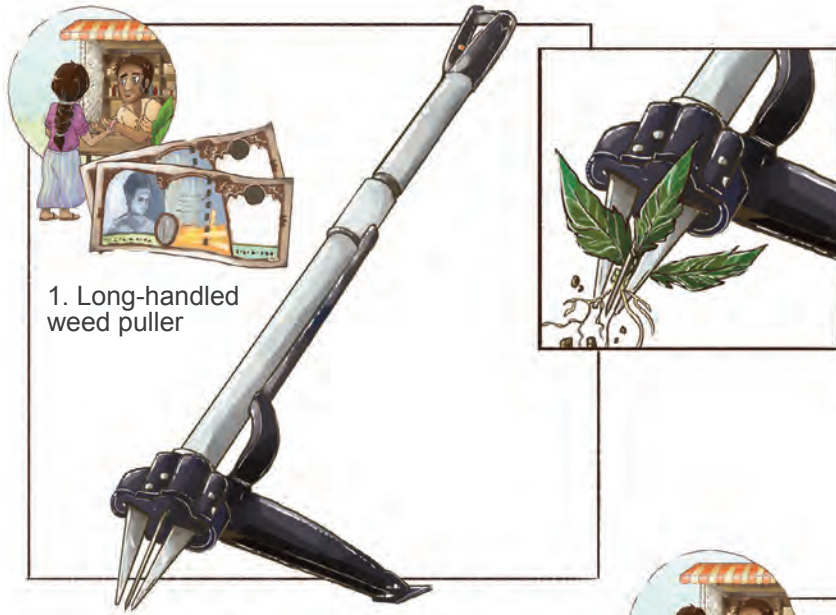
3. Short handled weeders

4. How to use



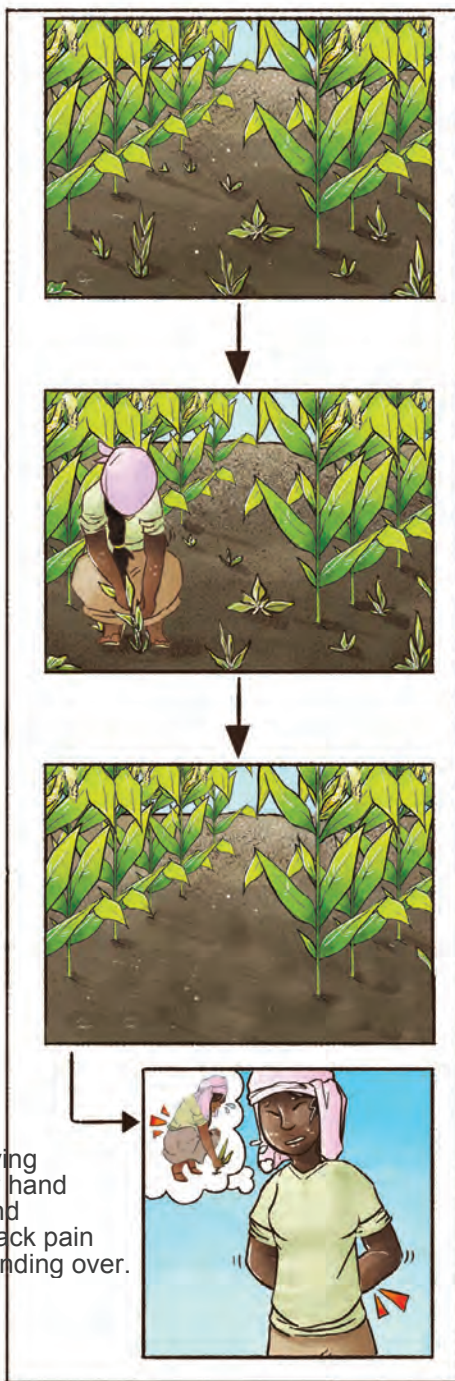


# Lesson: New tools to reduce drudgery of hand removal of weeds: Expensive options.



# Lesson: New tool to reduce drudgery of hand removal of weeds: Fork weeder.

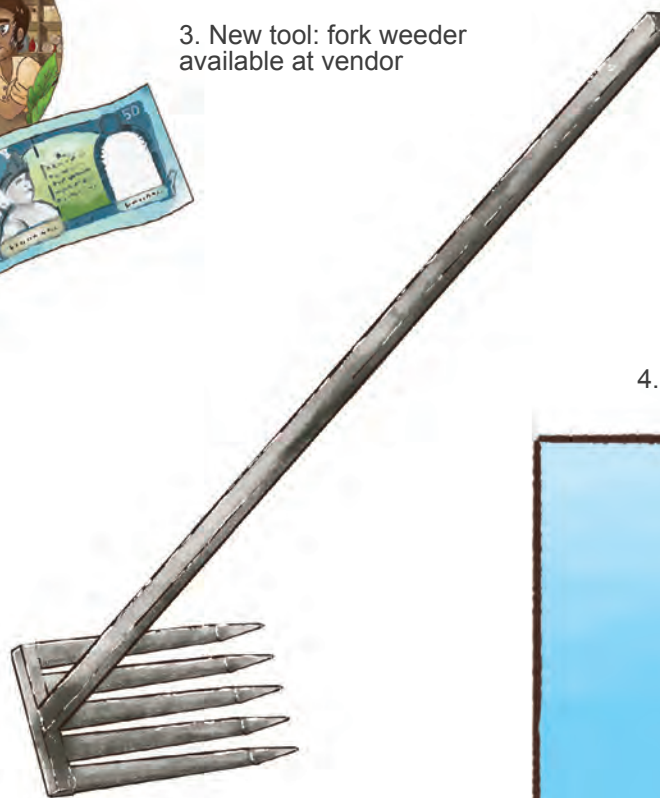
1. Traditional practice



2. Removing weeds by hand is slow and causes back pain due to bending over.



3. New tool: fork weeder available at vendor



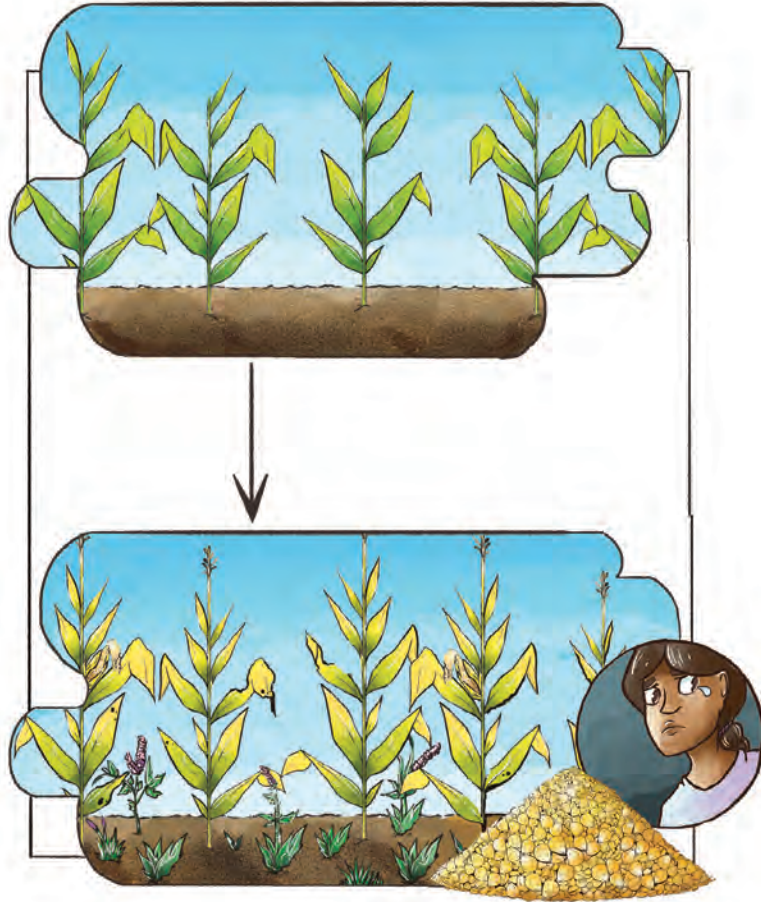
4. Remove weeds easily





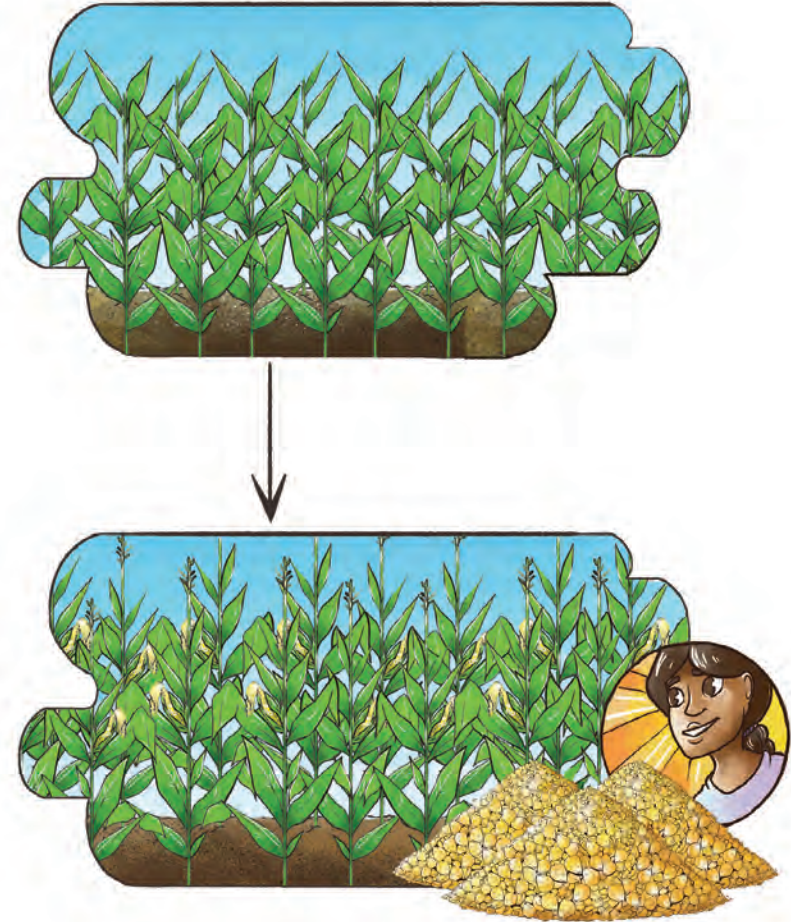
# Lesson: Sowing crops at a high density can suppress weeds

1. Traditional practice: sowing crops in rows with wide spacing



2. Weeds grow, low yields

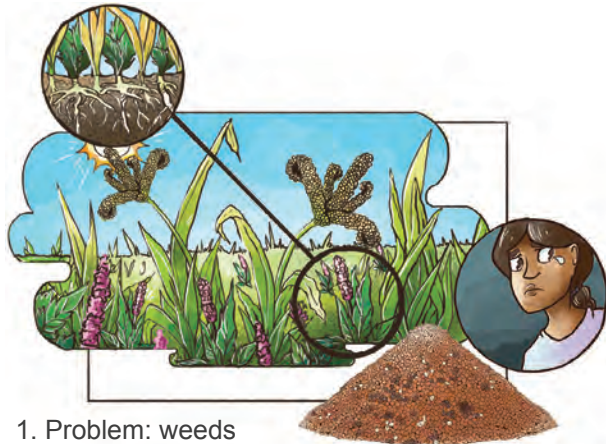
3. Improved practice: sow crops in rows with very narrow spacing



4. Fewer weeds, higher yields

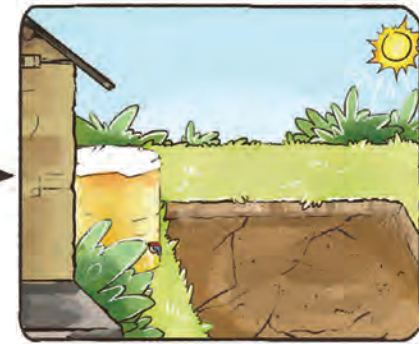


Lesson: Sowing finger millet in a nursery using irrigated water, followed by transplanting, can reduce the weed growth.

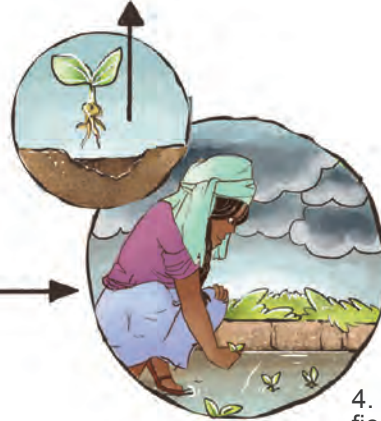
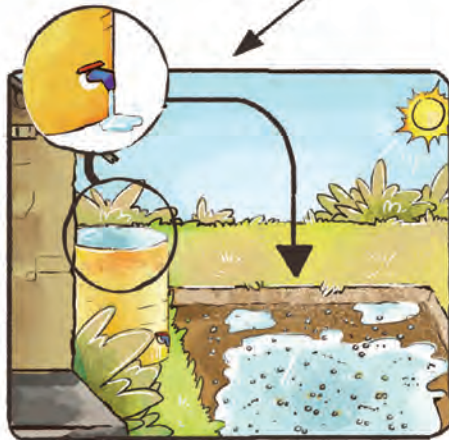


1. Problem: weeds (red flower) reduce yield of millet

2. Improved practice



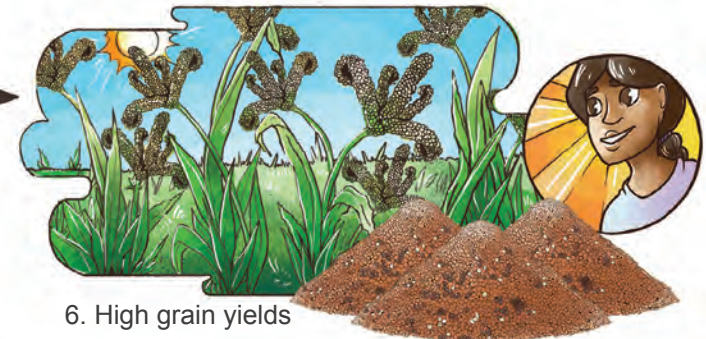
3. Sow millet seedlings at end of dry season in a nursery and use harvested rainwater for irrigation



4. Transplant seedlings to field at start of rainy season



5. Since millet plants are large, they outcompete germinating weeds

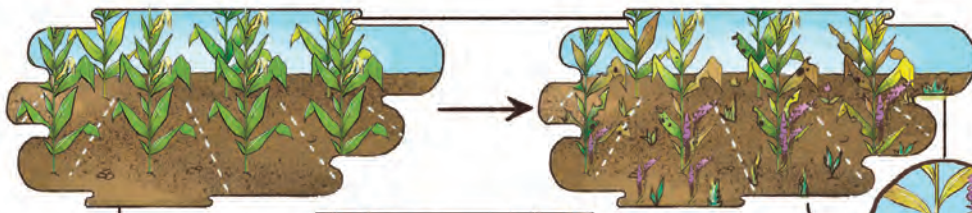


6. High grain yields



Lesson: To suppress weeds, sow seeds of a spreading type crop or forage in between rows of the major crop. The weed suppressing crop should permit trampling.

1. Traditional practice is to sow seeds of a sole crop in rows.



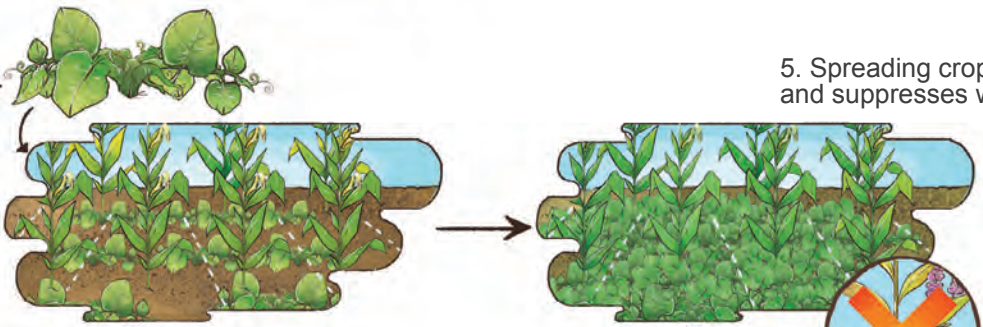
2. Problem: weeds grow in between rows.



3. Drudgery to remove weeds

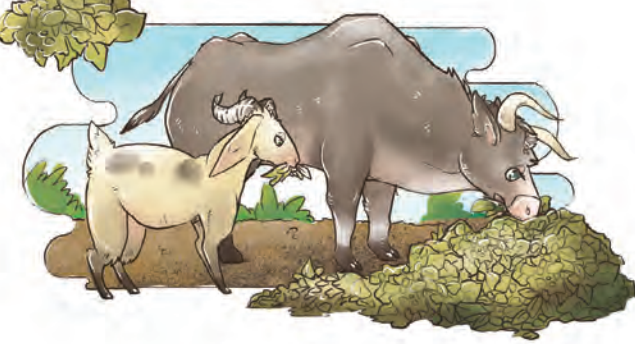


4. Improved practice: in between rows, sow seeds of a spreading type (e.g. cucurbits)



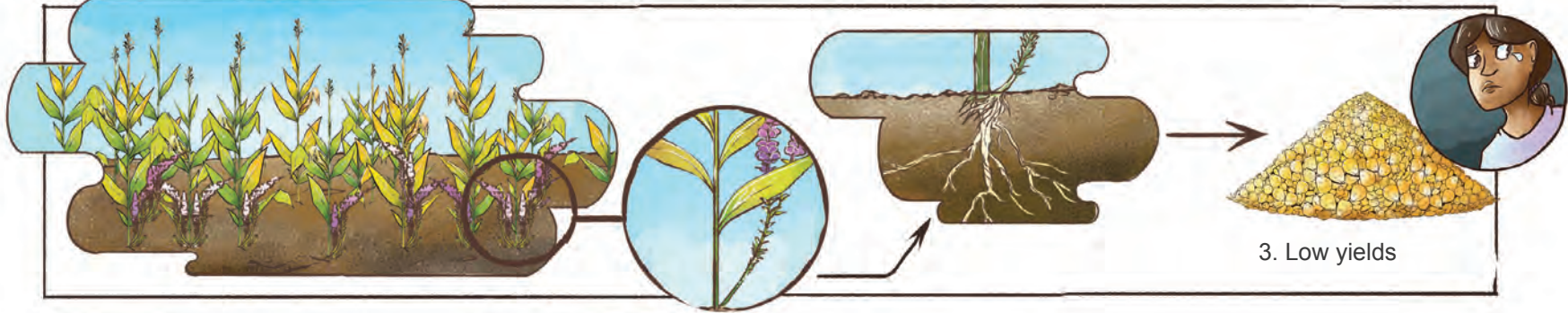
5. Spreading crop covers the ground and suppresses weeds.

6. Cover crop may be harvested and consumed by livestock as an animal feed or by humans.



# Lesson: Parasitic striga weed can be suppressed by intercropping with Desmodium or other spreading-type crops

1. Traditional practice: no cover crop - purple or white flowered striga weed grows

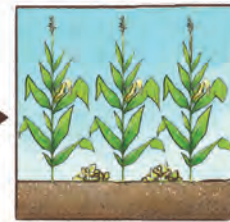
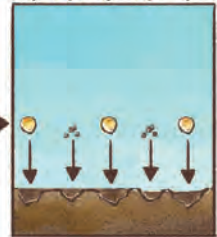


3. Low yields

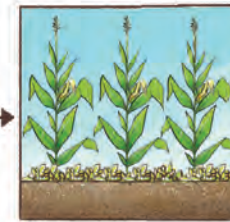
2. Weed attaches onto crop roots and feeds



4. Improved practice: purchase Desmodium seed or other spreading-type seed from vendor



5. Sow intercrop



6. Cover crop suppresses striga weed



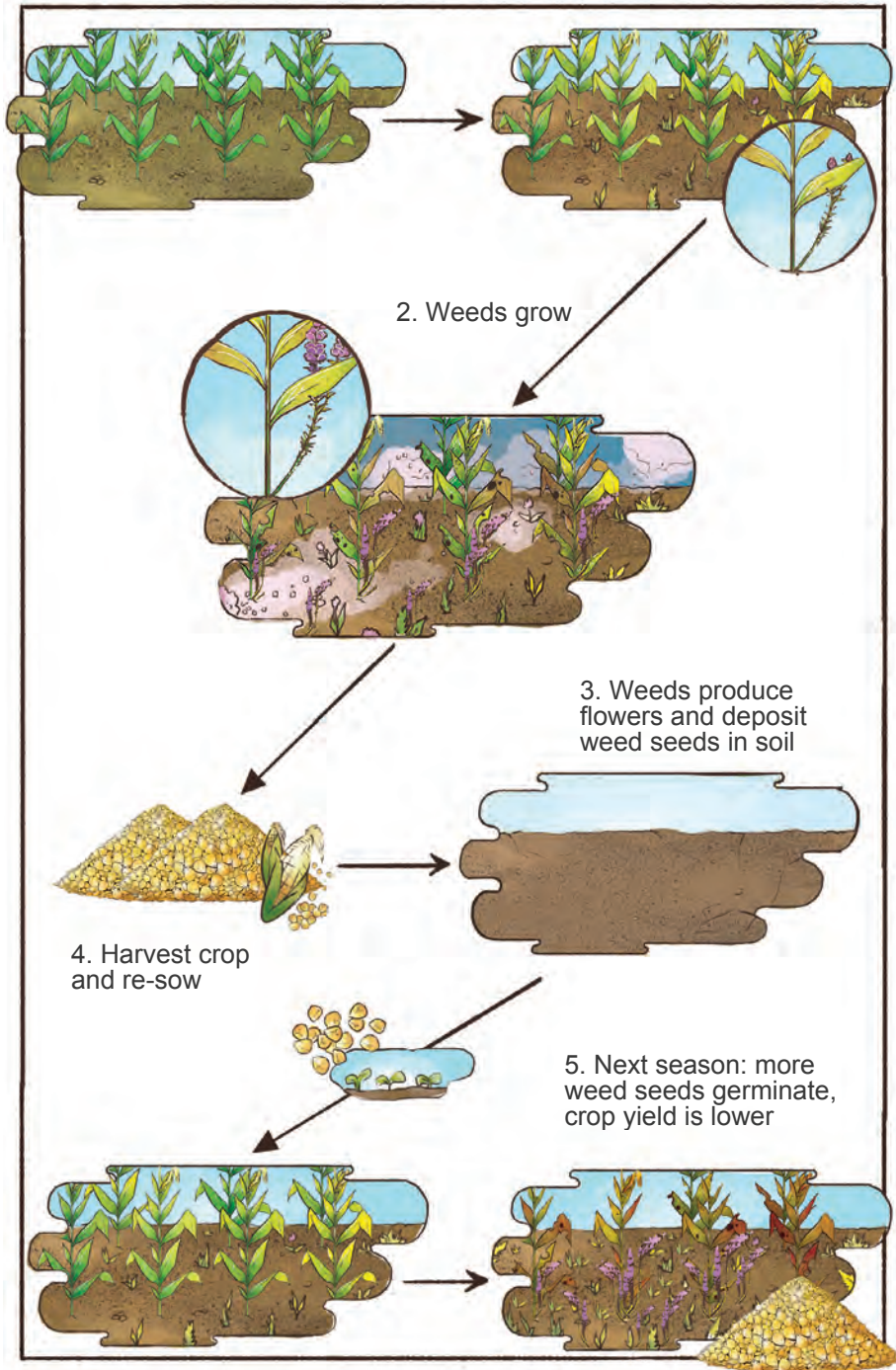
7. High yields. Desmodium also adds natural nitrogen fertilizer to soil and can be used as livestock feed



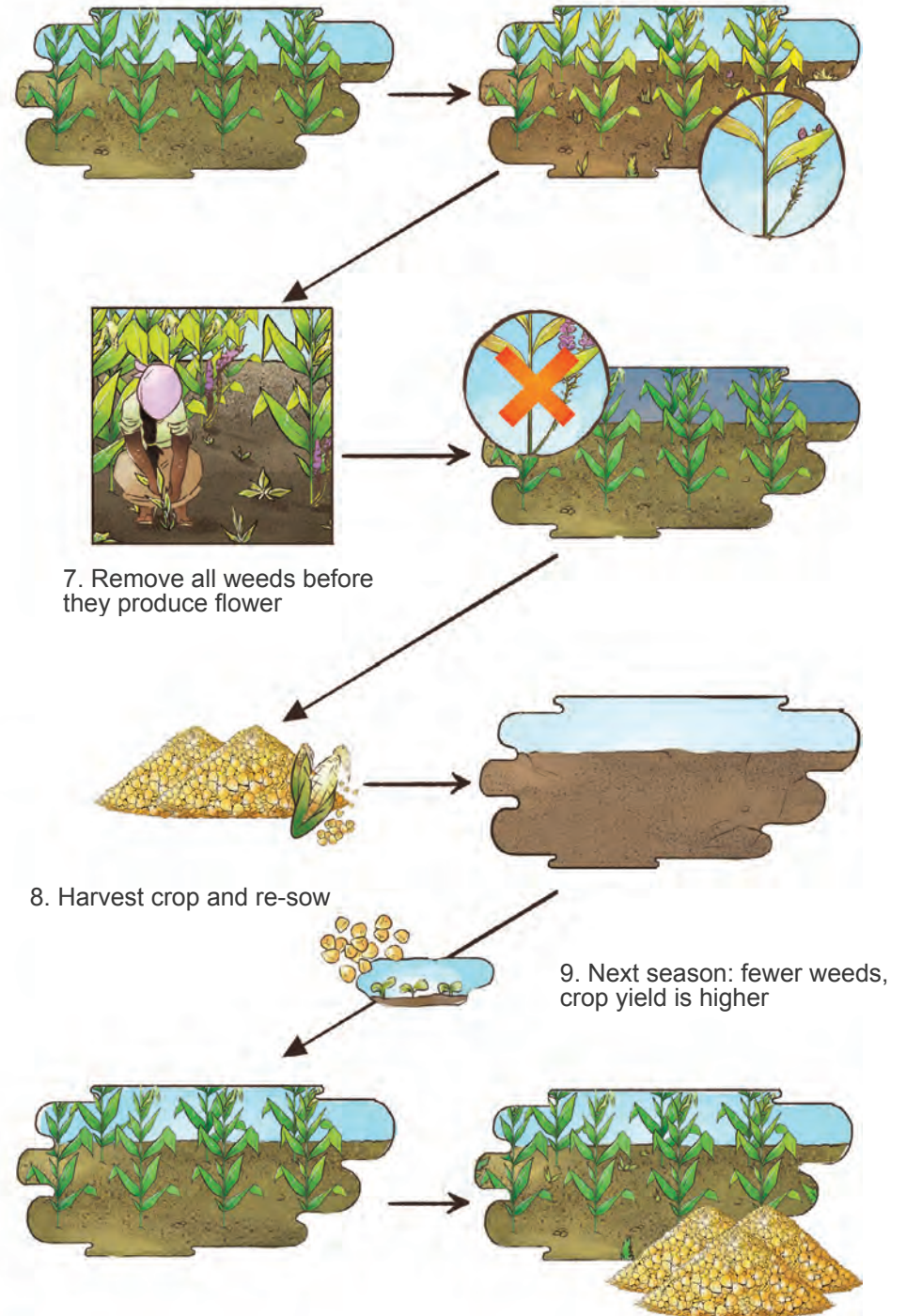


# Lesson: Removing weeds before they produce flowers will reduce weeds in future years

1. Traditional practice



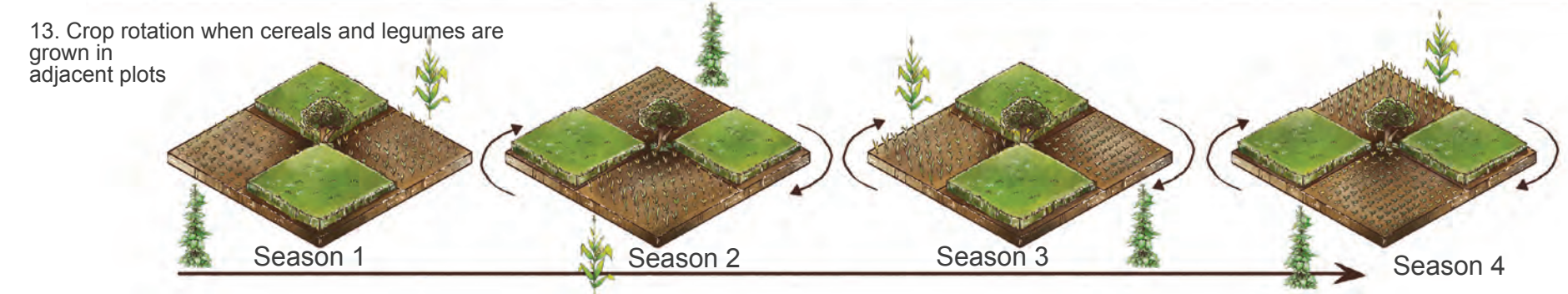
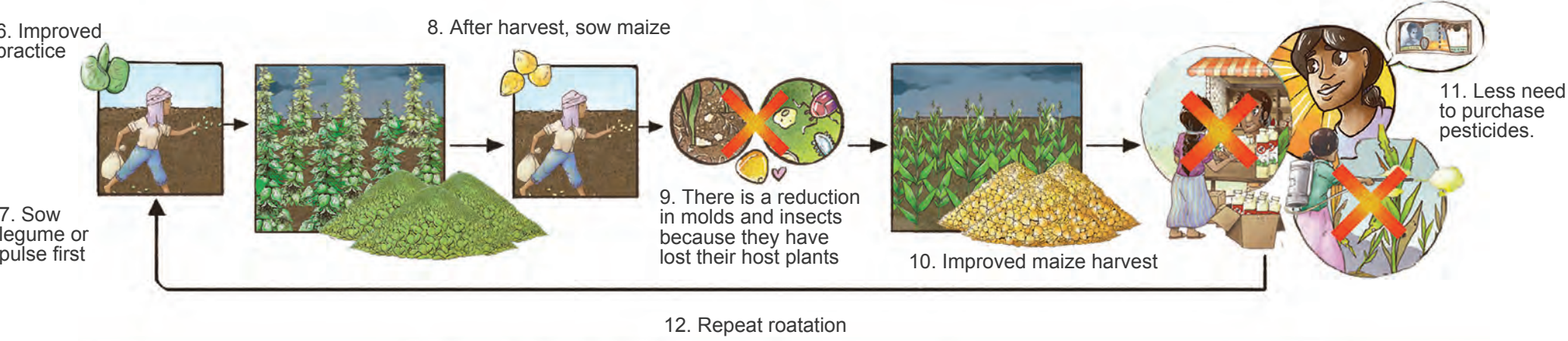
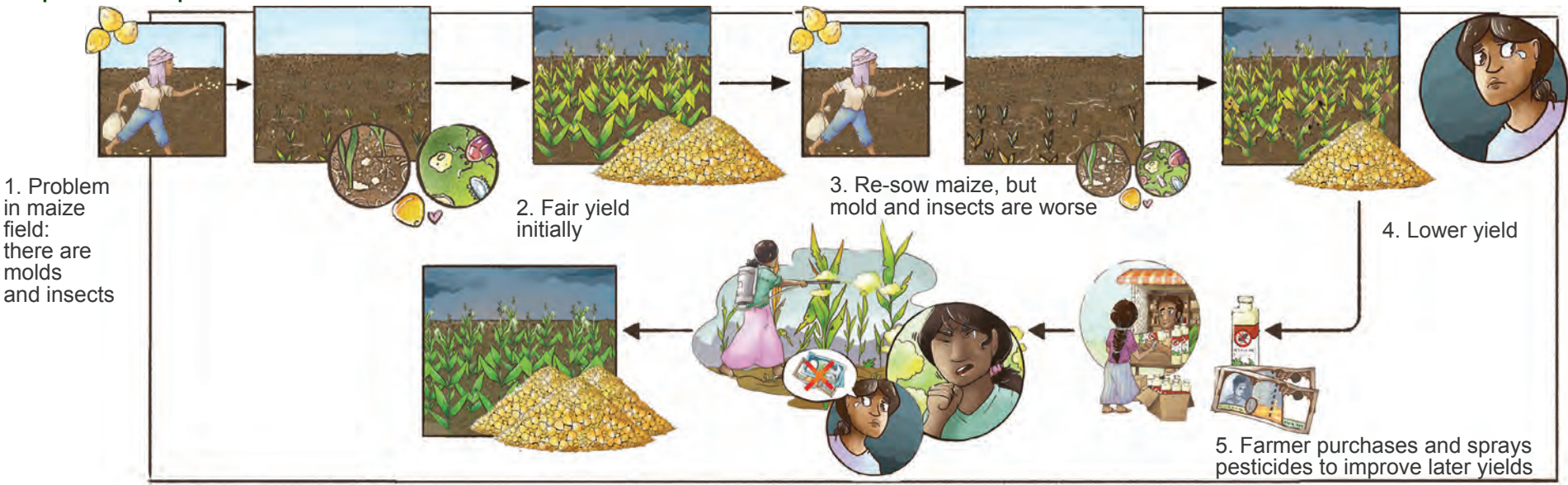
6. Improved practice



## Chapter 8: Pests & Disease

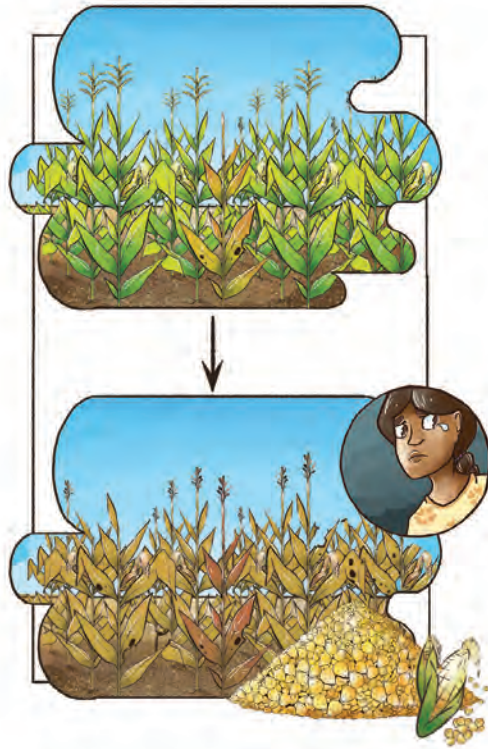


**Lesson: Rotating a cereal crop (e.g. maize) with a legume crop (e.g. beans) will reduce pests and diseases and reduce need to purchase pesticides.**



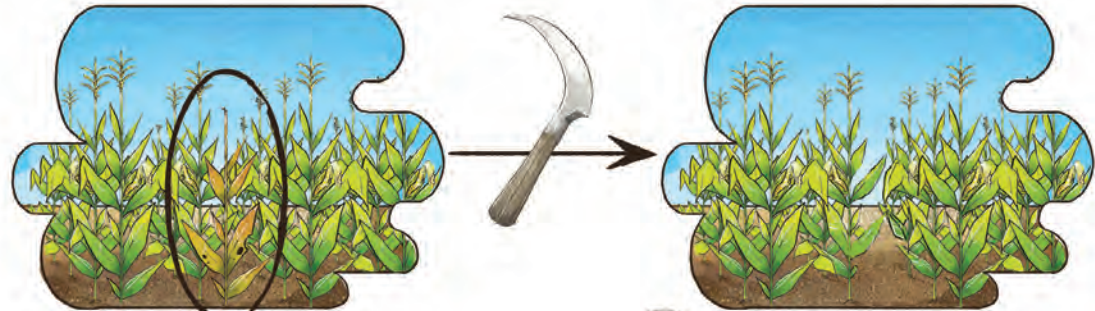


# Lesson: Constantly visual inspect fields for sick plants and remove them in order to improve the health of the field

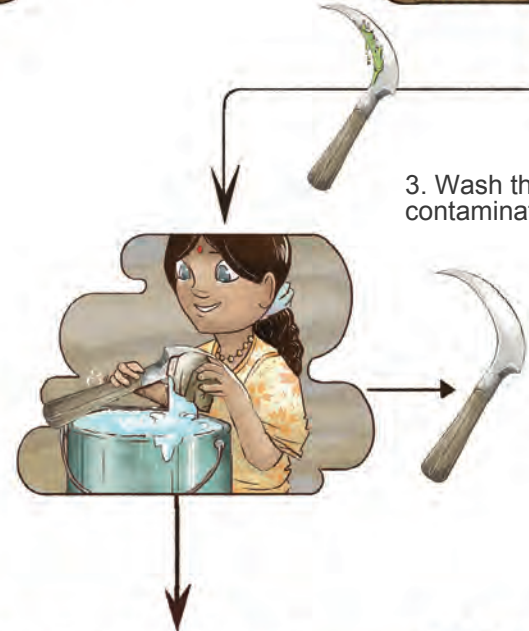


1. Traditional practice: sick plants are allowed to remain in field. Many plants become sick, low yields

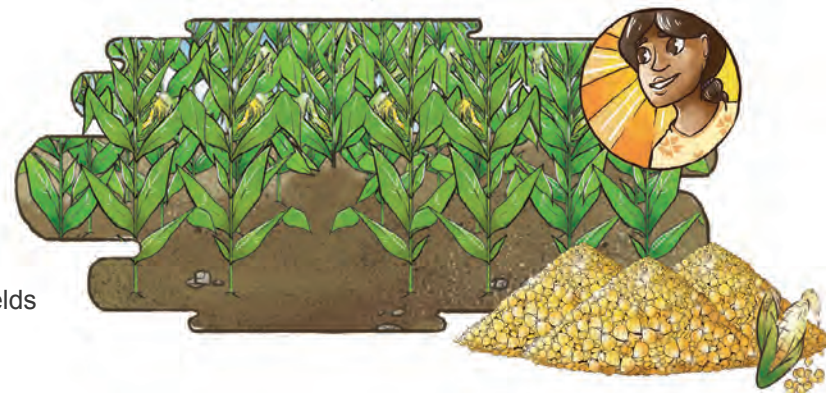
2. Improved practice: remove sick plants immediately to prevent spread of disease or pests



3. Wash the cutting knife as it may be contaminated with disease or pest

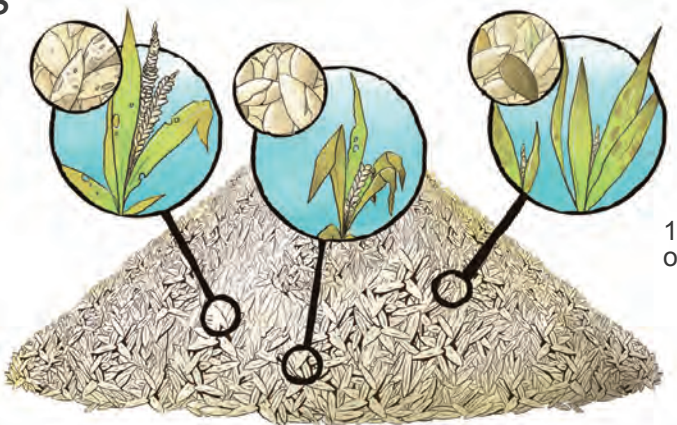


4. Field is healthy, high yields





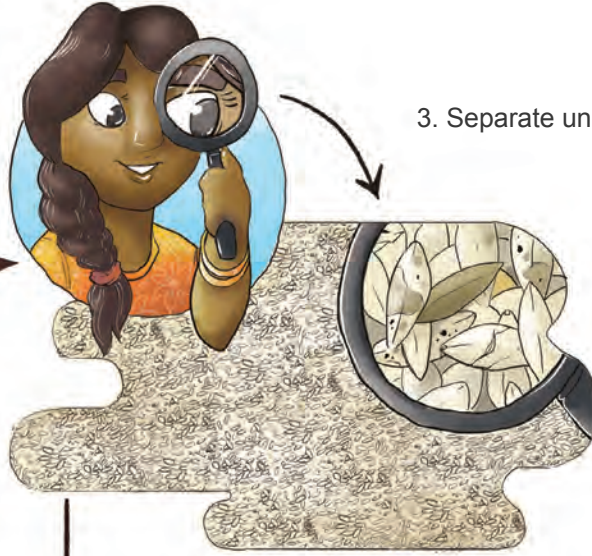
# Lesson: Before sowing seeds, use a magnifying glass/sheet to help remove seeds with disease or pests



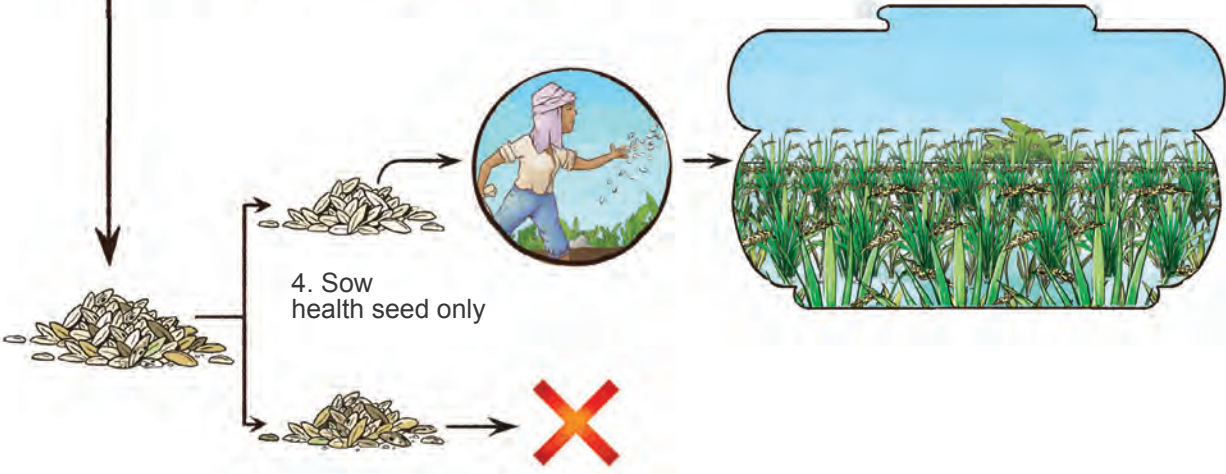
1. Seeds for sowing may have small spots or damage due to insects or mold



2. Purchase magnifying glass/sheet from vendor



3. Separate unspotted, undamaged seed

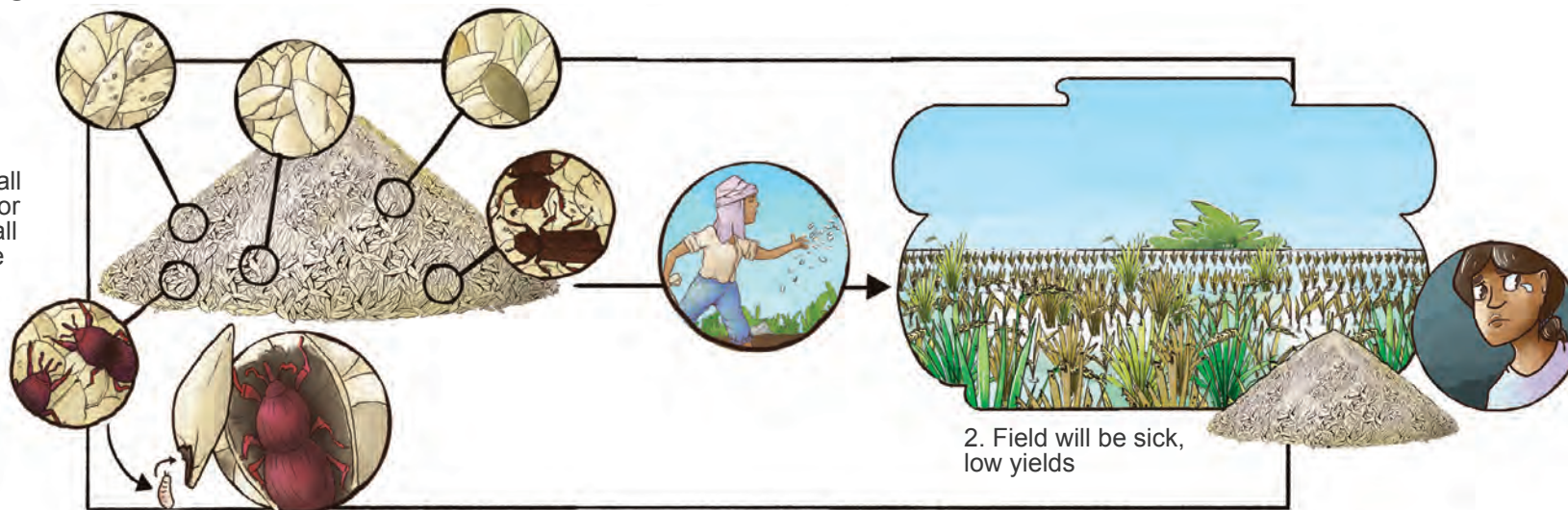


4. Sow health seed only

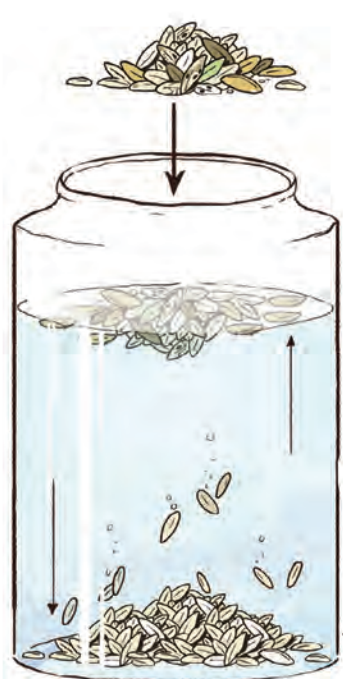


# Lesson: Healthy seeds can be easily separated from sick seeds prior to sowing using water floatation

1. Traditional practice: seeds with small disease spots or containing small insects may be missed, and sown in field



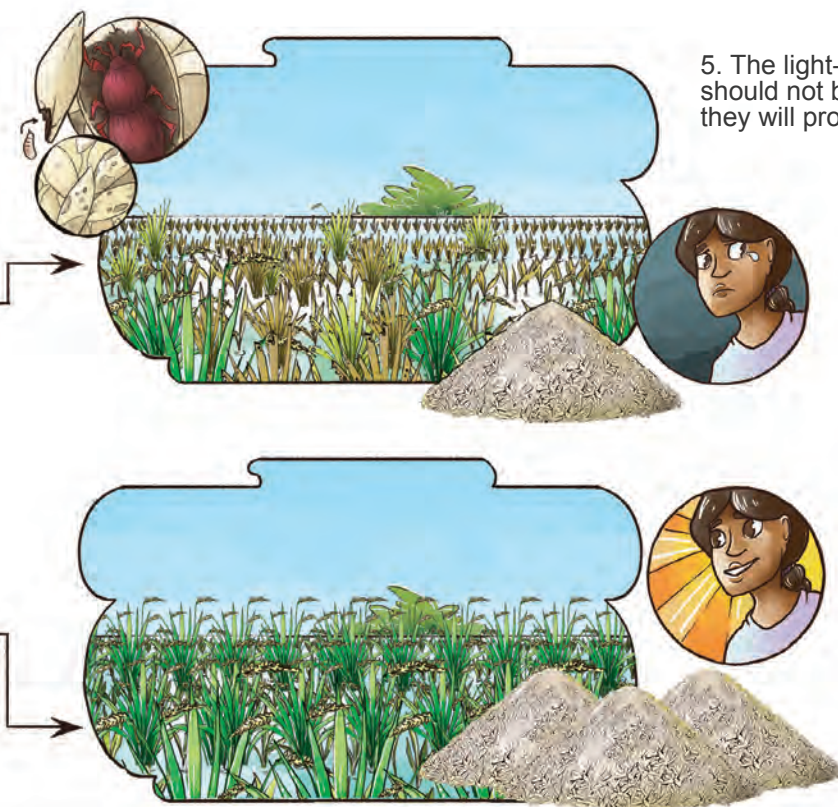
3. Improved practice: Add seeds to water.



4. Sick seeds are light-weight and will float.

7. The heavy seeds will produce a healthy field

6. Healthy seeds are heavy and will sink



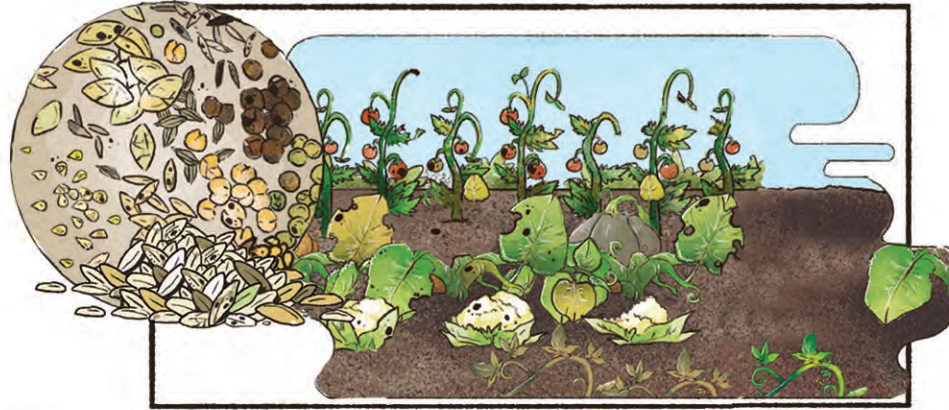
5. The light-weight seeds should not be planted as they will produce a sick field

8. If seed size is large, then salt should be added to jar to better enable seed separation



# Lesson: Gently heat treating vegetable seeds prior to sowing can reduce crop disease

1. Traditional practice: seeds may contain disease leading to field diseases



2. Improved practice: Purchase a thermometer from a vendor, then add water pre-heated to 45°C to seeds



3. Incubate for 1 hour. Heat will kill some diseases



5. Be careful: excess temperature or time will kill seeds.

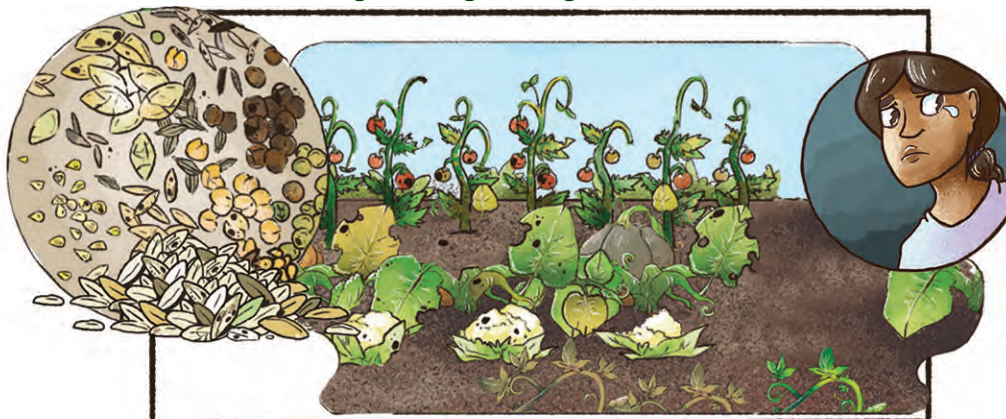


4. Vegetable garden may be healthier but if the water temperature is too high, then seeds will be damaged

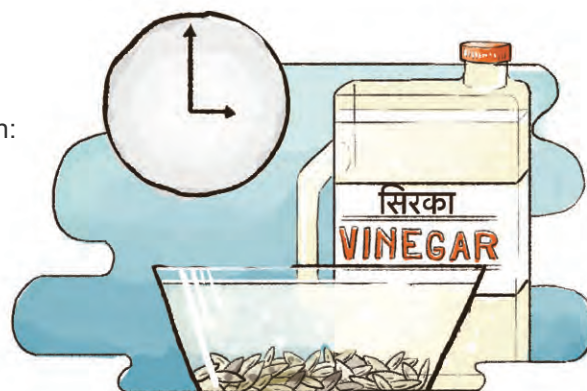


Lesson: Instead of spraying chemical pesticide or biopesticide in the field, it is less expensive and less labour to initially remove pests and disease from seeds before sowing, using vinegar.

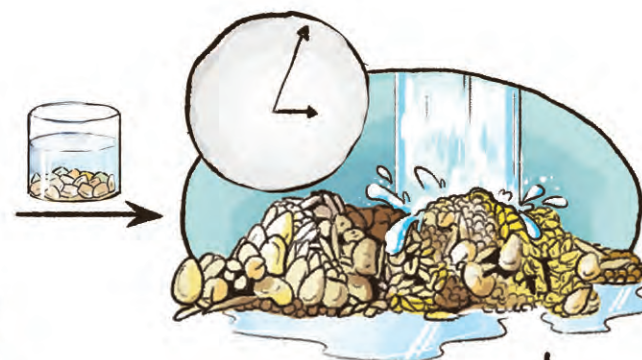
1. Problem: vegetables damaged by pests and disease



2. Partial solution: soak seeds for a few minutes in vinegar



3. Rinse with water



4. Sow seeds



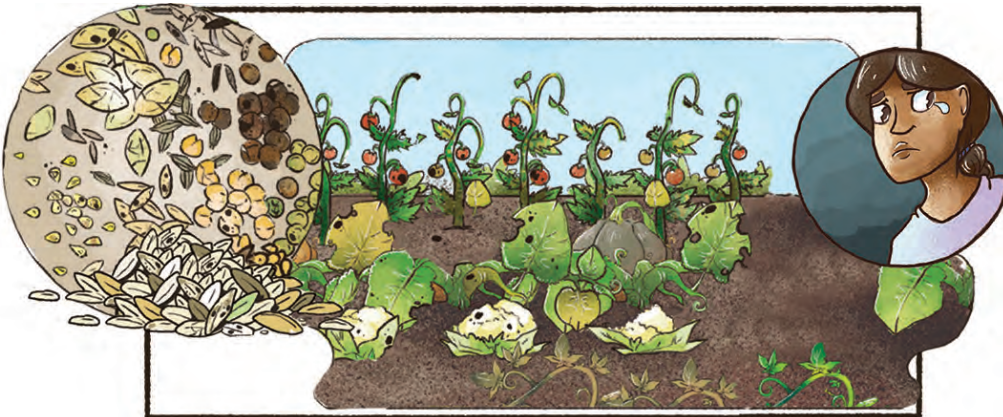
5. Healthier plants

6. Be careful, excess concentration or time of vinegar will kill seeds. It is recommended to try different dilutions and durations of the treatment, and then sow the seeds to ensure germination is not reduced.

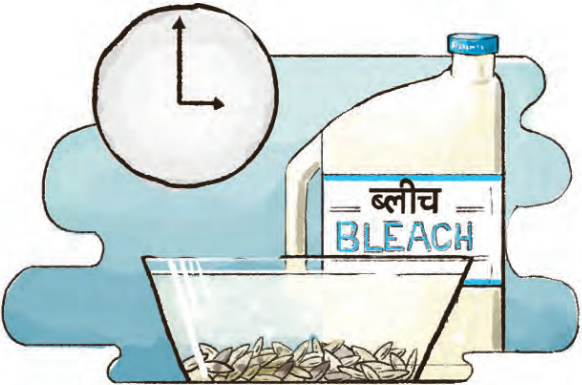


Lesson: Instead of spraying chemical pesticide or biopesticide in the field, it is less expensive and less labour to initially remove pests and disease from seeds before sowing, using diluted bleach.

1. Problem: vegetables damaged by pests and disease



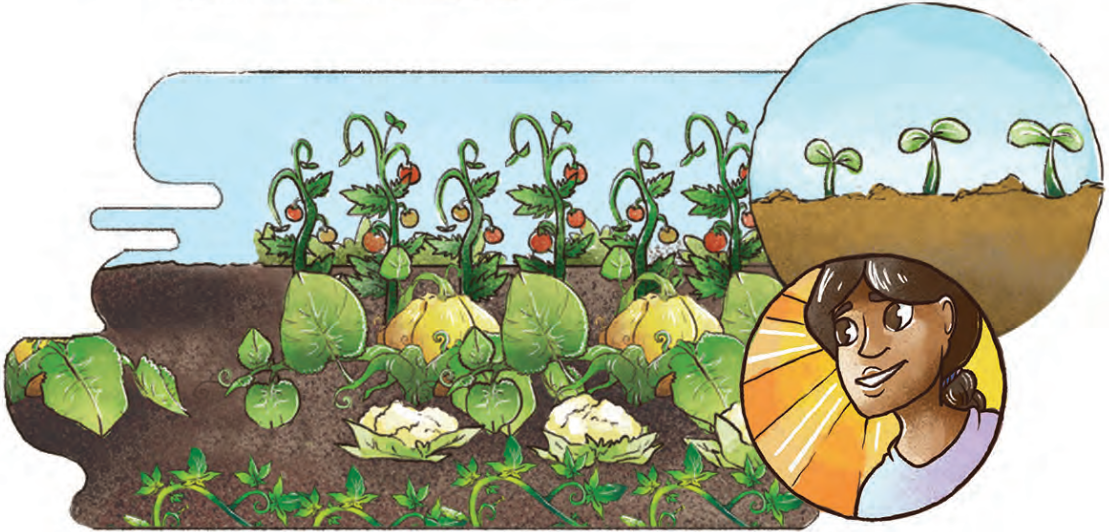
2. Partial solution: soak seeds for a few minutes in diluted bleach



3. Rinse with water



4. Sow seeds

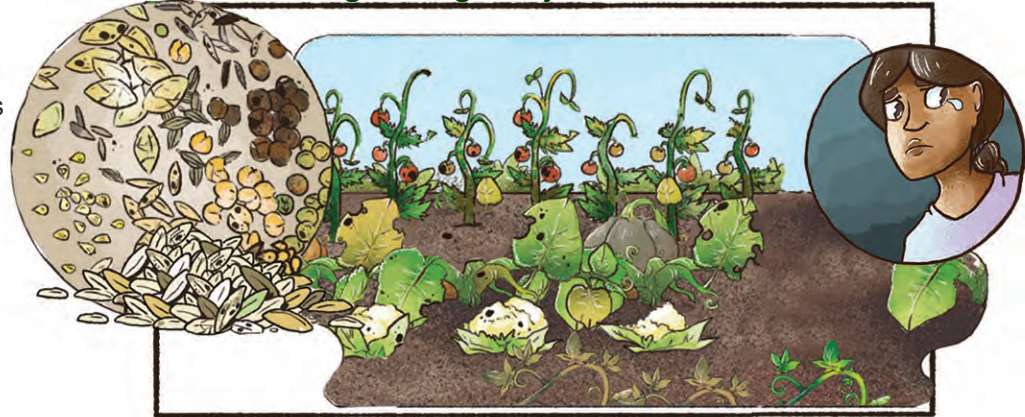


6. Be careful, excess concentration or time of vinegar will kill seeds. It is recommended to try different dilutions and durations of the treatment, and then sow the seeds to ensure germination is not reduced.

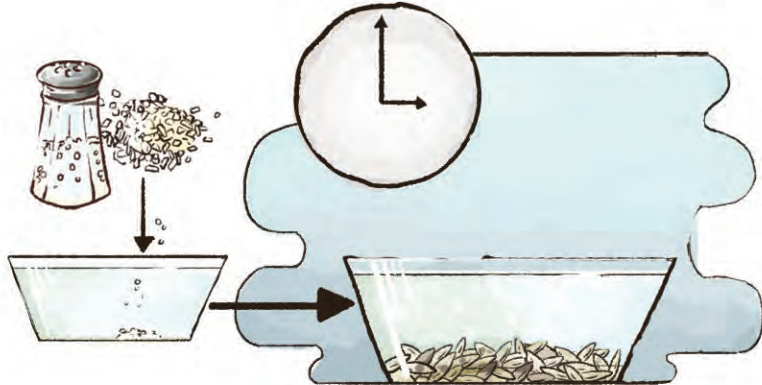


Lesson: Instead of spraying chemical pesticide or biopesticide in the field, it is less expensive and less labour to initially remove pests and disease from seeds before sowing, using salty water.

1. Problem: vegetables damaged by pests and disease



2. Partial solution: soak seeds for a few minutes in very salty water

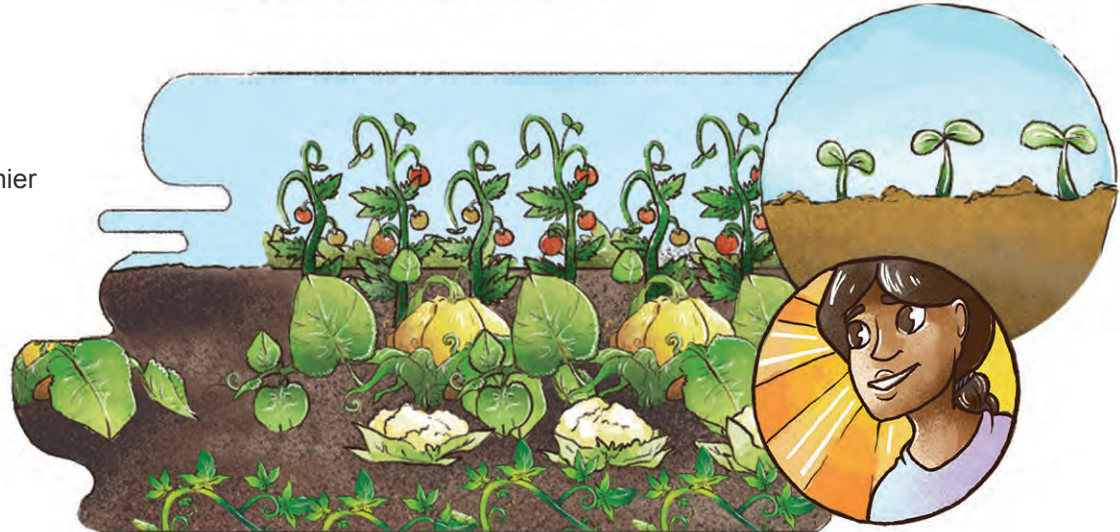


3. Rinse with non-salty water



4. Sow seeds

5. Healthier plants



6. Be careful, excess concentration or time of vinegar will kill seeds. It is recommended to try different dilutions and durations of the treatment, and then sow the seeds to ensure germination is not reduced.

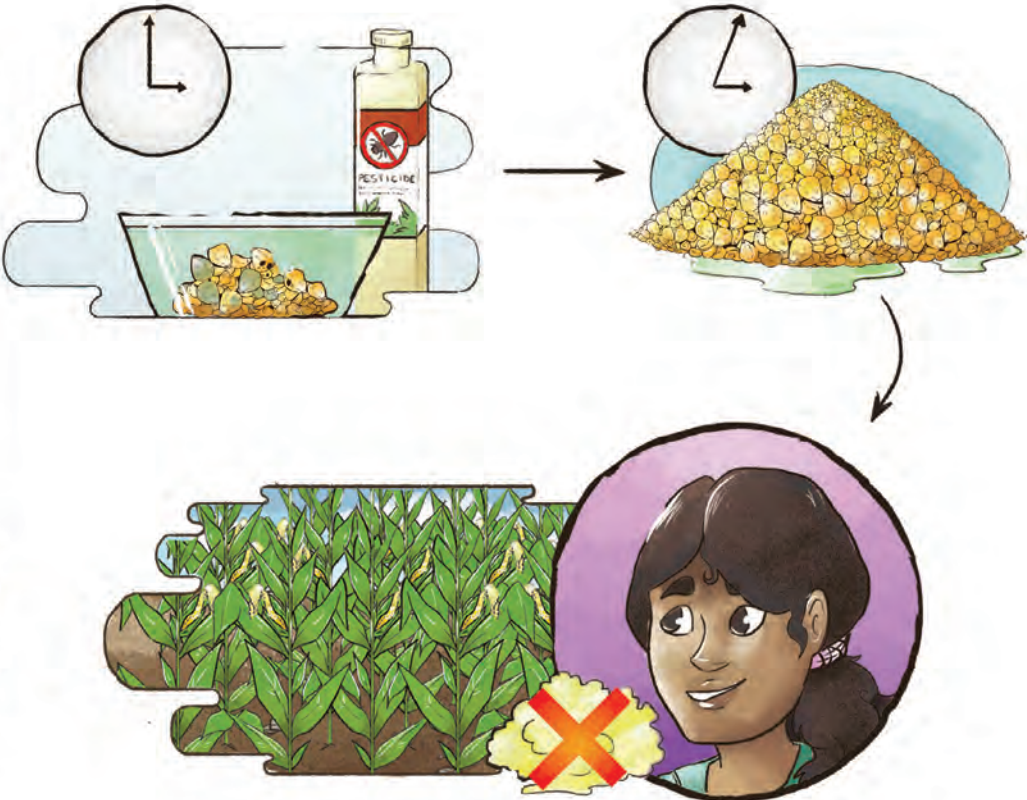


Lesson: Instead of spraying chemical pesticide or biopesticide in the field, it is less expensive and less labour to coat seeds with these chemicals before sowing

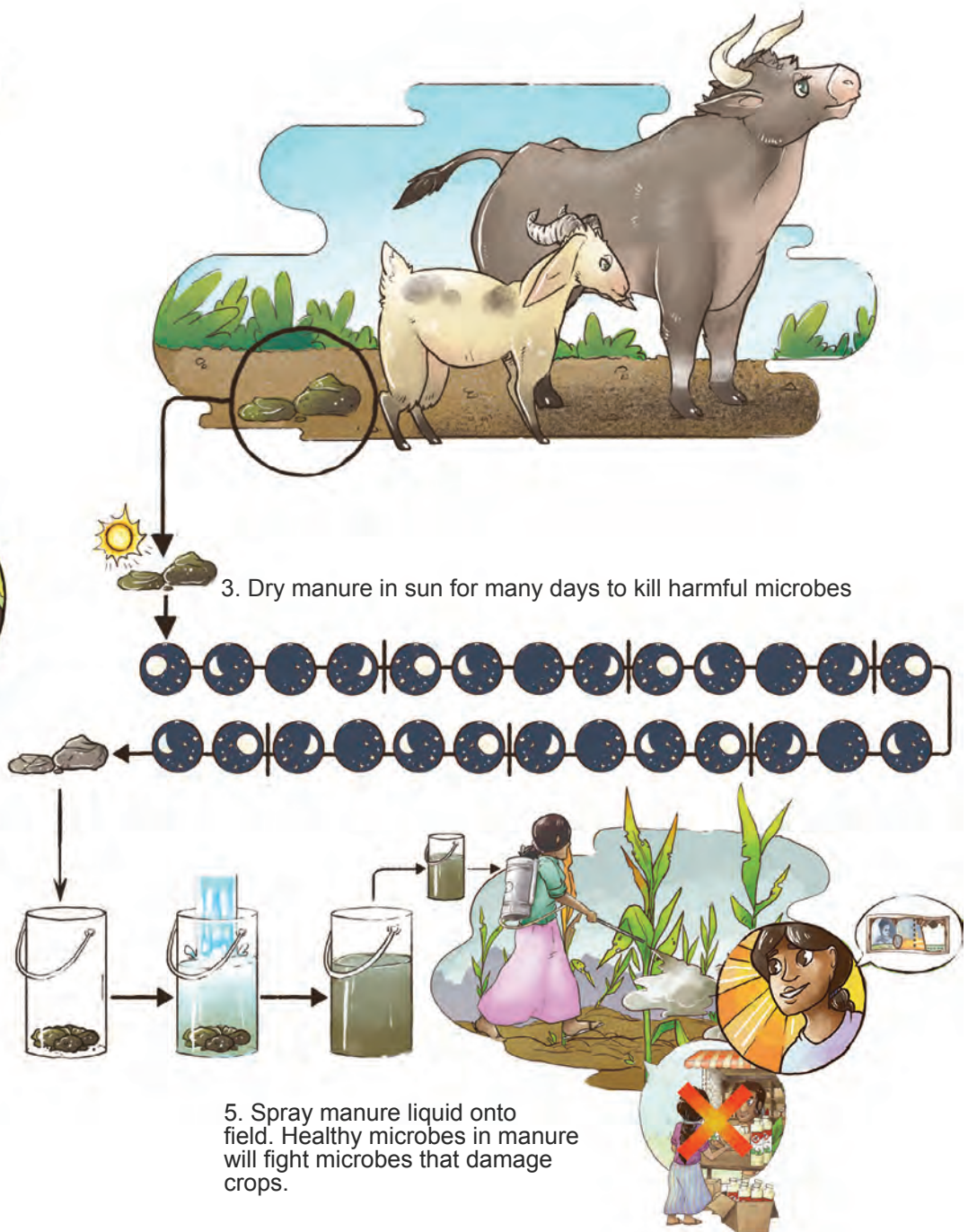
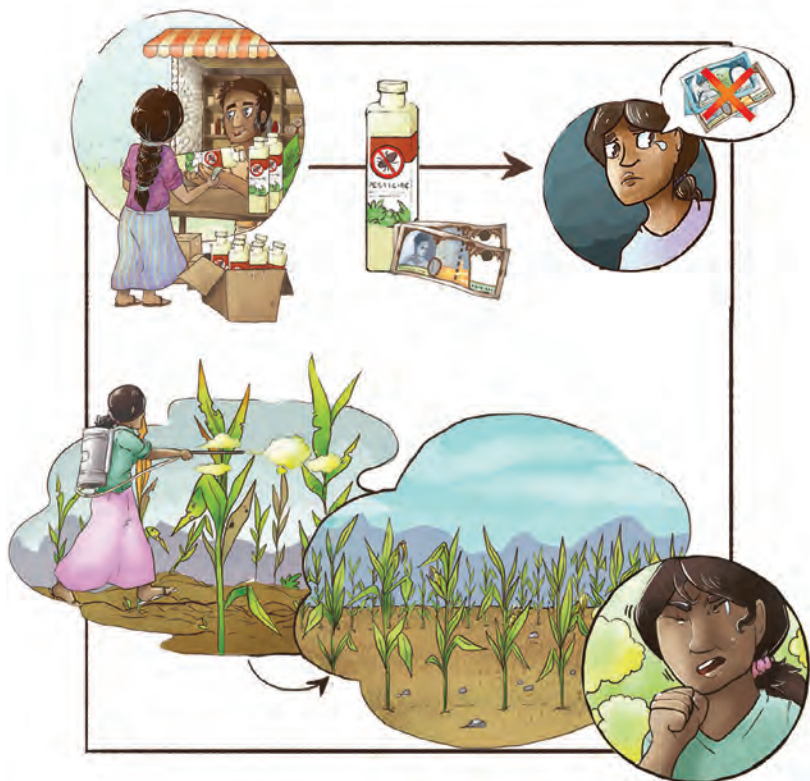
1. Traditional practice



2. Improved practice: soak seeds in pesticide prior to sowing



# Lesson: Manure that is soaked in water can be sprayed onto crops to fight crop disease

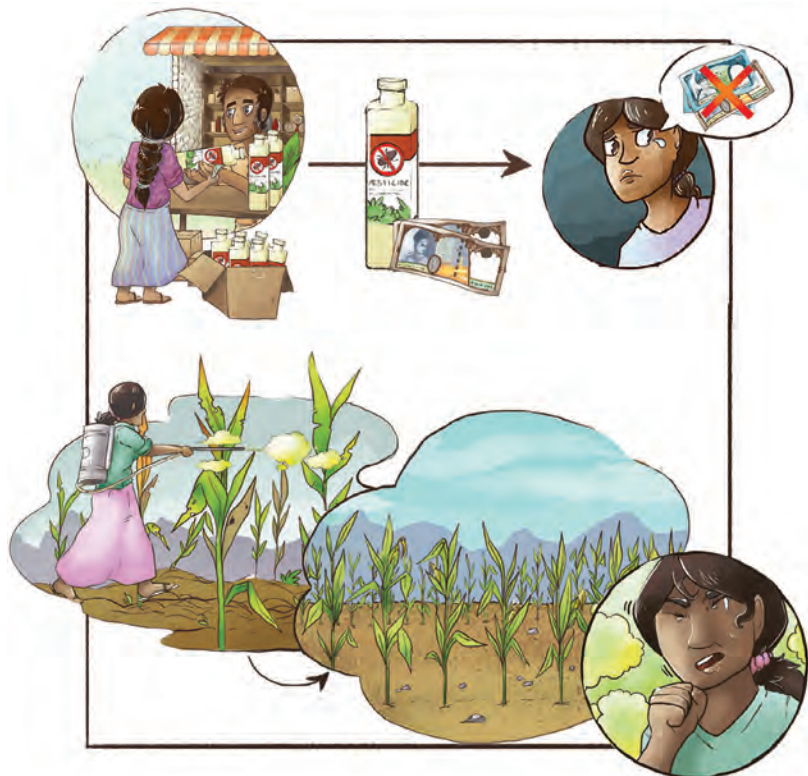


5. Spray manure liquid onto field. Healthy microbes in manure will fight microbes that damage crops.

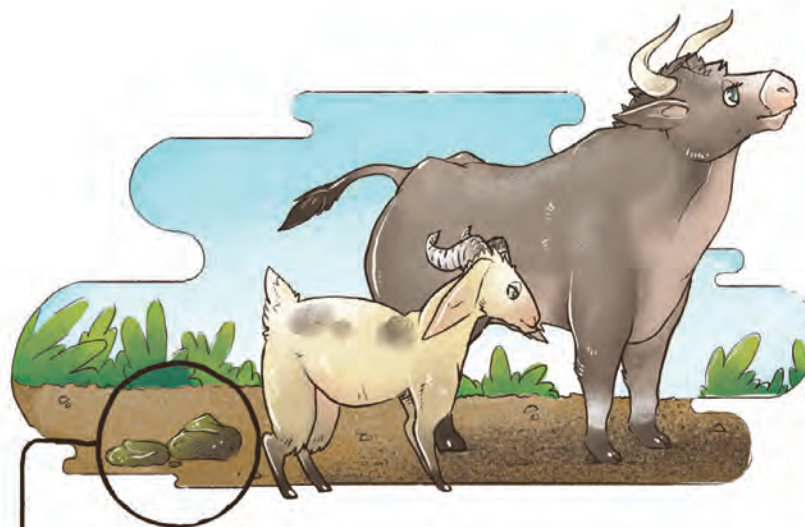


# Lesson: Manure soaked in water can be added to seeds before sowing to fight crop disease

1. Traditional practice: purchase pesticides and spray onto field



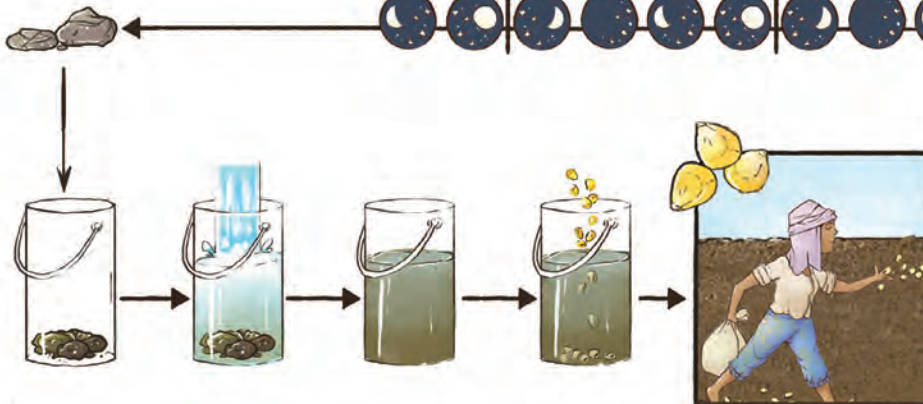
2. Alternative practice: collect manure



3. Dry manure in sun for many days to kill harmful microbes



4. Add manure to water



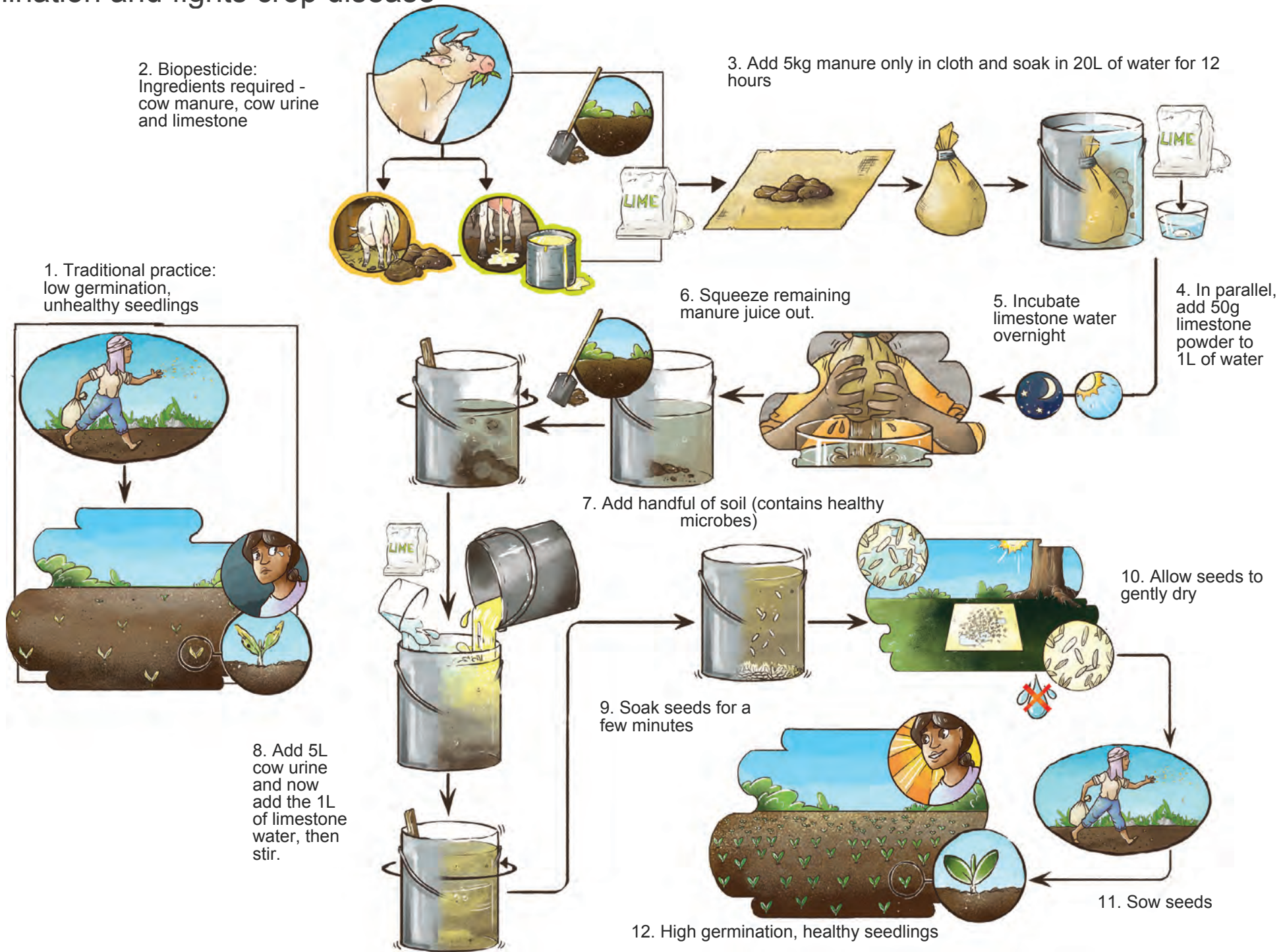
5. Soak seeds in the diluted manure. Healthy microbes in manure will fight microbes that damage crops.

6. Less need to purchase pesticides.





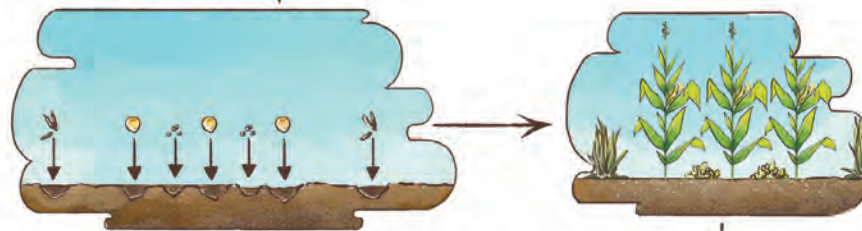
# Lesson: An indigenous bio-pesticide (Bijamrita) added to seeds before sowing improves germination and fights crop disease





# Lesson: Intercropping with Desmodium cover crop and Napier grass as a border crop reduces flying insects

2. Improved practice: purchase Desmodium and Napier grass seed from vendor



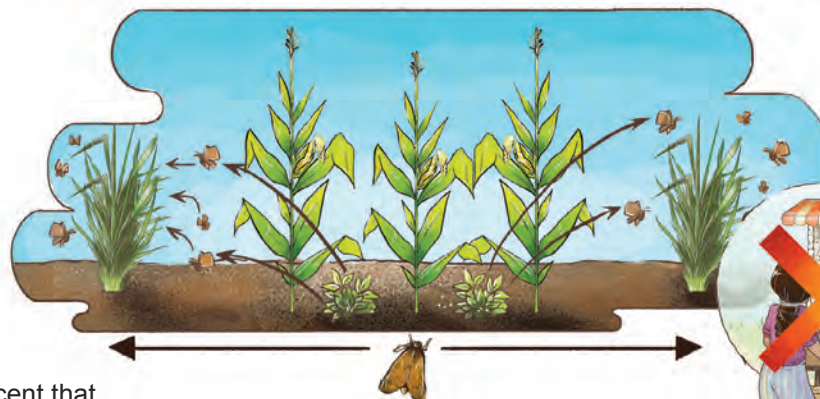
3. Intercrop with Desmodium



4. Border row of Napier grass



1. Traditional practice: expensive pesticides are purchased from vendor and sprayed



6. Less need to purchase pesticides

5. Desmodium produces a gas scent that pushes insect moths away from field. Napier grass produces a gas scent that attracts moths to lay their eggs and hence pulls them out of field.

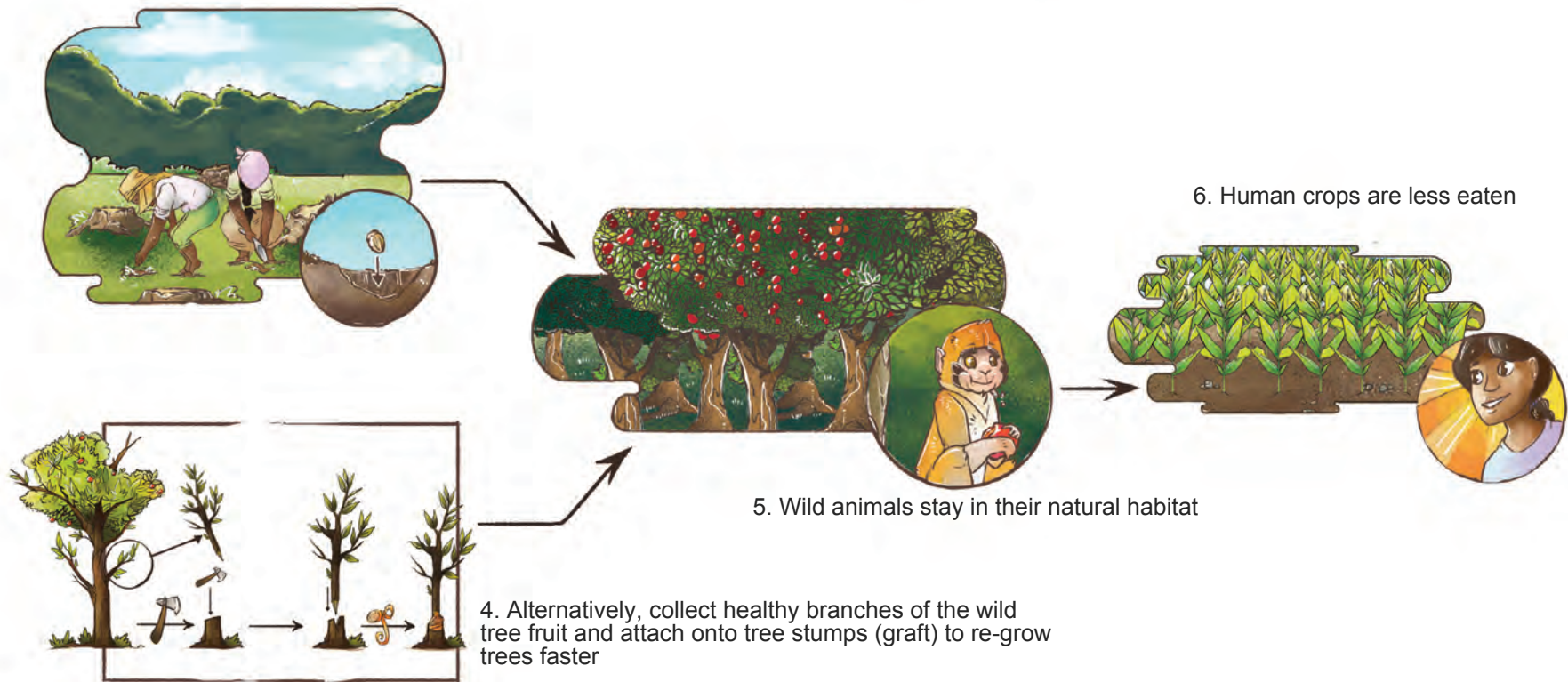
7. Desmodium also enriches soil. Desmodium and Napier are also livestock feeds.



# Lesson: Replenishing the natural foods of wild animals may prevent them from attacking human crops



3. Improved practice: Collect seeds to grow the tree fruits of the wild animals

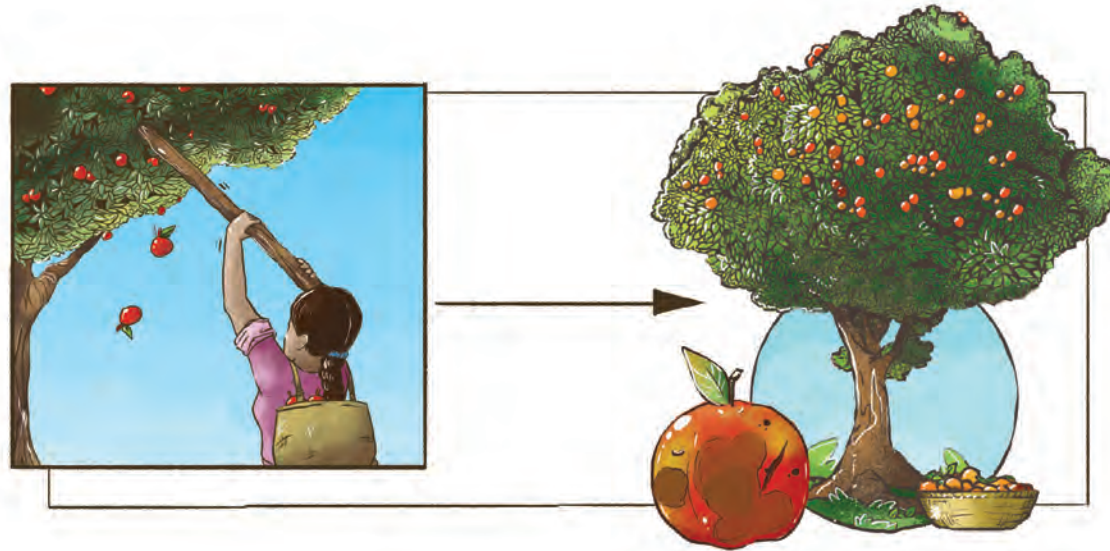




## Chapter 9: Post-Harvest

# Lesson: New tool to harvest tree fruits without climbing trees

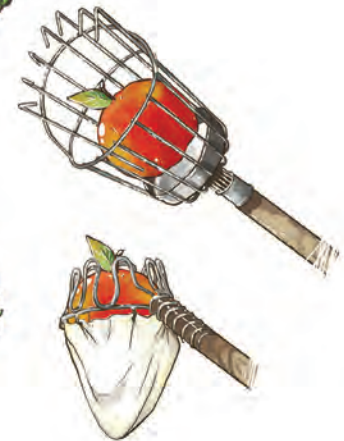
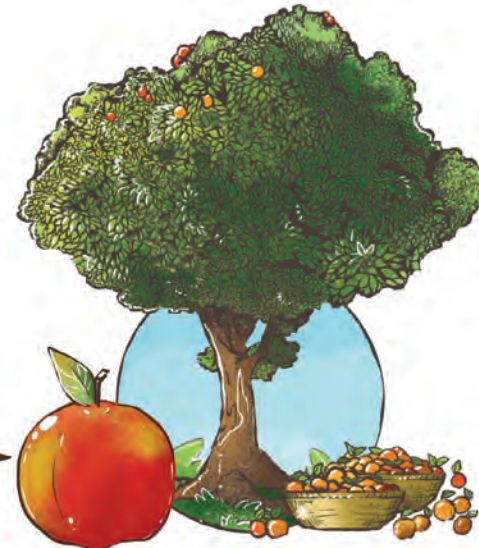
1. Traditional practice



2. New practice: purchase tool from vendor



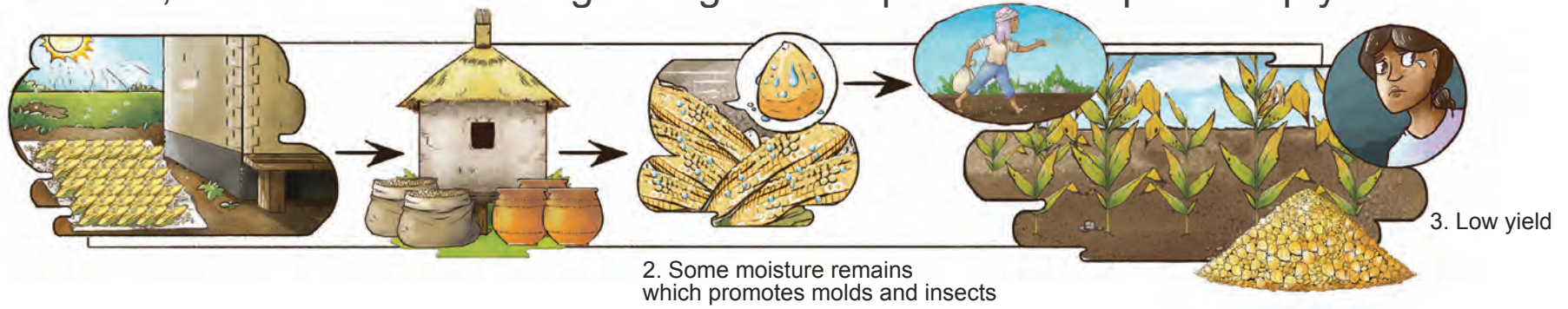
3. Pick fruit using the tool





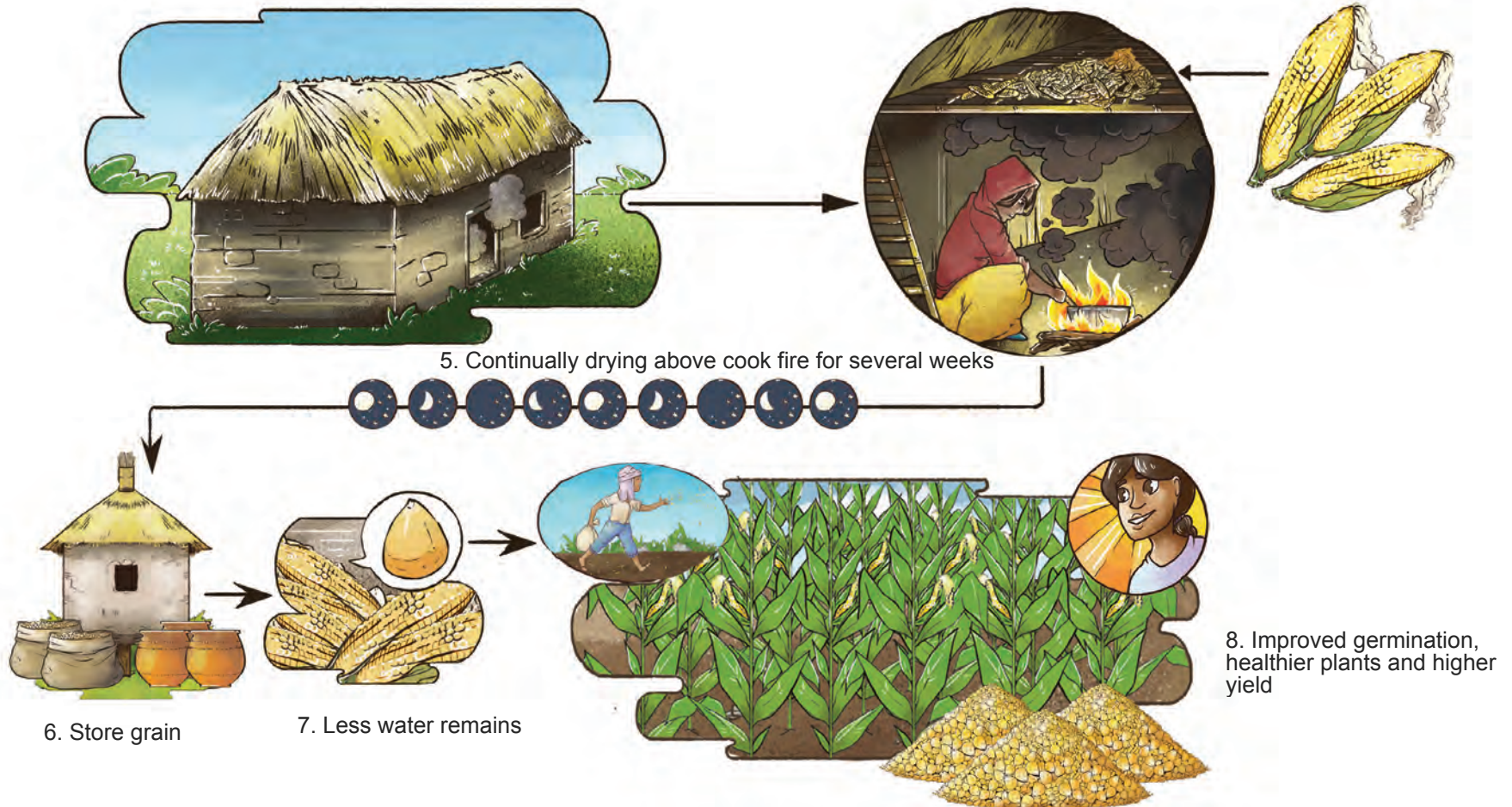
# Lesson: Drying seeds prior to storage above the cooking fire will improve subsequent germination, reduce disease during storage and improve subsequent crop yield

1. Traditional practice is to sun dry only prior to storage



2. Some moisture remains which promotes molds and insects

4. Improved practice is to additionally dry seeds above cooking fire



6. Store grain

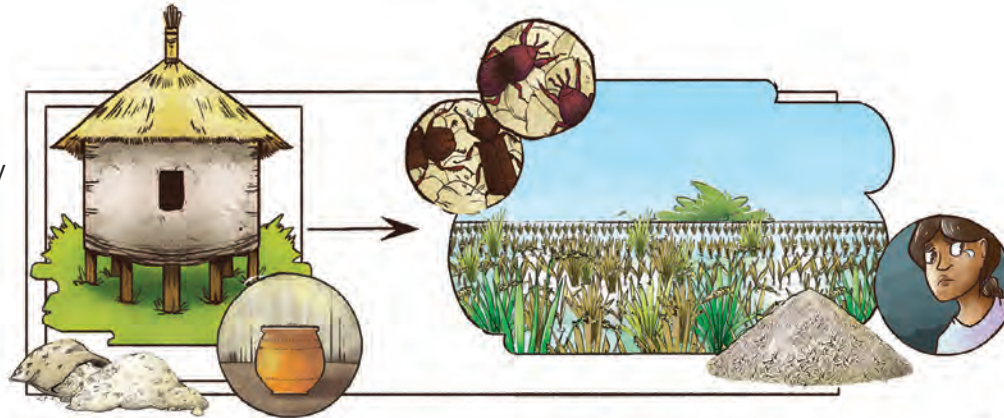
7. Less water remains

8. Improved germination, healthier plants and higher yield



# Lesson: Neem tree leaves fight pests during grain storage

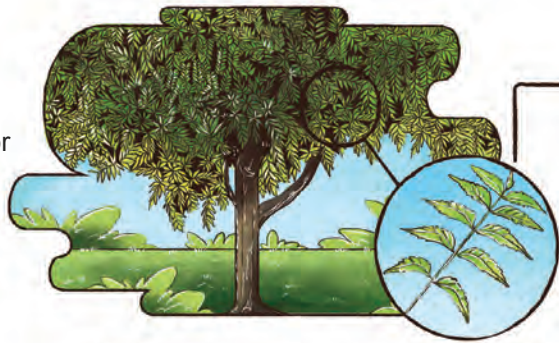
1. Traditional problem: stored grain is damaged by insects during storage.



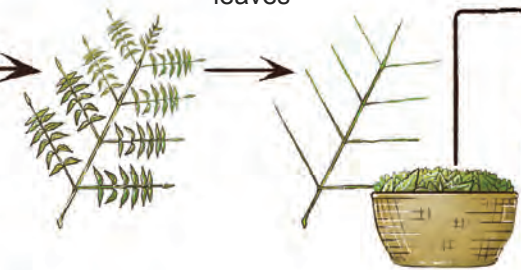
2. When sown, the damaged seeds produce low yields

3. Improved practice

4. Grow or find neem trees



5. Collect neem leaves



6. Add leaves to granary as a layer



7. Add newspaper layer



8. Add grain layer



9. Repeat newspaper



10. Repeat neem leaves



11. Repeat newspaper



12. Repeat grain



13. Repeat newspaper



14. Repeat layering until granary is full



15. Store grain



16. Less insect damage

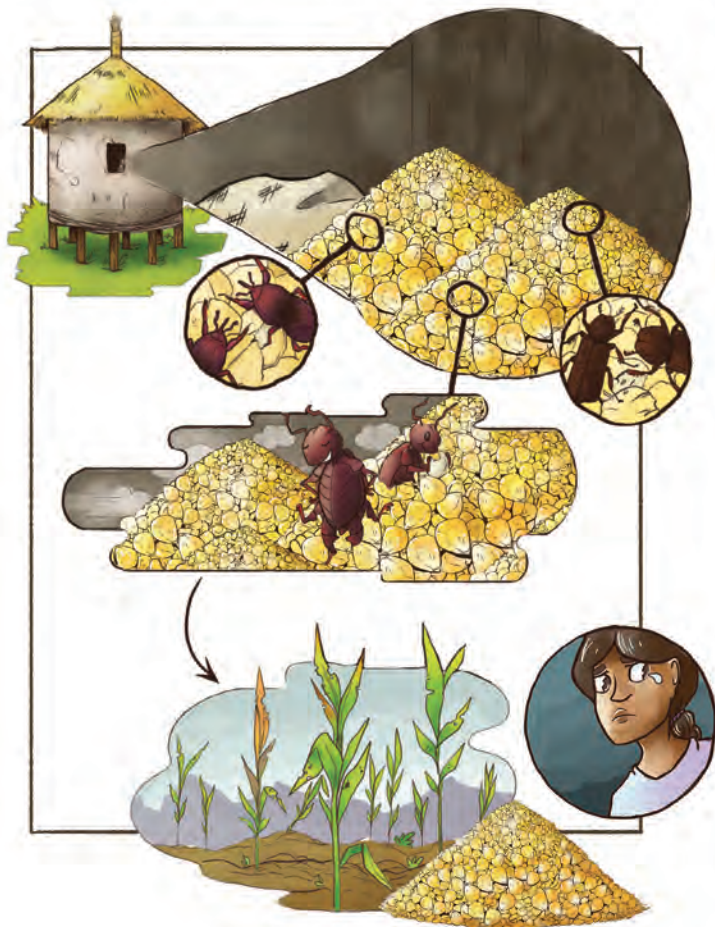




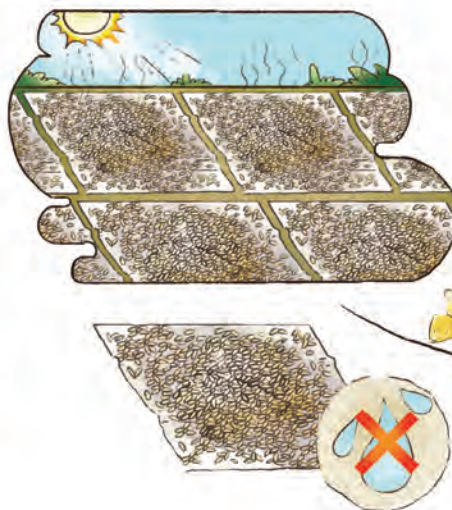
# Lesson: Special bags can be used to store grain which reduce oxygen inside bag which prevents insects and fungal molds from surviving, which also reduces toxins.

## 2. New practice

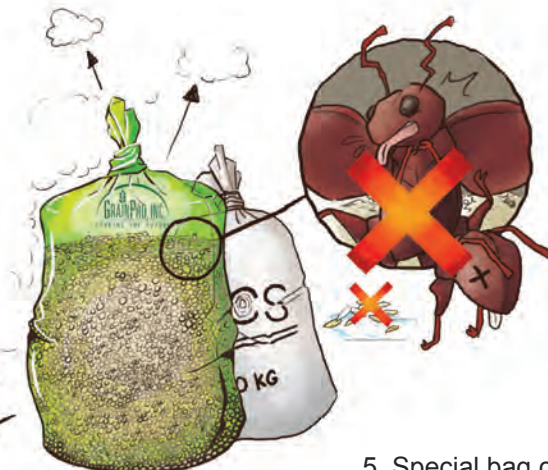
1. Traditional practice: stored grain is damaged by insects and mold. The mold can produce toxins in the grain.



3. Dry grain completely

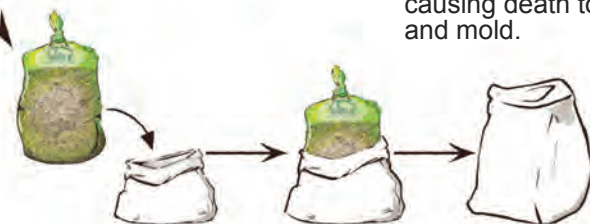


4. Purchase bag from vendor. Put grain in bag, remove air and tie.



5. Special bag causes air to flow outside, causing death to insects and mold.

5. Put bag inside a jute bag. Elevate from ground if possible to prevent rodents.



6. High yield if sown and less toxins in food.

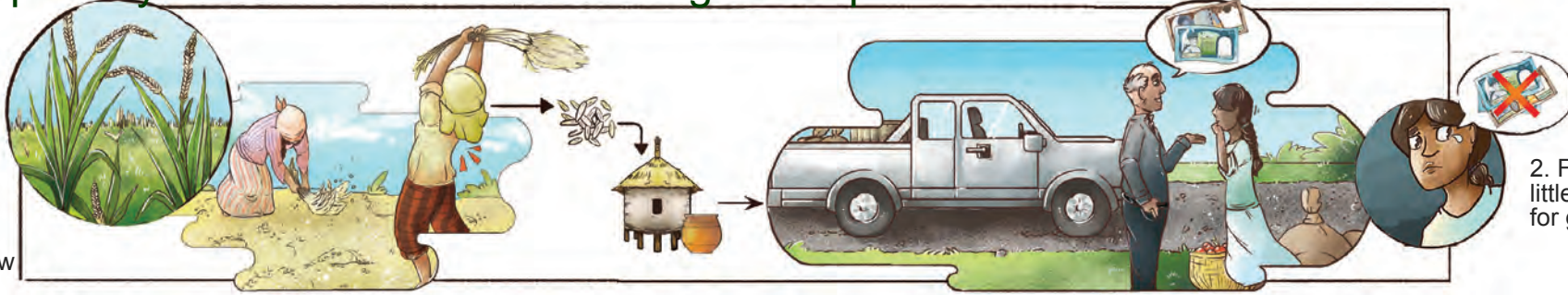


7. Re-use bag many times.



# Lesson: Improved storage of grain permits selling of grain when prices are higher, especially when combined with asking for help from a friend who lives in the nearby city

1. Traditional practice: everyone harvests and sells grain at same time to middleman and hence sales price is low



2. Farmer gets little money for grain

3. Improved practice: improved storage of grain such as in Grainpro or Purdue storage bags



4. Farmer should call friend in city

5. Friend should speak to merchant in city to inquire about grain price

6. If price is low, city friend should call farmer and tell her to wait

7. Farmer should not sell grain to middleman when price is low

8. Time passes



9. Friend should again speak to city merchant in city to inquire about grain price

10. If price is low, farmer should not sell

11. When price is high farmer should sell

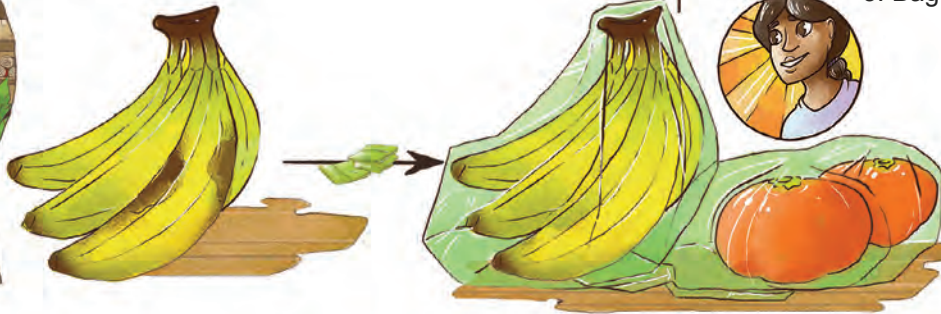


# Lesson: Special small green bags may prevent fruits and vegetables from spoiling/ripening too fast

1. Traditionally, fruits/vegetables spoil quickly: when one fruit/vegetable starts to ripen, it releases a gas which causes nearby fruits/vegetables to ripen



2. New practice: purchase an anti-ripening bag from vendor. The bag stops the gas that promotes ripening, preserving the fruits/vegetables for a few more days.



3. Bags are dirty after use

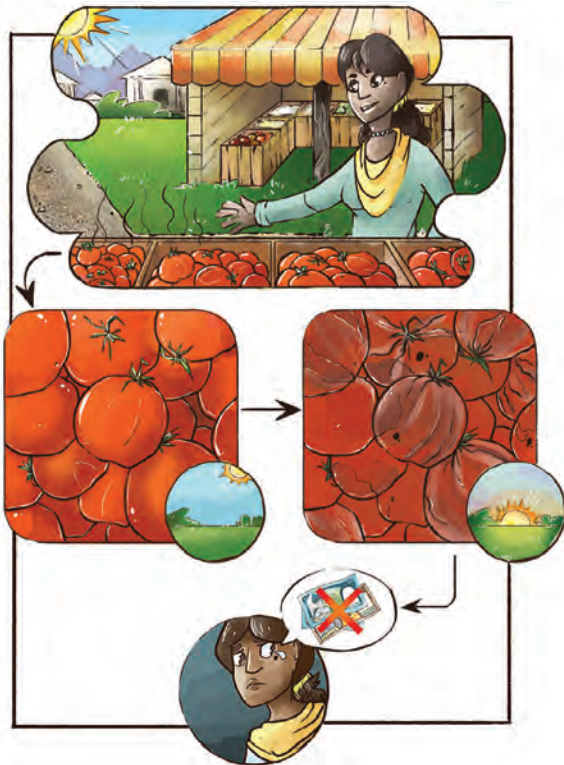


4. Wash in water



5. Re-use many times

# Lesson: To prevent spoilage of fruits and vegetables, a simple clay cooler may be built.



1. Problem: Farmer tries to sell vegetables such as tomatoes in the market but they spoil quickly, causing loss of income

10. Less spoilage



2. Improved practice



3. Materials needed:  
1 large clay pot, 1 smaller clay pot,  
sand, water and a cloth

4. Place sand in large pot



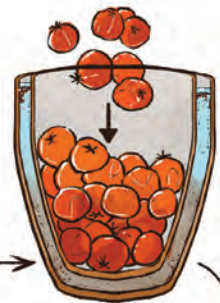
5. Insert small pot in large pot and add sand to outside of small pot



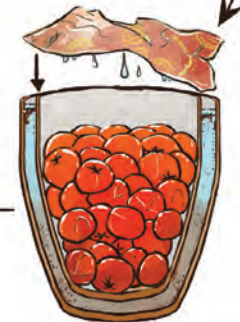
6. Add water to sand



7. Add fruits/vegetables into small pot



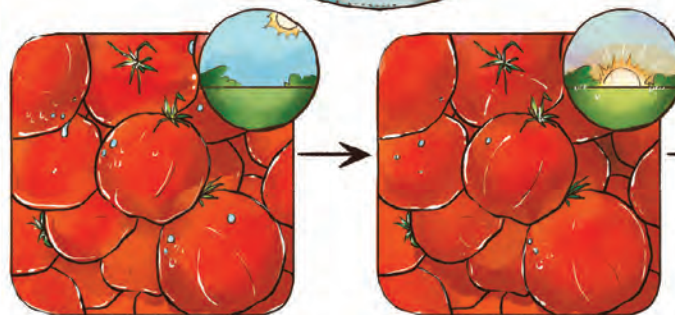
8. Cover with wet cloth



9. When exposed to heat, water in sand evaporates, which will cool inner pot

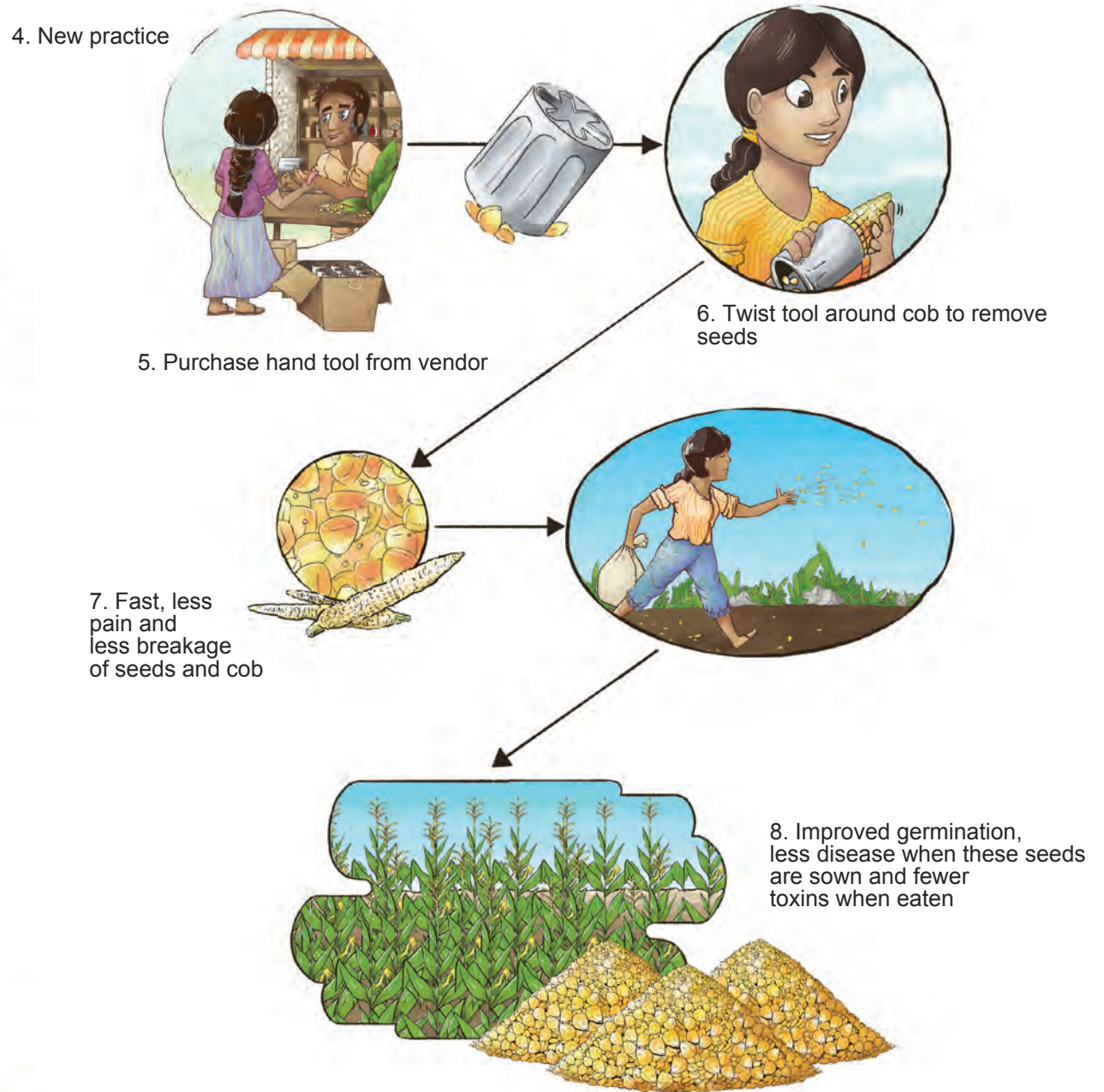
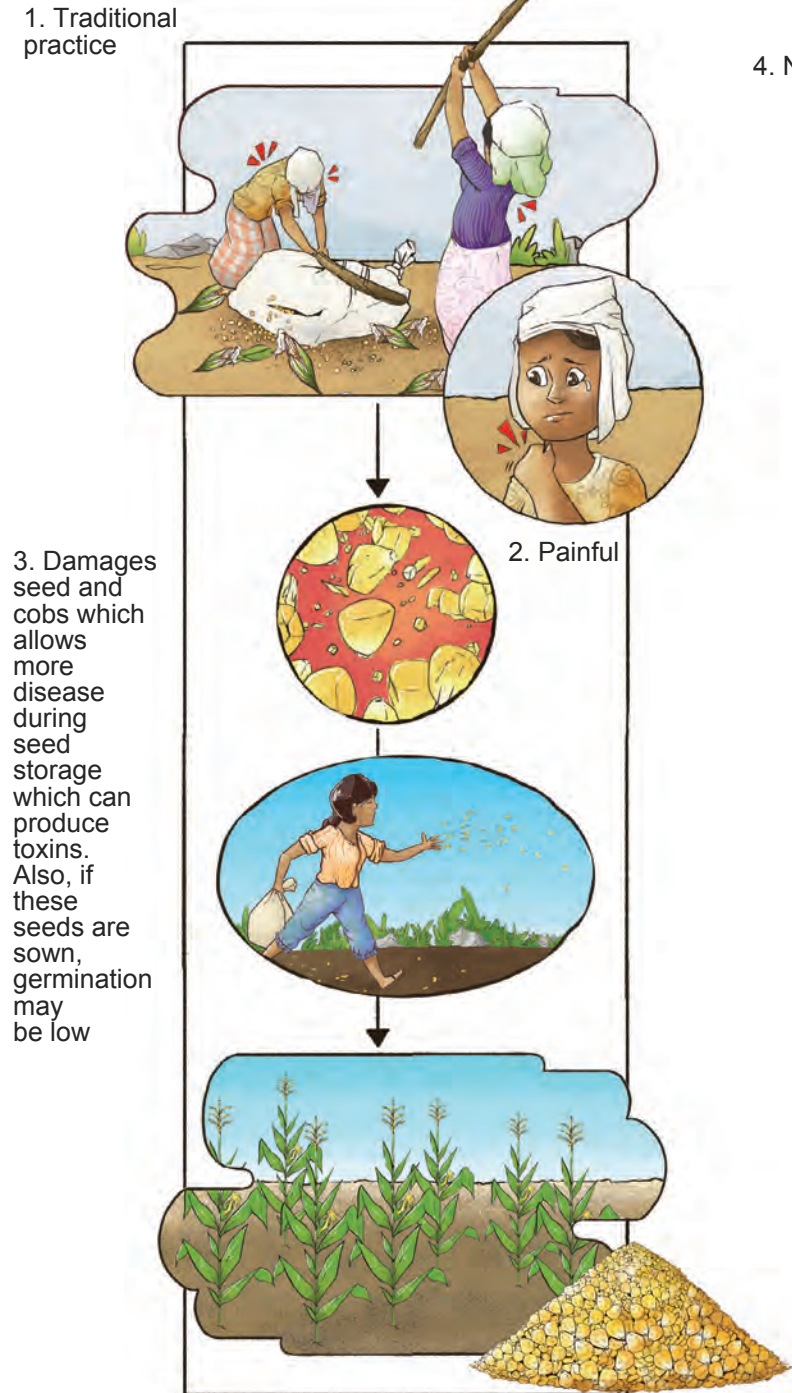


11. Higher income





# Lesson: Instead of removing grains of maize by beating sacks with a stick, a hand tool can be used which is faster and less painful, and results in seeds which are healthier with fewer toxins



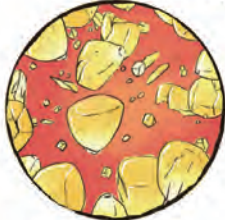


Lesson: Instead of removing grains of maize by beating sacks with a stick, a hand tool can be made from a tin can which is faster and less painful and results in less toxin in the grain.

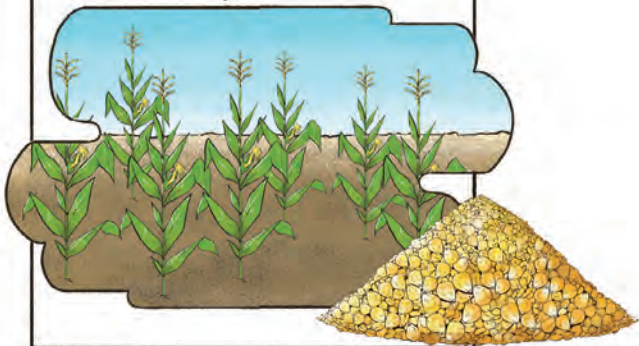
1. Traditional practice



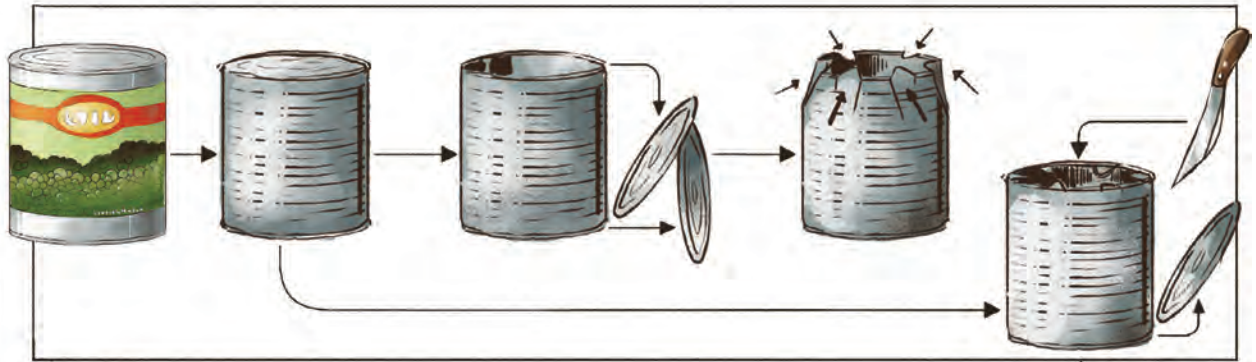
2. Painful



3. Damages seed and cobs which allows more disease during seed storage which can produce toxins. Also, if these seeds are sown, germination may be low



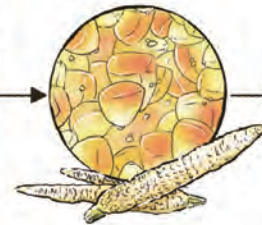
4. New tool: hand maize sheller: remove lid from can, then make cuts with a knife and fold inward



5. Insert cob in tool and rotate cob



6. Seeds and cobs do not break. Less human pain



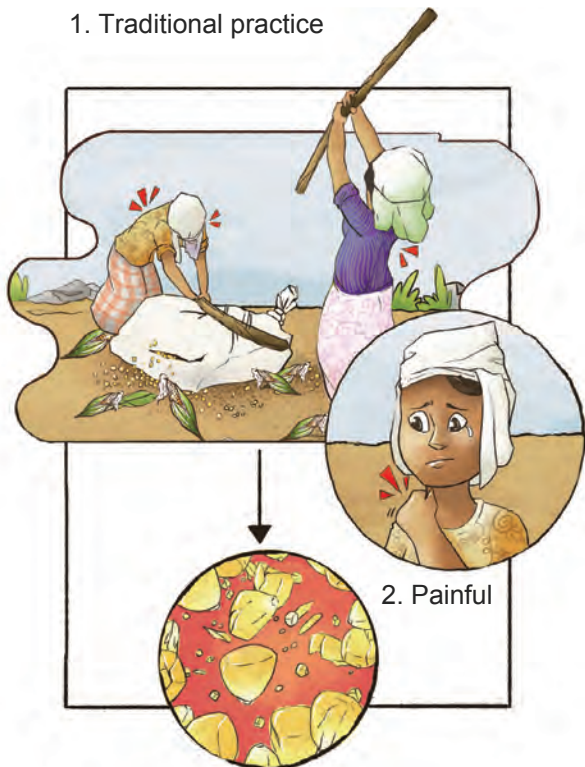
7. Improved germination, less disease when these seeds are sown and fewer toxins when eaten





# Lesson: New tools from vendor to remove maize seeds from cob

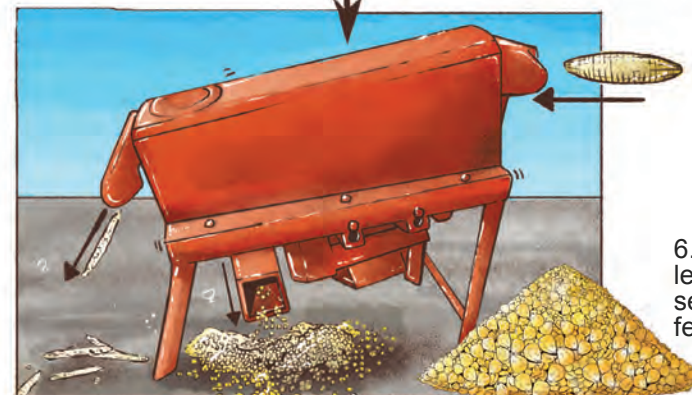
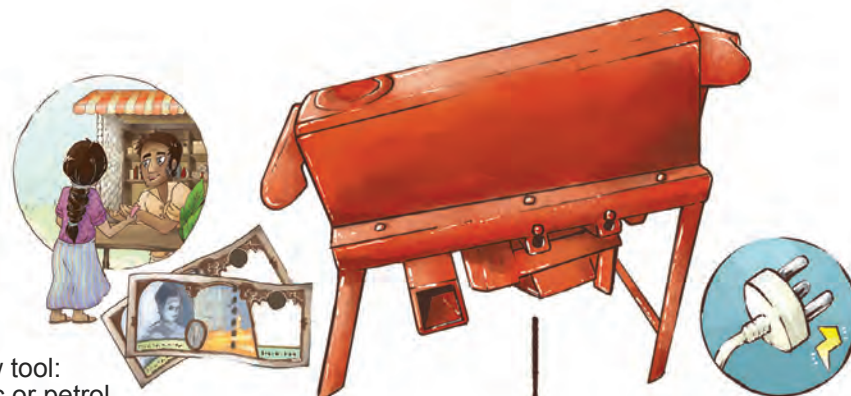
1. Traditional practice



2. Painful

3. Damages seed and cobs which allows more disease during seed storage which can produce toxins. Also, if these seeds are sown, germination may be low

4. New tool: electric or petrol maize sheller from vendor



5. Simply insert cobs into machine

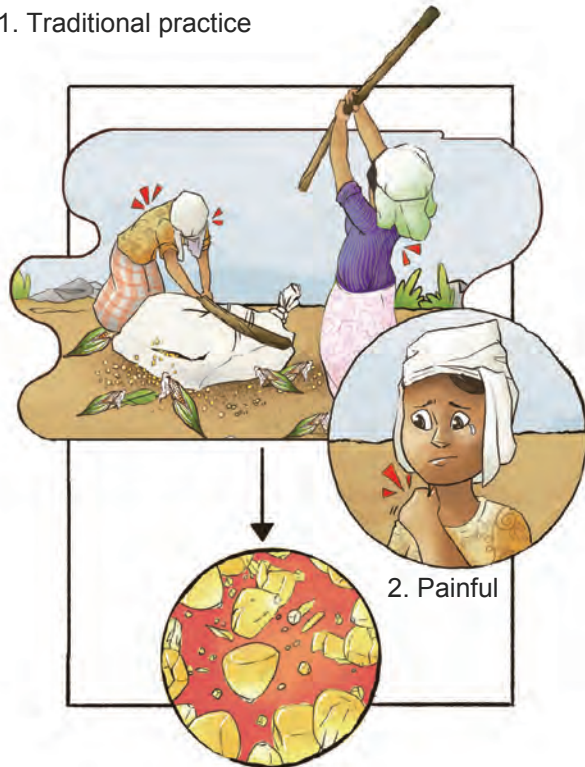
6. Improved germination, less disease when these seeds are sown and fewer toxins when eaten

7. Owner can rent machine or offer service for a fee as a small business opportunity



# Lesson: New tools from vendor to remove maize seeds from cob

1. Traditional practice

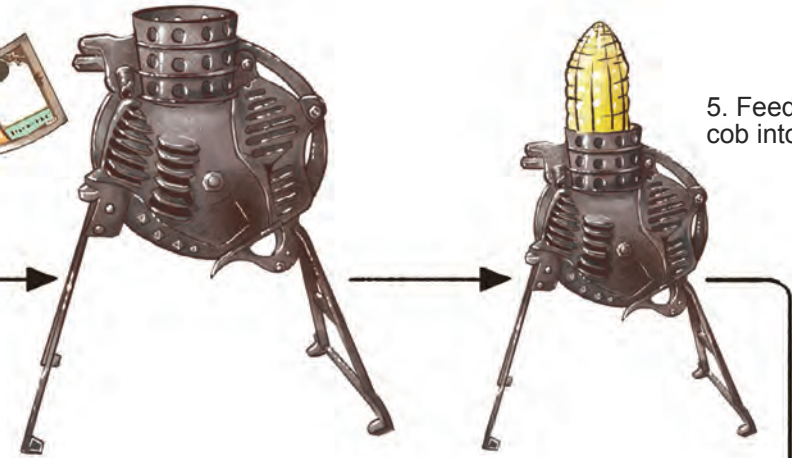


2. Painful

3. Damages seed and cobs which allows more disease during seed storage which can produce toxins. Also, if these seeds are sown, germination may be low

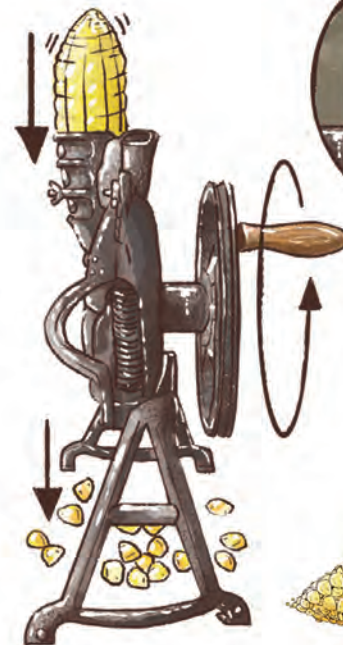


4. New tool:  
Hand operated  
maize sheller

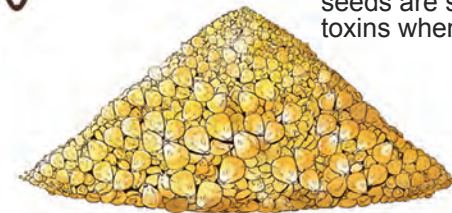


5. Feed each  
cob into machine

6. Turn  
cranl



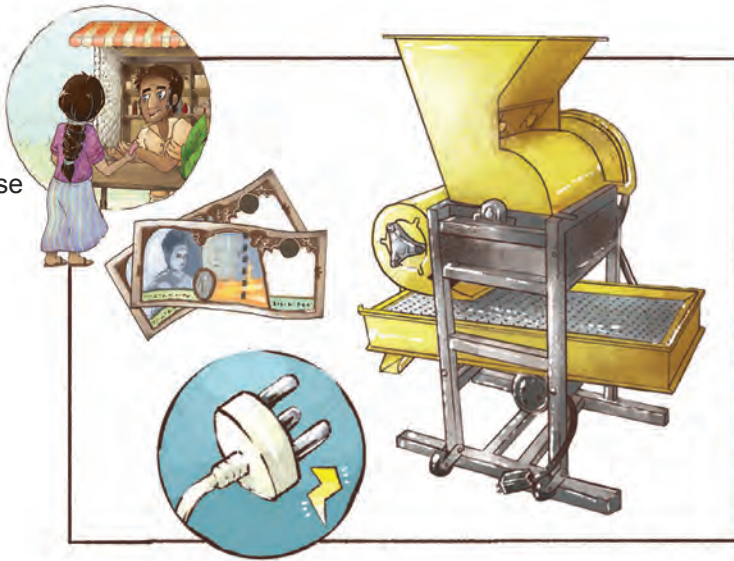
7. Improved germination,  
less disease when these  
seeds are sown and fewer  
toxins when eaten



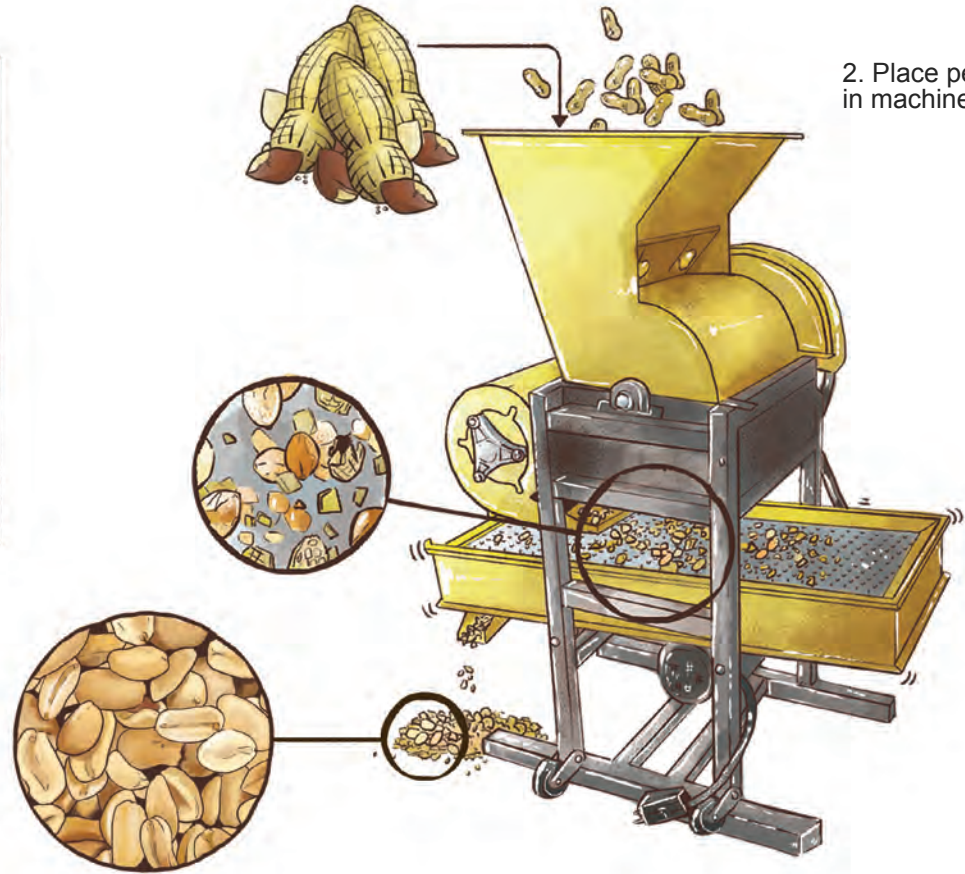


# Lesson: New machine from vendor to remove shell from peanuts

1. Purchase from vendor, electric or petrol powered



2. Place peanuts in machine

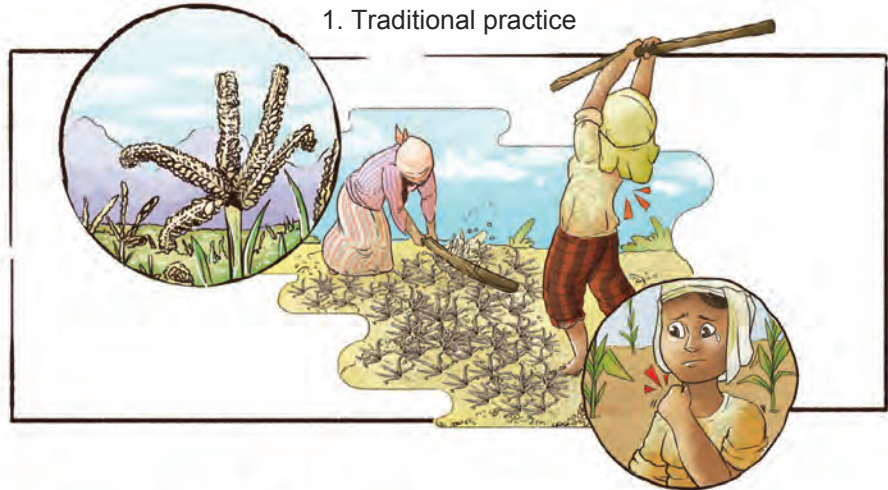


3. Owner can rent machine or offer service for a fee as a small business opportunity



Lesson: Instead of manual threshing of grain, grain may be placed on a road to reduce labour

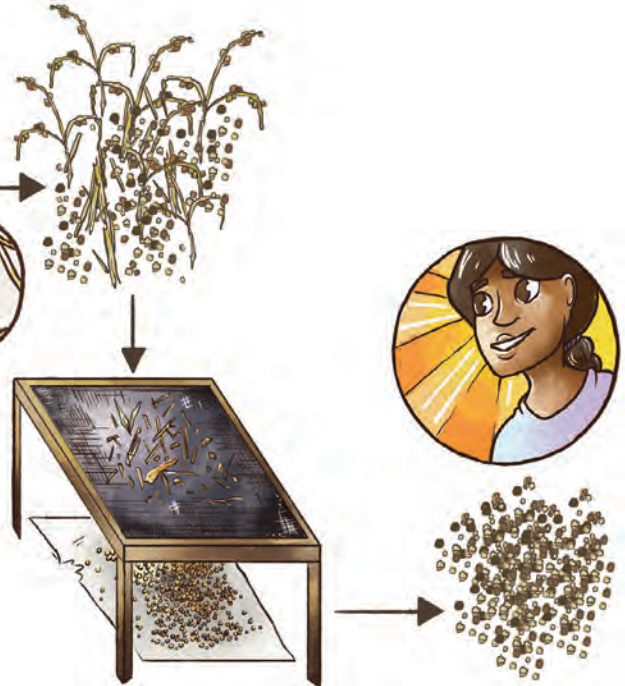
1. Traditional practice



2. Improved practice using car trampling



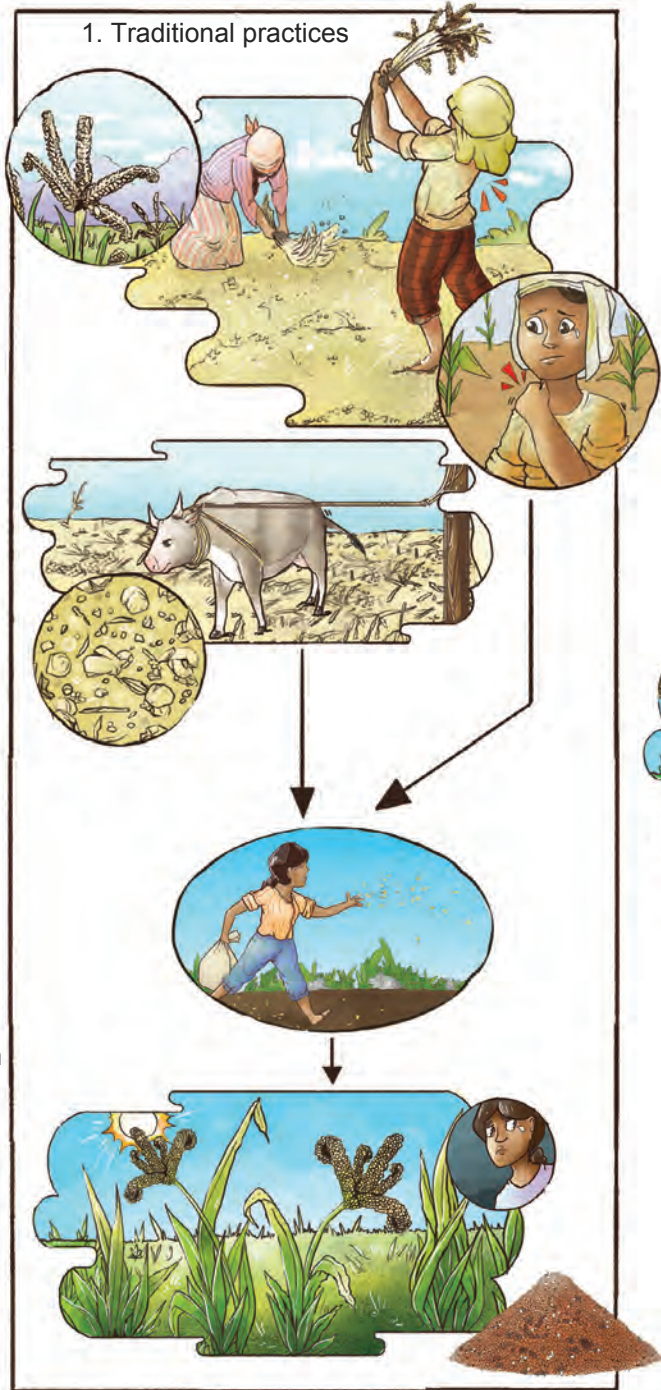
3. Also use sieve





# Lesson: Instead of threshing millet grain manually, a machine can be used.

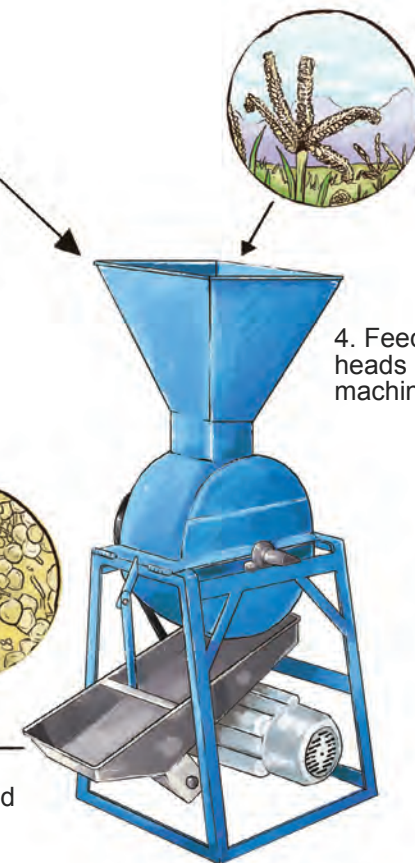
2. Lower yield when sown due to seed damage



3. Purchase electric or petrol threshing machine from vendor



4. Feed grain heads into machine



5. Threshed grain



6. Higher yield when sown due to less seed damage

7. Owner can rent machine or offer service for a fee as a small business opportunity



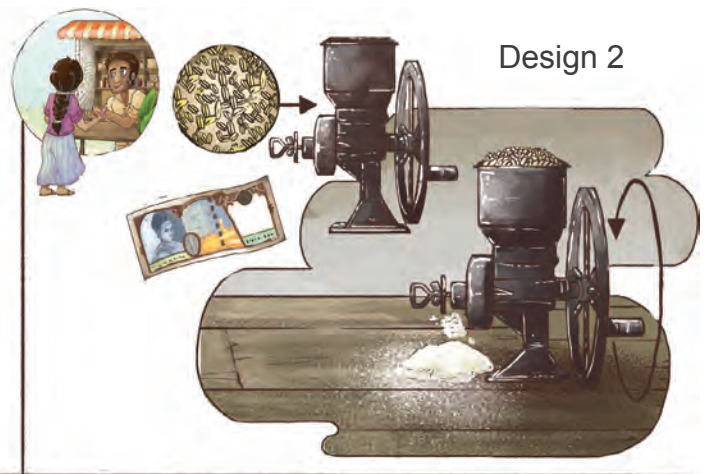
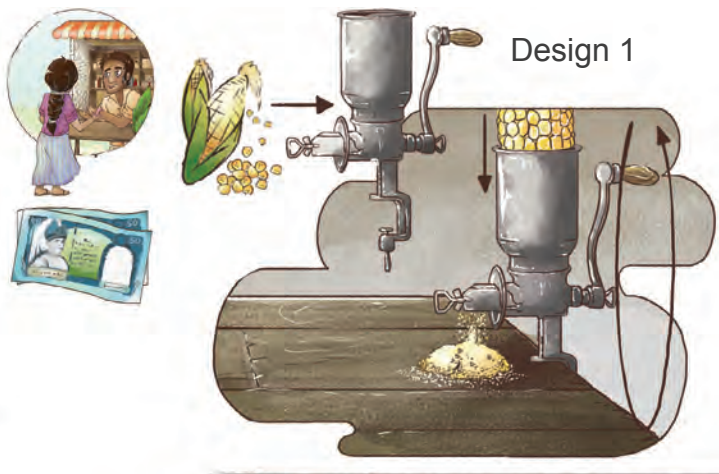


# Lesson: To make flour, instead of pounding grain with a stick, there are new machines available

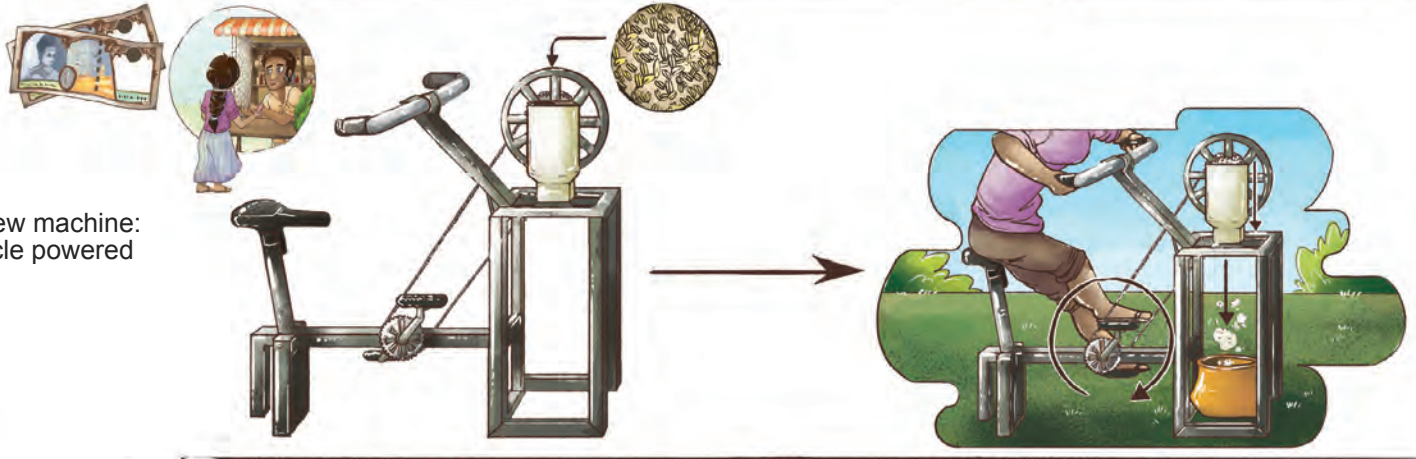
1. Traditional practice



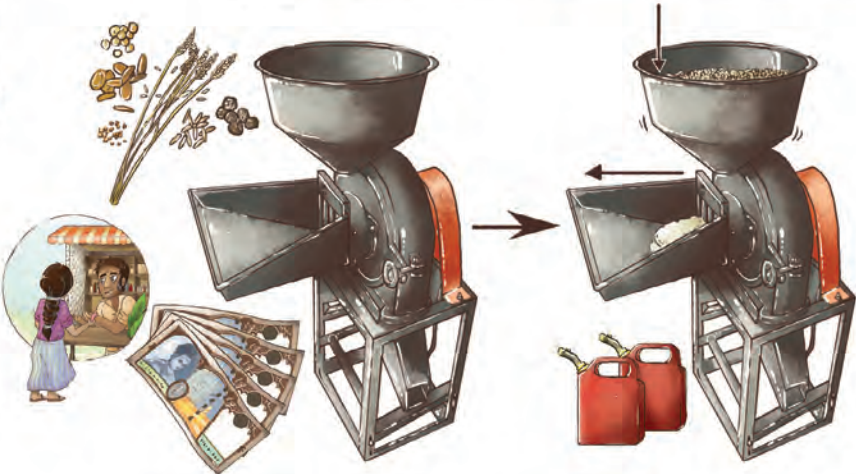
2. New tool: hand crank



3. New machine: bicycle powered



4. New machine: electric/gas



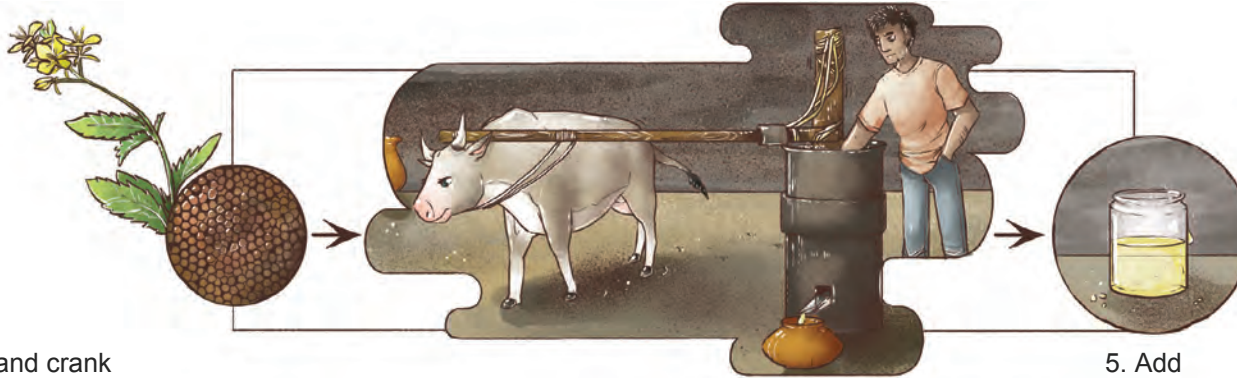
5. Owner can rent machine or service for money



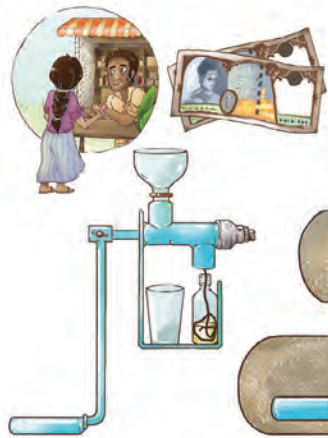


# Lesson: New machines may be used to extract cooking oil from seeds

1. Traditional practice



2. New machine: hand crank  
Purchase from vendor



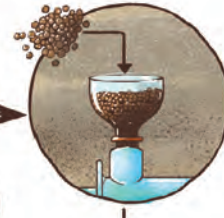
3. Light flame in kerosene



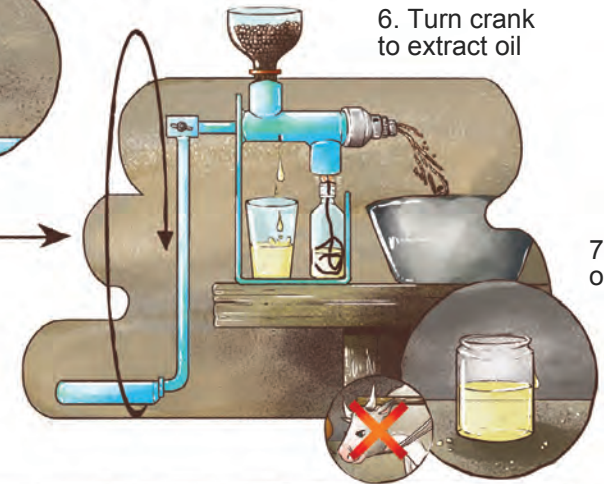
4. Wait 5 min



5. Add seed

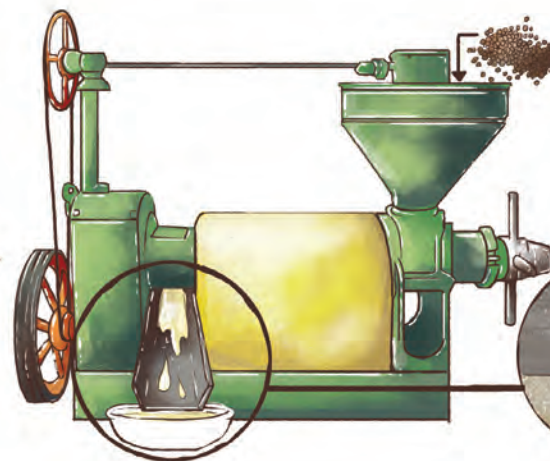
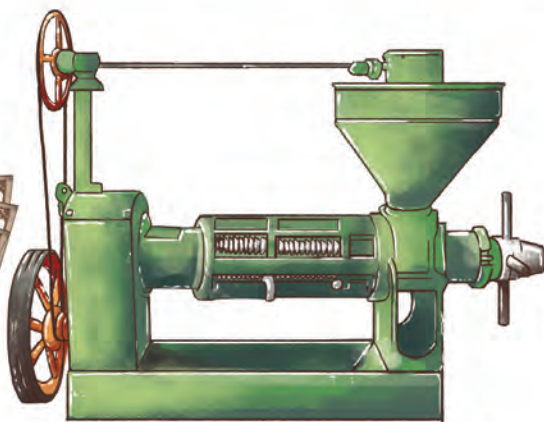


6. Turn crank to extract oil



7. Final oil

8. New machine: diesel powered or electric

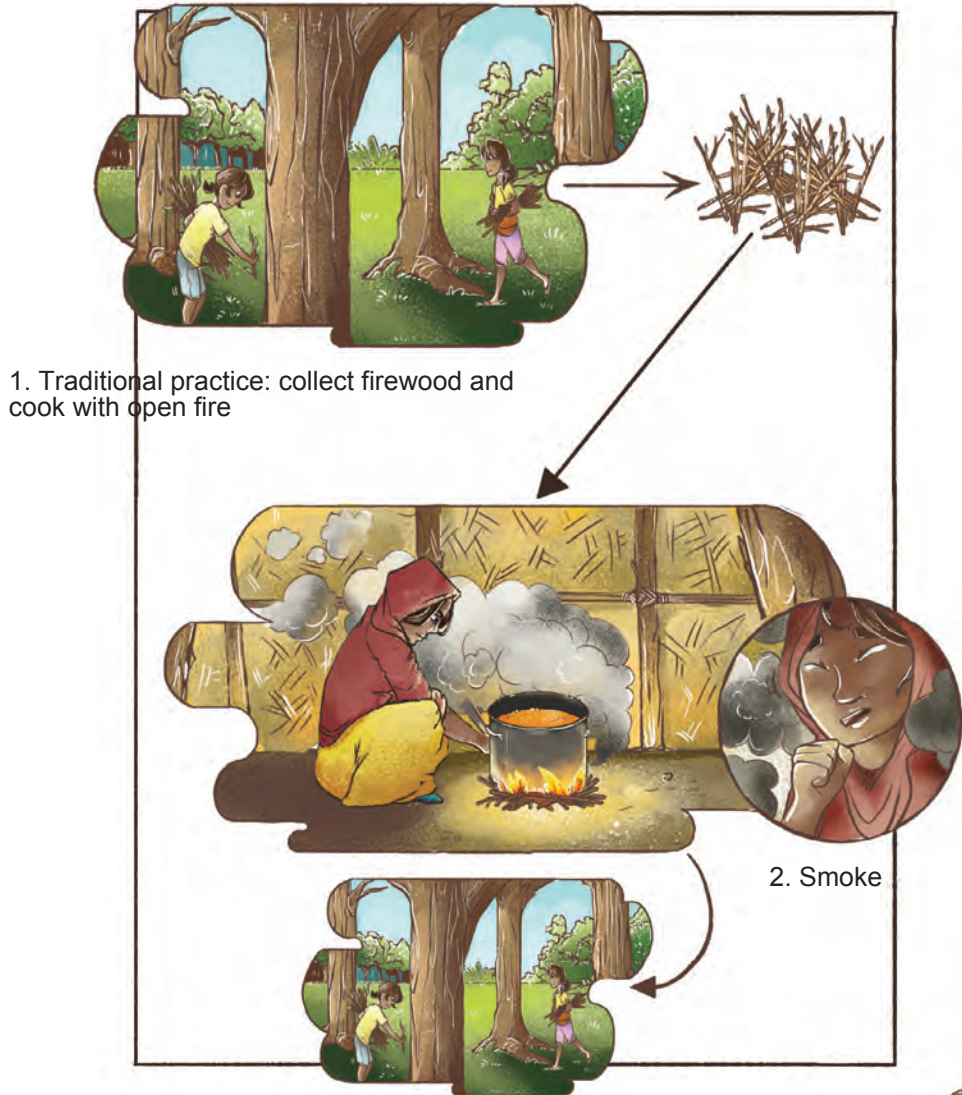


9. Owner can rent machine or offer service for a fee as a small business opportunity

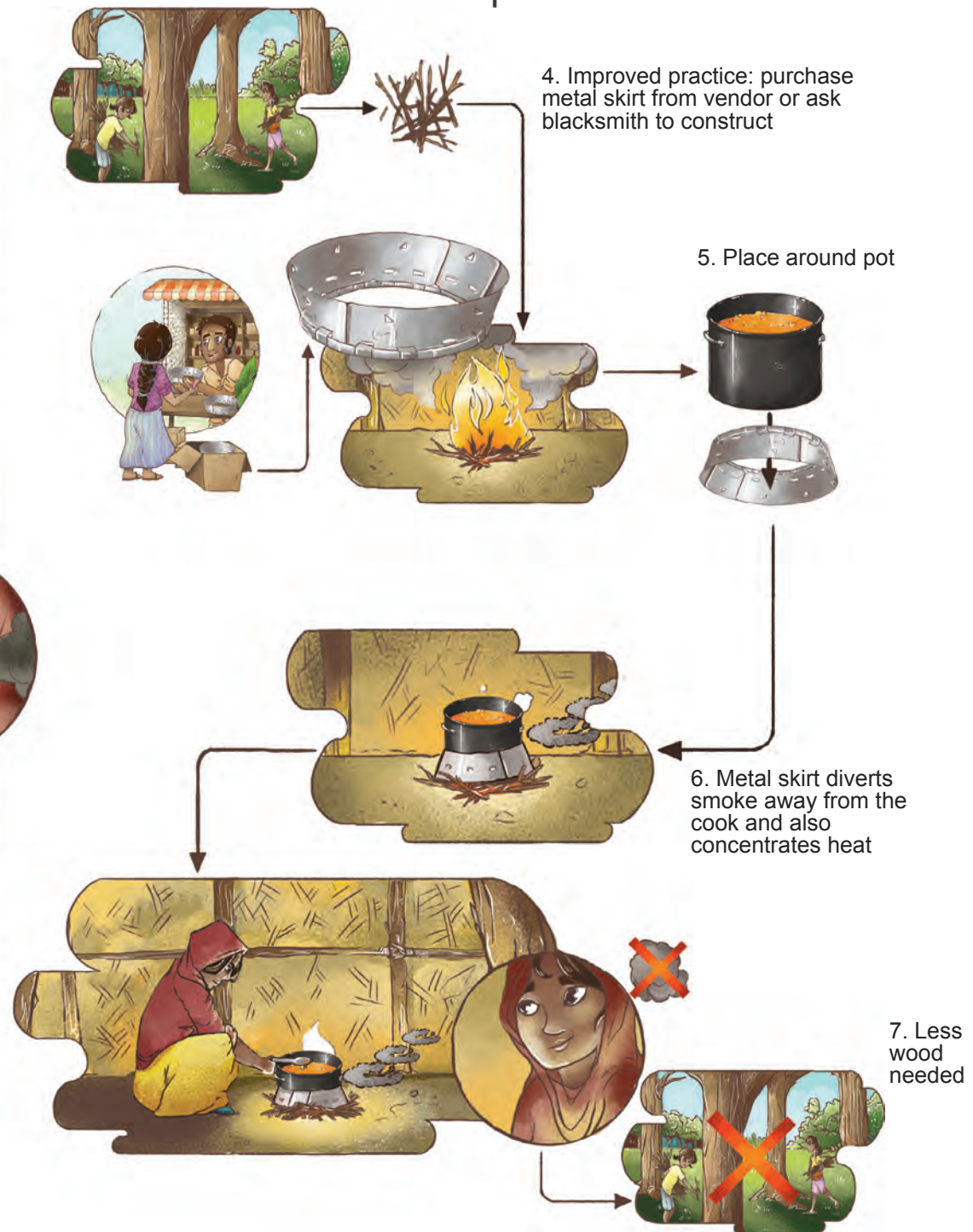




# Lesson: Use of a metal skirt around the cooking fire can reduce smoke and raise the heat, which reduces the cooking time and amount of wood or charcoal required



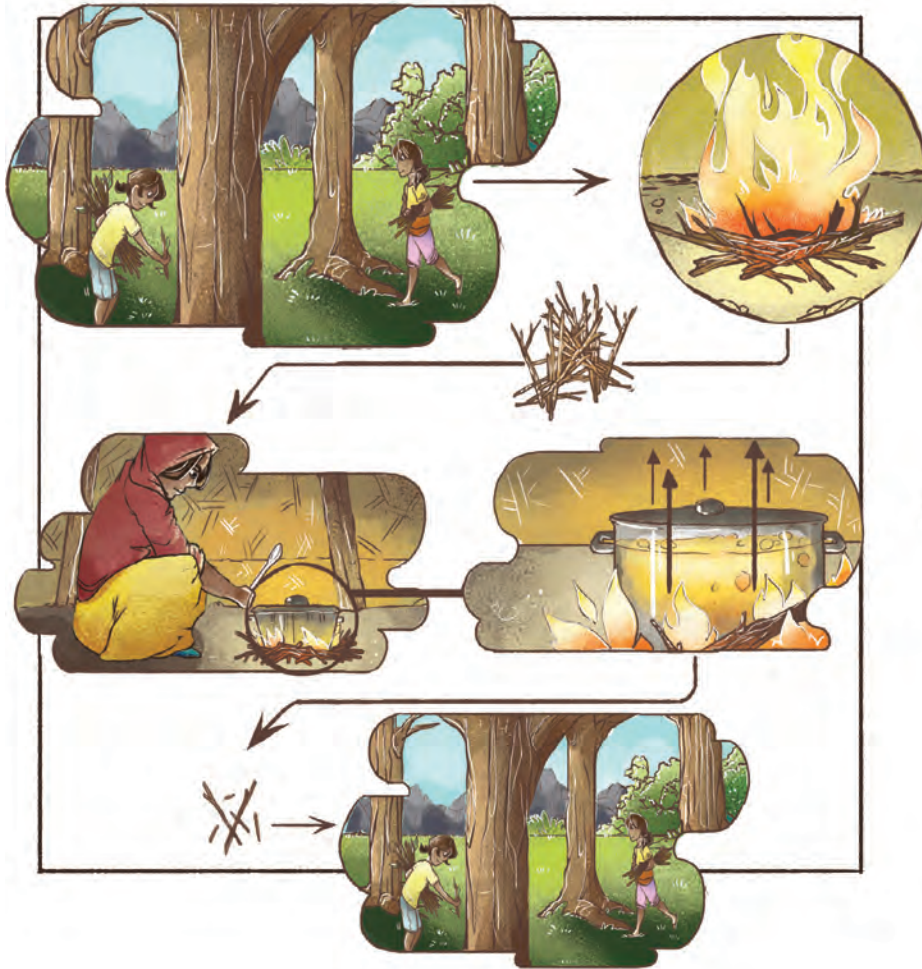
3. Since much heat is wasted, but collect more wood





# Lesson: Use of a pressure cooker can raise the heat to reduce the cooking time, and the amount of wood or charcoal required especially in high altitudes

1. Traditional practice: collect firewood and cook using a regular pot which cooks at a low temperature and loses heat. Cooking time is slow and consumes firewood so more must be collected. Cooking time is even slower at high altitudes.



2. Improved practice: purchase pressure cooker from vendor

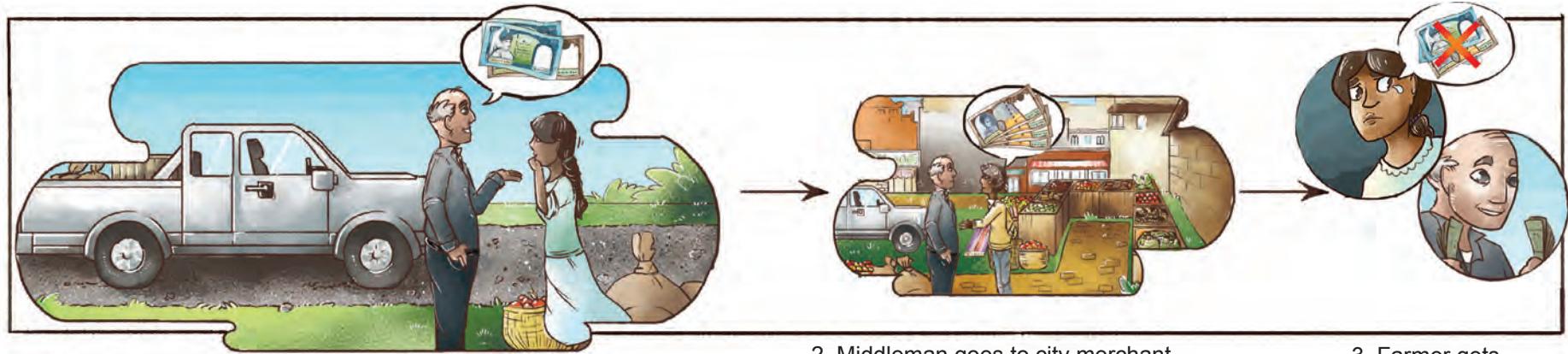


3. Pot is sealed, so pressure builds, heat does not escape, and temperature is raised above boiling



4. Cooking time is faster, consume less firewood or charcoal, so less wood needs to be collected

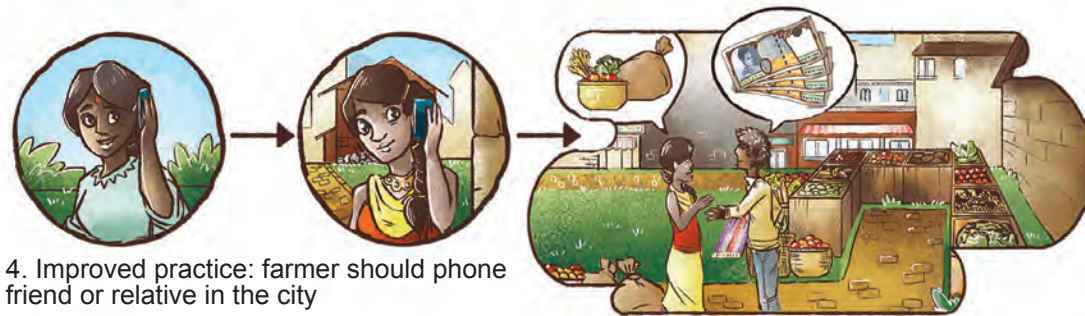
Lesson: It is better to obtain the selling price for farm harvest products from a friend or family member in the city rather than from a middleman who comes to the village.



1. Traditional practice: middleman comes to the village and offers a low price for the farm harvest

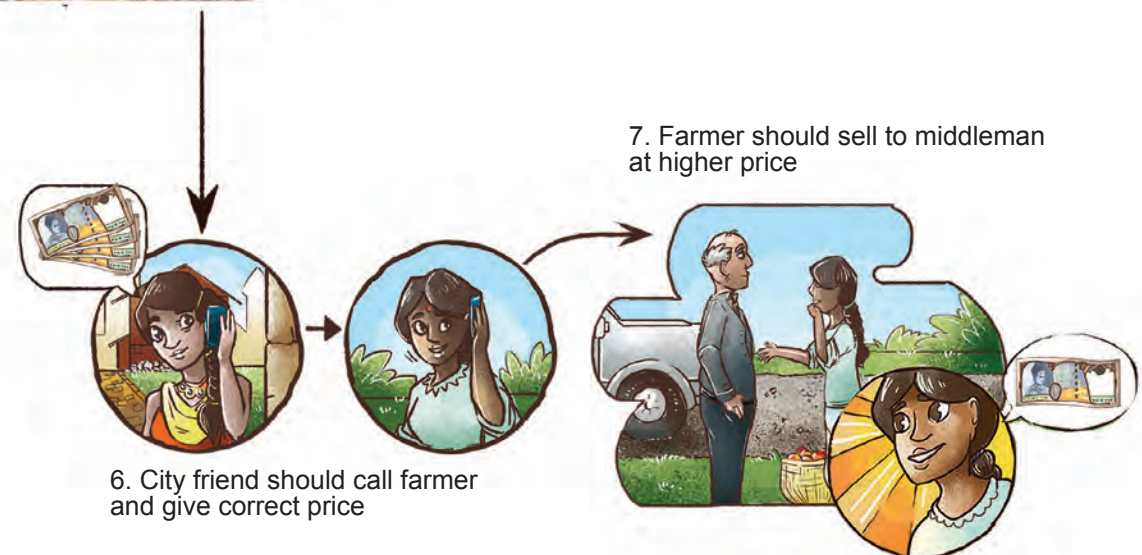
2. Middleman goes to city merchant and sells for a higher price

3. Farmer gets little money, but middleman gets more money



4. Improved practice: farmer should phone friend or relative in the city

5. Friend should speak to merchant in city to inquire about grain price



7. Farmer should sell to middleman at higher price

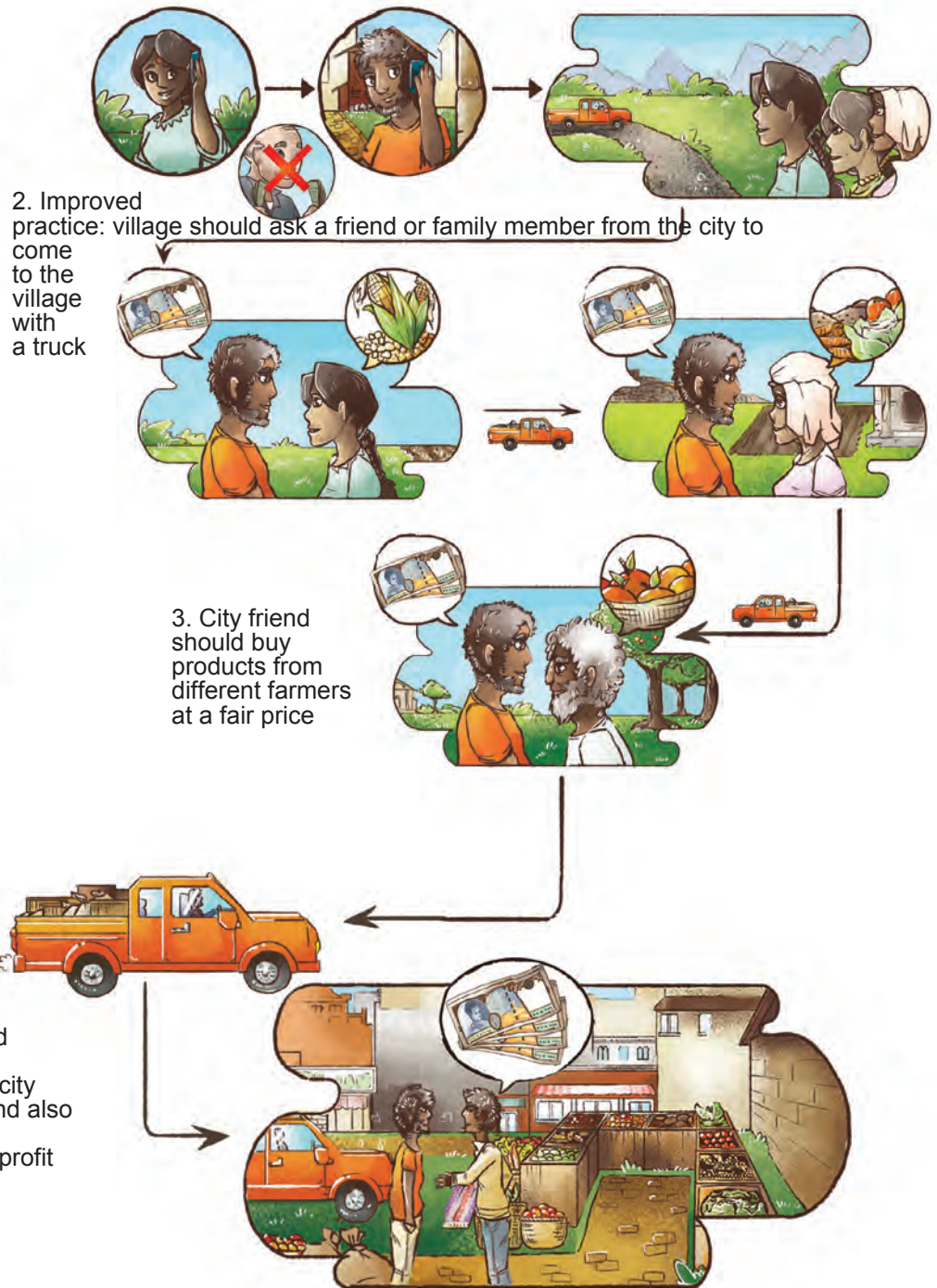
6. City friend should call farmer and give correct price



Lesson: It is better to sell farm harvest products directly to a friend or family member who lives in the city rather than to a middleman who comes to the village.



1. Traditional practice: middleman comes to the village and offers a low price for the farm harvest, then middleman goes to city merchant and sells for a higher price.



2. Improved practice: village should ask a friend or family member from the city to come to the village with a truck

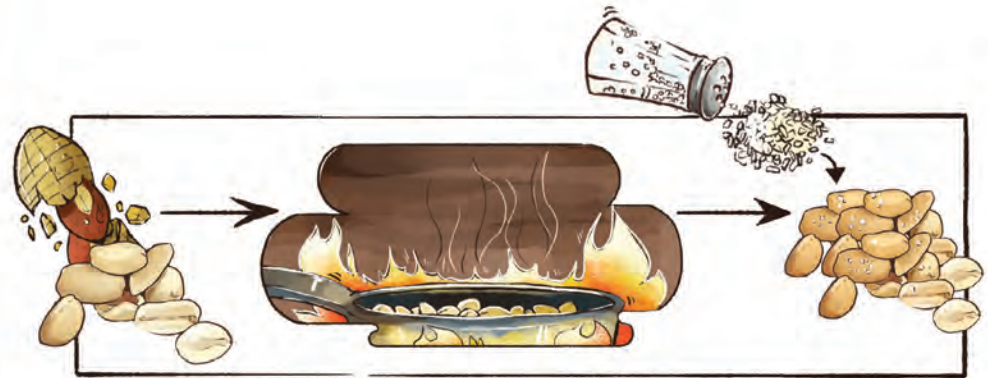
3. City friend should buy products from different farmers at a fair price

4. City friend should sell products to city merchant and also receive reasonable profit

Lesson: Rather than selling raw harvested products, it is more profitable to sell cooked and tasty snacks



2. Improved practice: remove peanuts from shell, roast it, then add salt and spice.

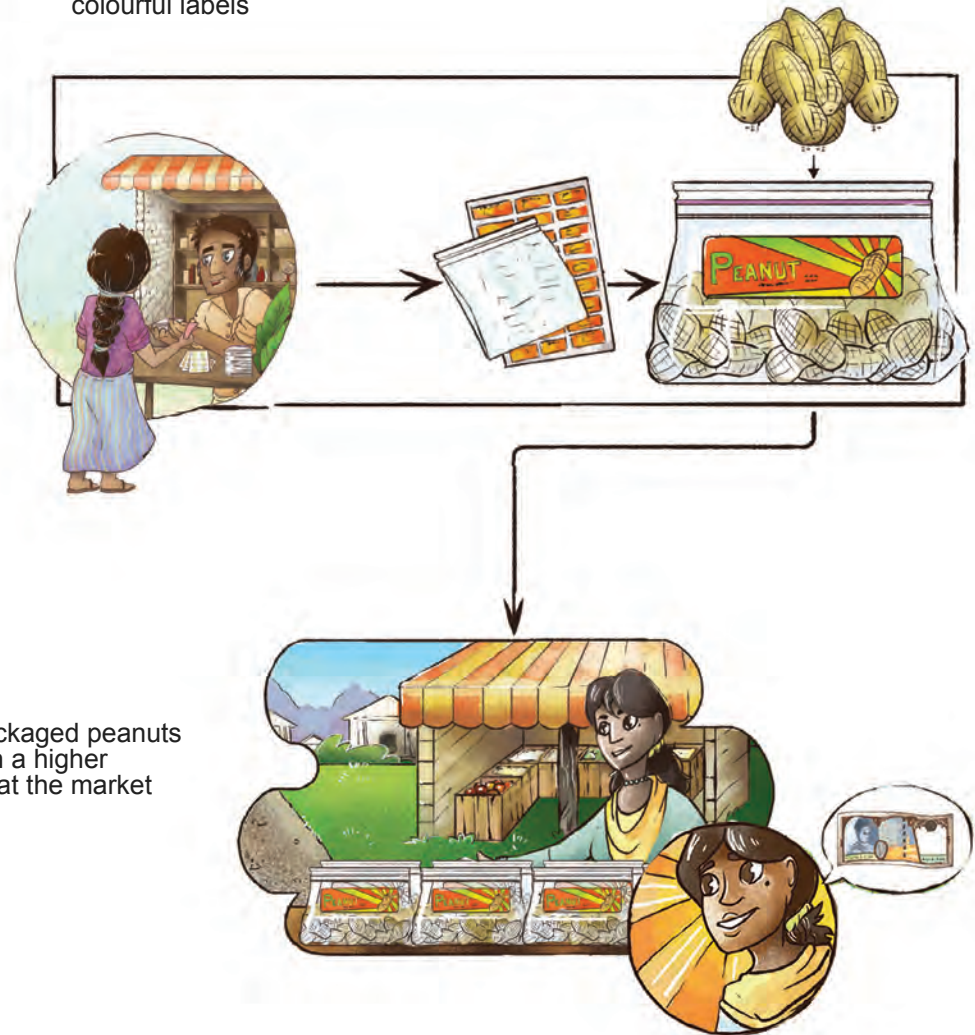




Lesson: Rather than selling harvested products in bulk, it is more profitable to package them beautifully



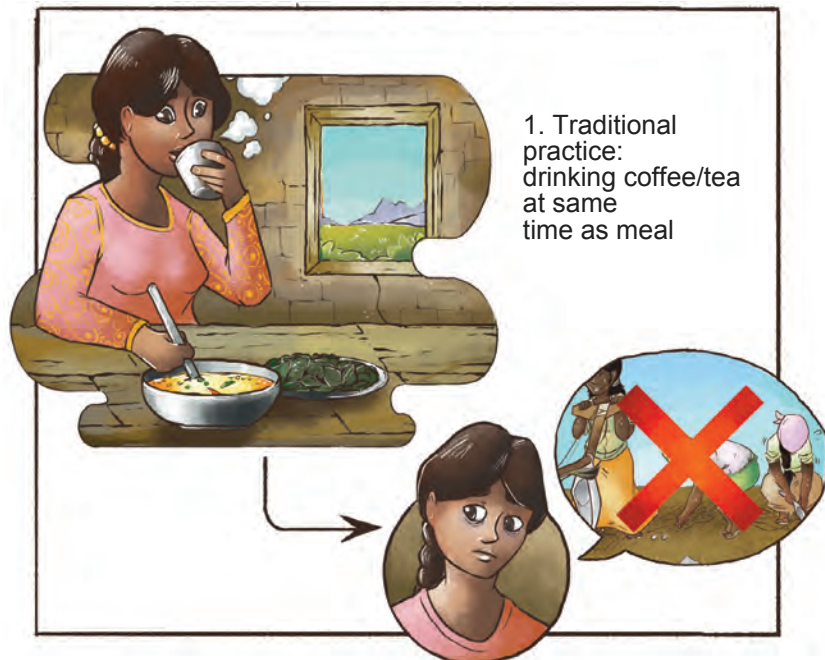
2. Improved practice: place peanuts in packages with beautiful, colourful labels



## Chapter 10: Human Nutrition



Lesson: Not drinking coffee/tea at the same time as meals, and adding lemon/lime to food, will make people feel more energetic due to improved iron absorption, especially women.



1. Traditional practice: drinking coffee/tea at same time as meal

2. Result: fatigue, less energy for farm labour



3. Improved practices

4. Add lime/lemon to foods



5. Do not drink tea/coffee at same time as meal. Drink other beverages such as juice or water.

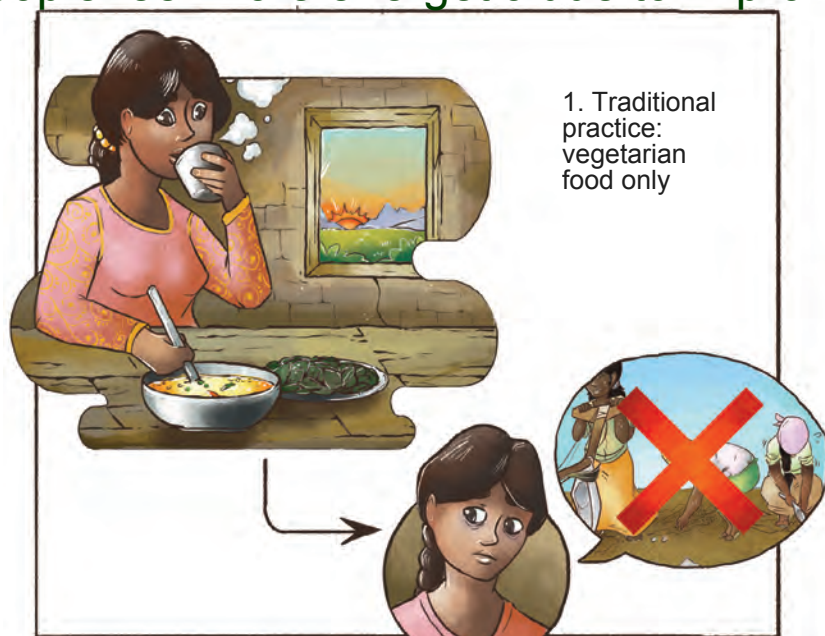
6. Drink tea/coffee at a later time.



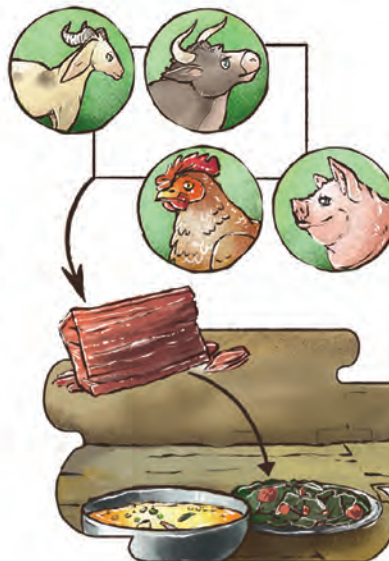
7. Improved energy for farm tasks.



Lesson: Adding small amounts of meat or fish to vegetarian food (if beliefs permit) will make people feel more energetic due to improved iron absorption, especially women.



3. Improved practice: add small amounts of meat or fish to food



4. Improved energy for farm tasks





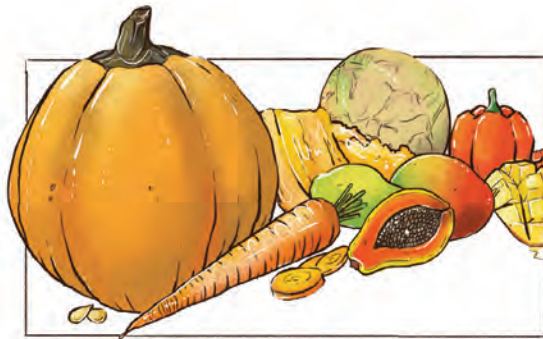
# Lesson: Eating a diversity of colourful foods will prevent people from catching diseases

1. Less recommended: Blue-shirt child eats maize, rice, or tubers only



3. Blue shirt child is more likely to catch disease due to poor nutrition

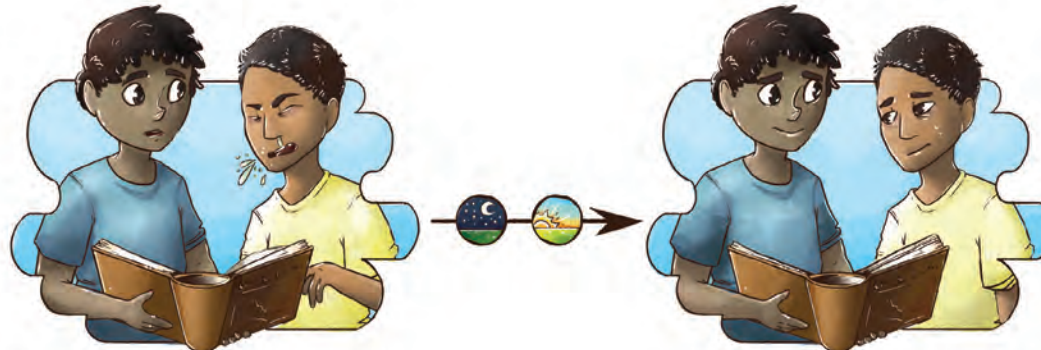
2. Blue shirt child has contact with yellow shirt child who is sick



4. Solution: eat a diversity of colourful foods which help to fight diseases.



5. Blue shirt child eats colourful foods



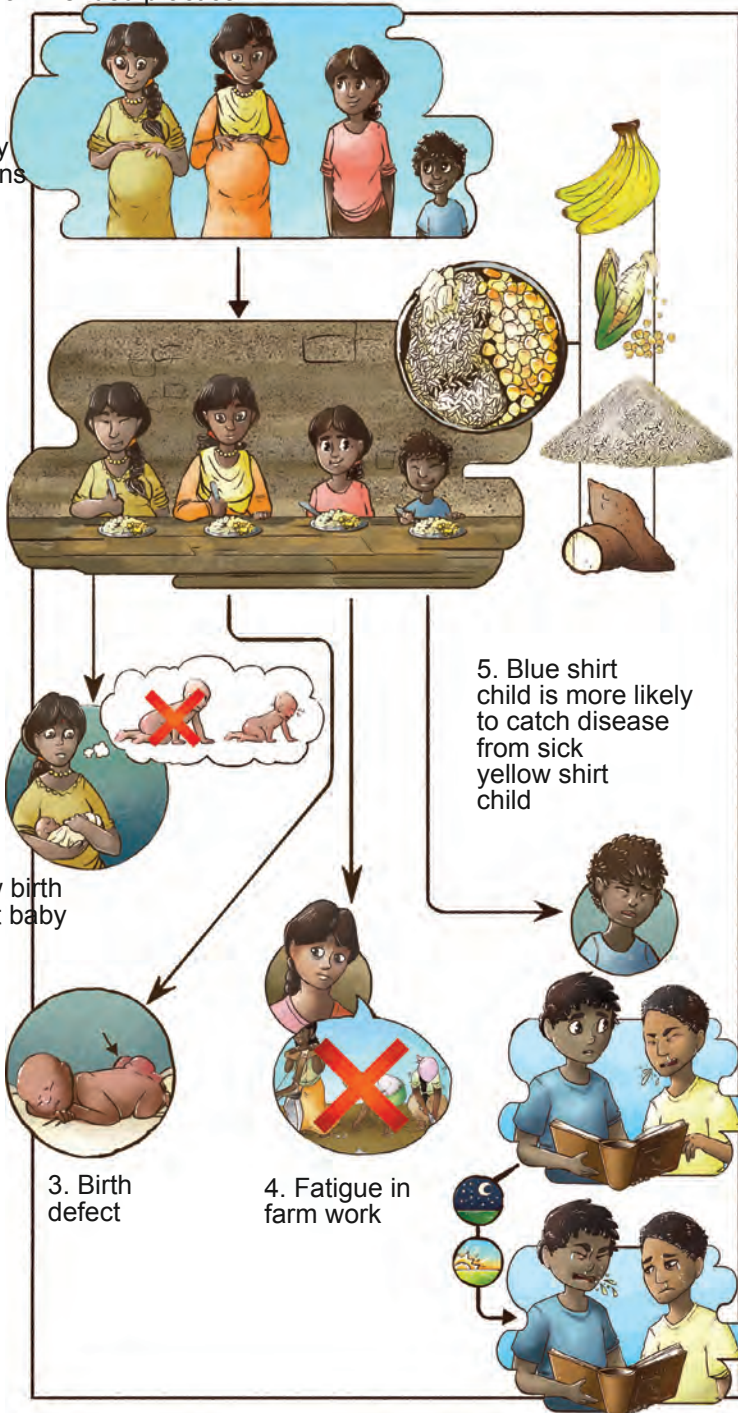
6. Blue shirt child less likely to become sick after contact with sick yellow shirt child



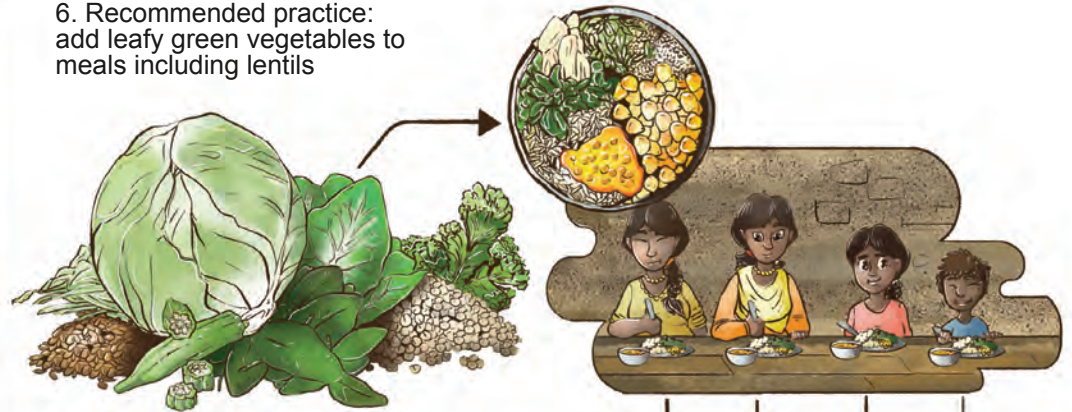
# Lesson: Pregnant women and children should eat leafy green vegetables

1. Not recommended practice:

Pregnant women, teenage girls or children eat mostly large grains such as maize or rice or tubers such as cassava



6. Recommended practice: add leafy green vegetables to meals including lentils



8. Reduced birth defects



7. Improved baby weight



9. More energy for farm work

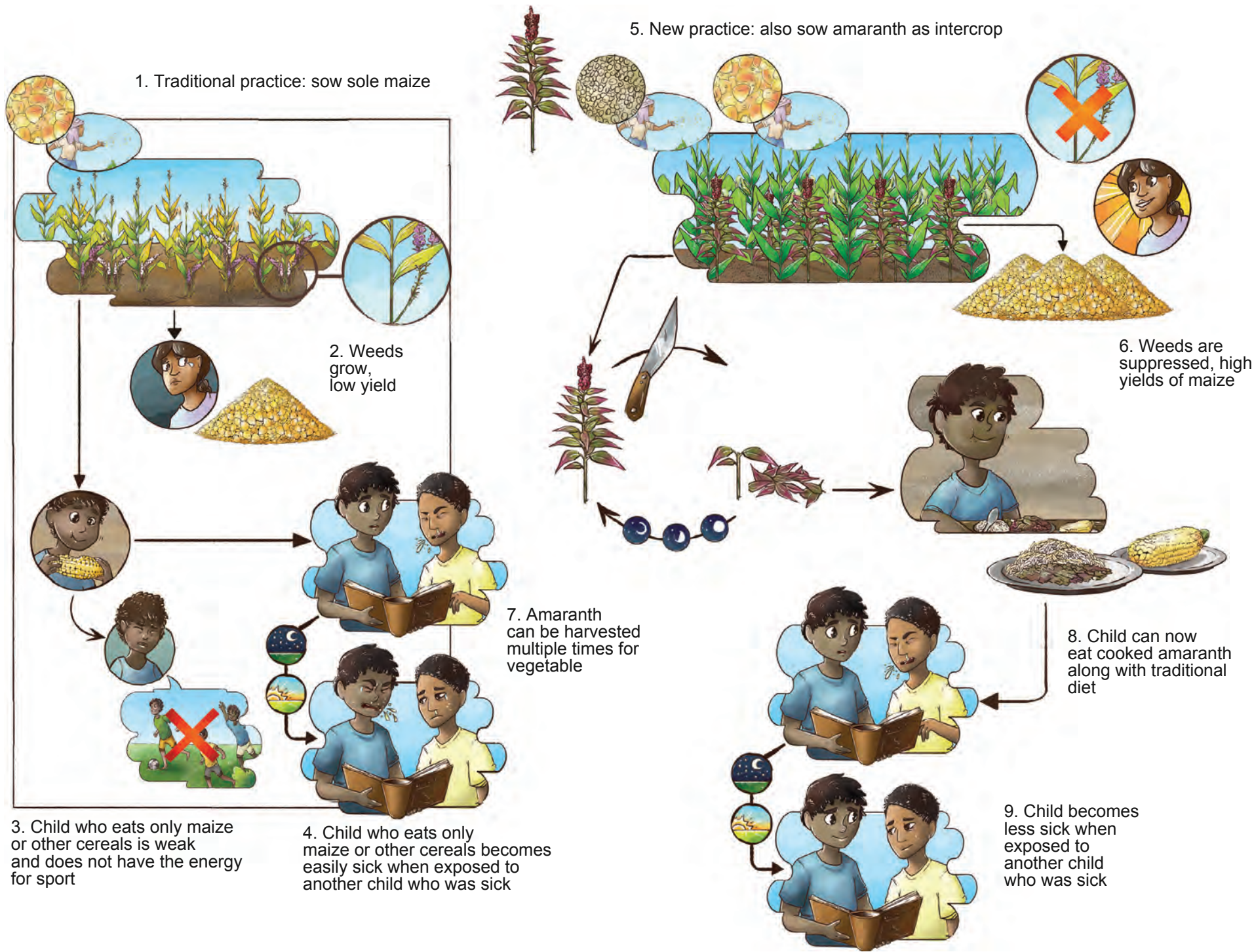


10. Child becomes less sick when exposed to another child who was sick





# Lesson: Amaranth is fast, easy to grow, can suppress weeds and adds nutrients to human diets



3. Child who eats only maize or other cereals is weak and does not have the energy for sport

4. Child who eats only maize or other cereals becomes easily sick when exposed to another child who was sick

7. Amaranth can be harvested multiple times for vegetable

9. Child becomes less sick when exposed to another child who was sick

8. Child can now eat cooked amaranth along with traditional diet

6. Weeds are suppressed, high yields of maize

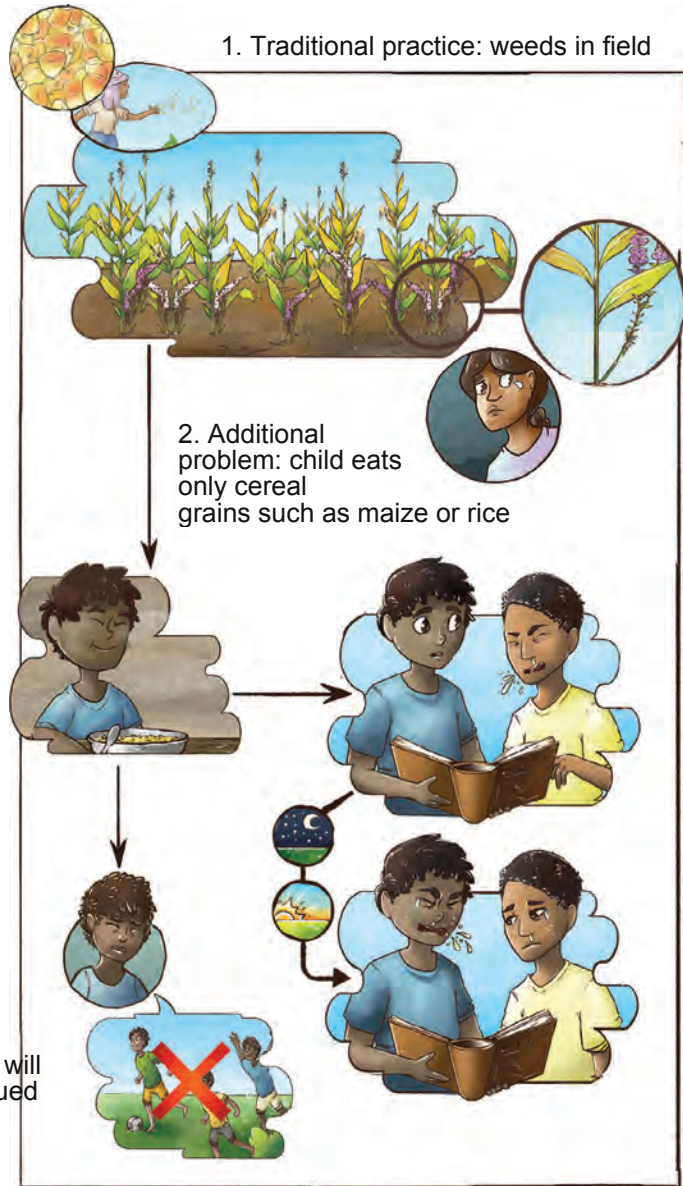
2. Weeds grow, low yield

5. New practice: also sow amaranth as intercrop

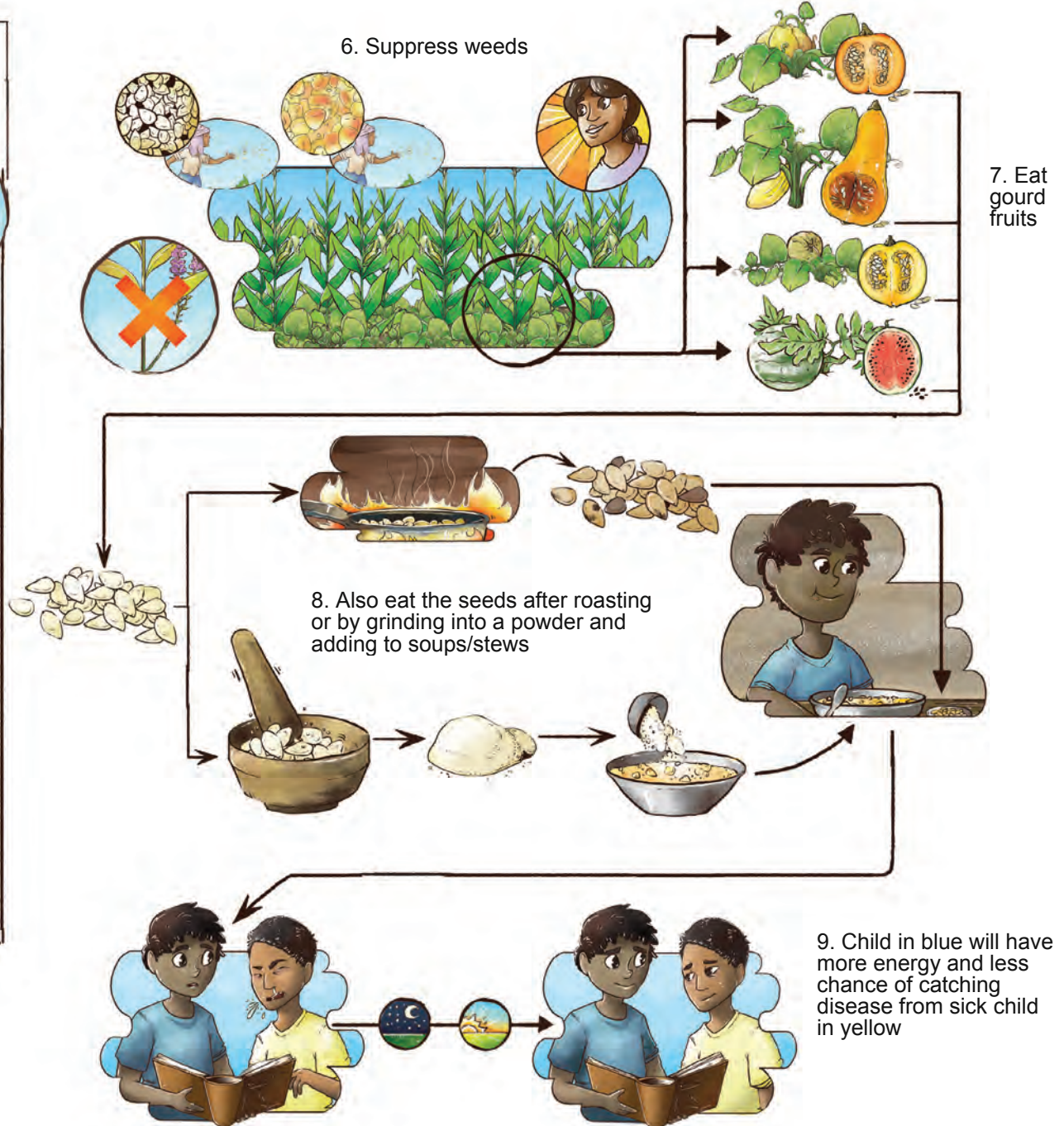
1. Traditional practice: sow sole maize



# Lesson: Cucurbit intercrops suppress weeds and provide nutrients to reduce disease in people

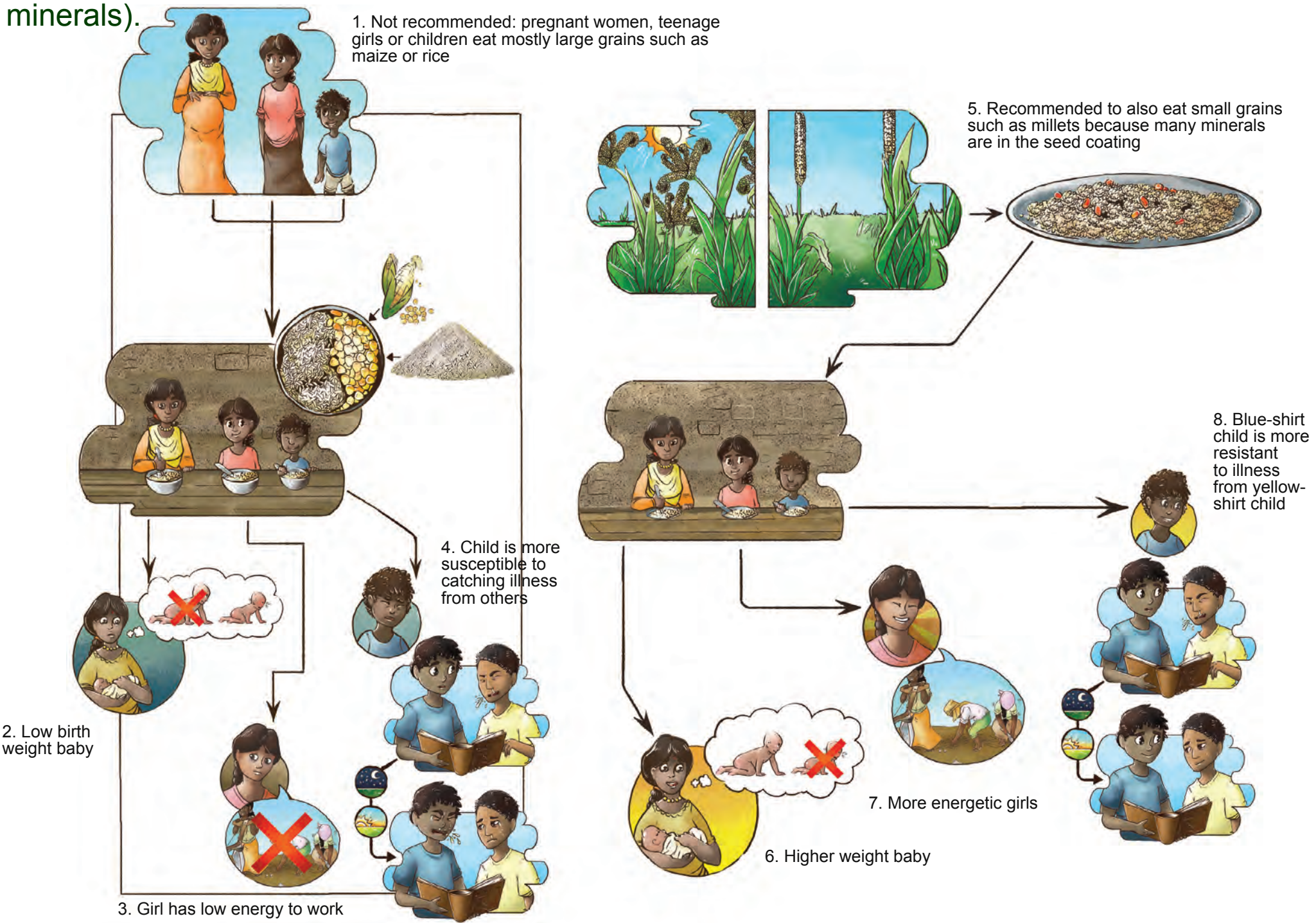


5. Improved practice: sow spreading type cucurbits as an intercrop





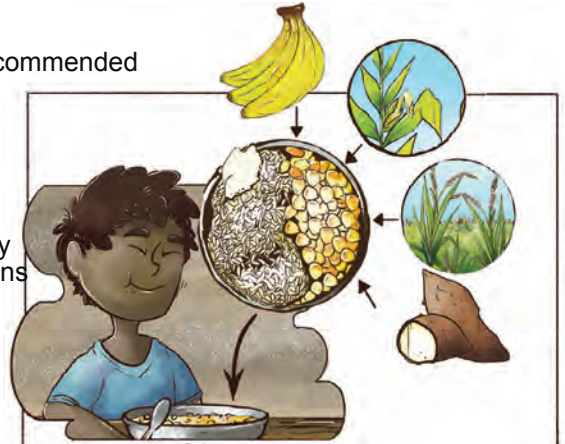
# Lesson: Pregnant women and children should eat whole small grains to be healthier (folate and minerals).



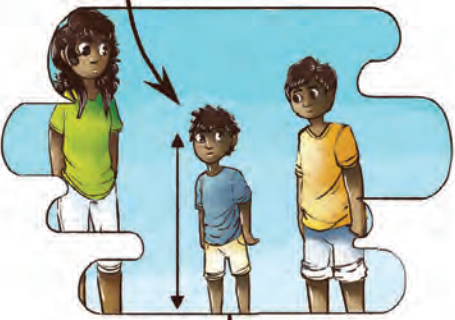


# Lesson: People especially pregnant women and children should eat legumes/pulses

1. Not recommended practice: pregnant women, teenage girls or children eat mostly large grains such as maize or rice or tubers such as cassava

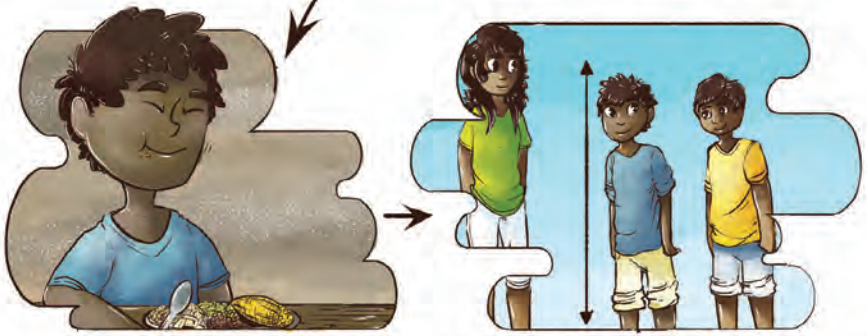
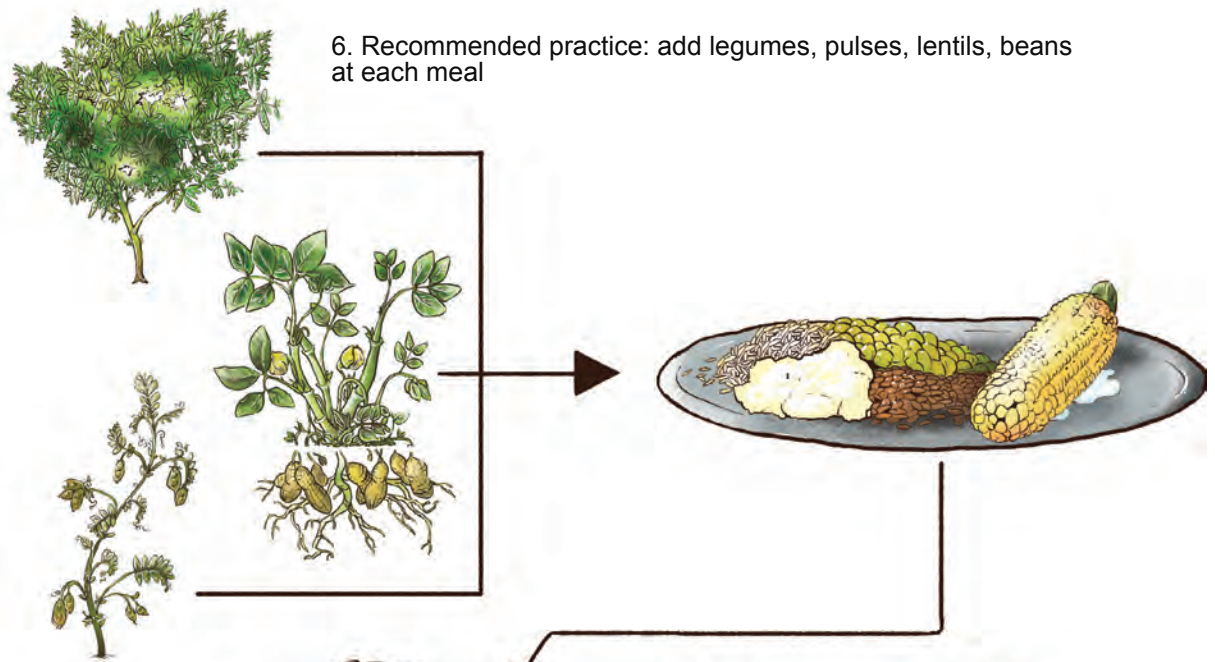


2. Child will be stunted



3. Extended belly    4. Skin cracking    5. Hair discoloured or falling out

6. Recommended practice: add legumes, pulses, lentils, beans at each meal



7. Normal child growth

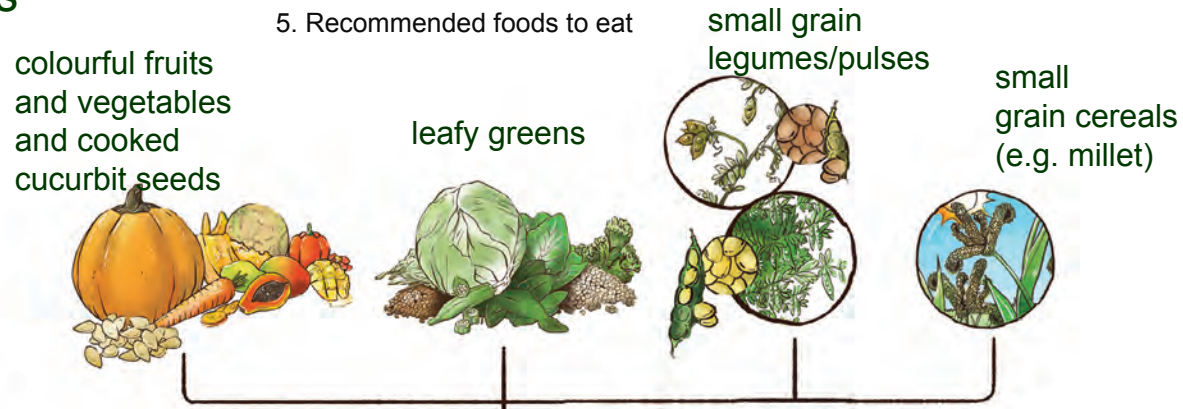
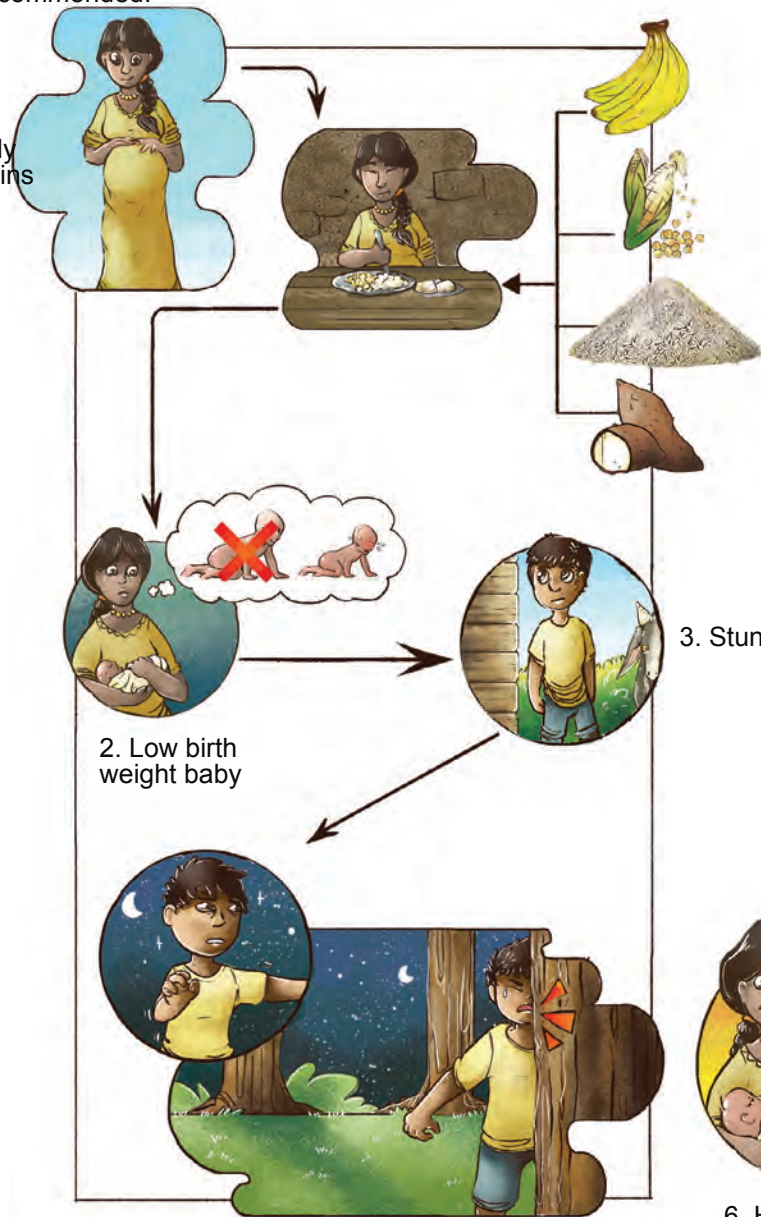


8. Normal belly    9. Normal skin    10. Normal hair



# Lesson: Pregnant women and children should eat colourful foods, leafy green vegetables, legumes/pulses and small whole grains

1. Not recommended: pregnant women, teenage girls or children eat mostly large grains such as maize or rice or tubers such as cassava



3. Stunted child

2. Low birth weight baby

4. Night blindness

6. High birth weight baby

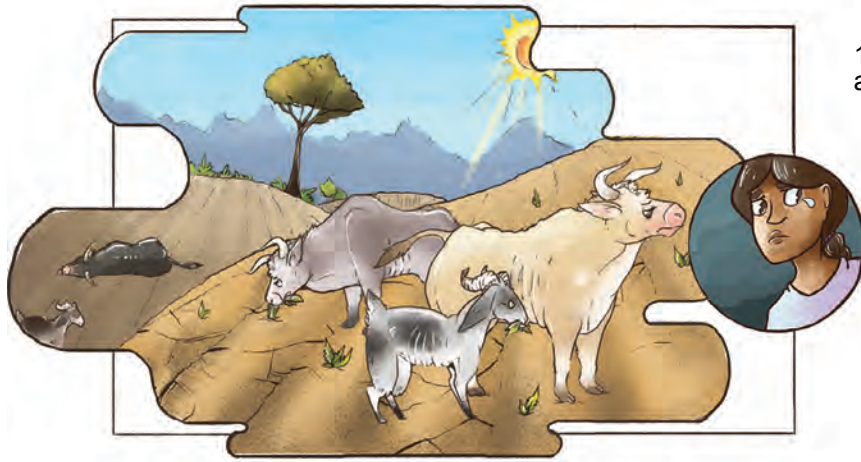
7. Normal growth

8. Proper eyesight at night

## Chapter 11: Animals



# Lesson: In the dry season, vetch can grow and provide fodder for livestock

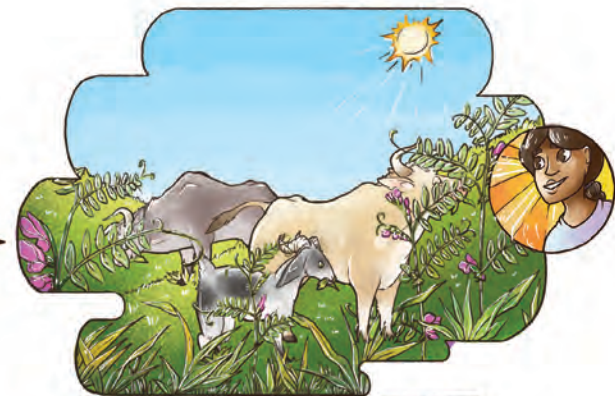


1. Traditional problem is lack of feed for animals in dry season

2. Improved practice:  
Sow vetch seeds and grasses  
before dry season



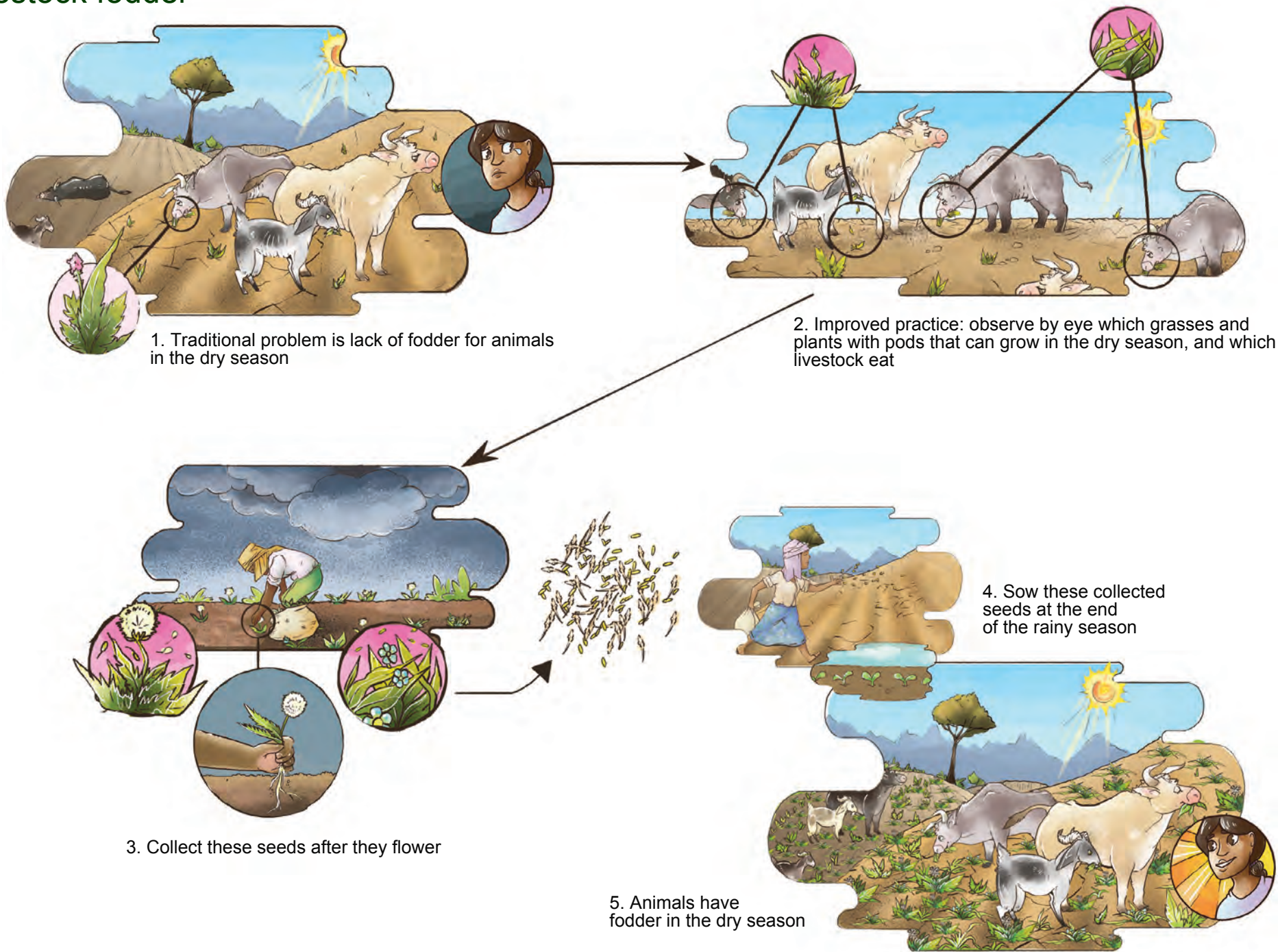
3. Animals have feed in dry season



4. Roots of vetch have  
pink spheres  
which produce  
natural fertilizer  
which feeds next  
season crop



# Lesson: Observe which plants grow in the dry season, then deliberately grow them, to provide livestock fodder



1. Traditional problem is lack of fodder for animals in the dry season

2. Improved practice: observe by eye which grasses and plants with pods that can grow in the dry season, and which livestock eat

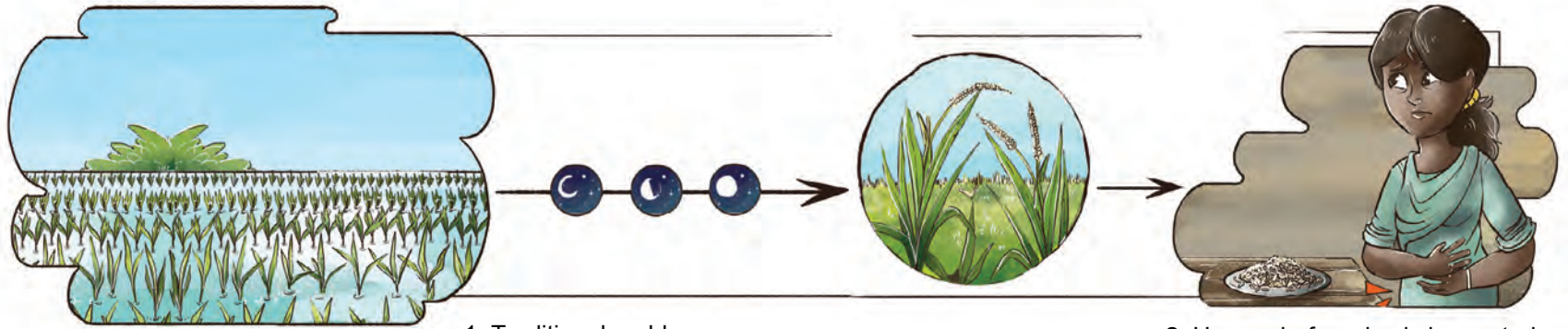
3. Collect these seeds after they flower

4. Sow these collected seeds at the end of the rainy season

5. Animals have fodder in the dry season

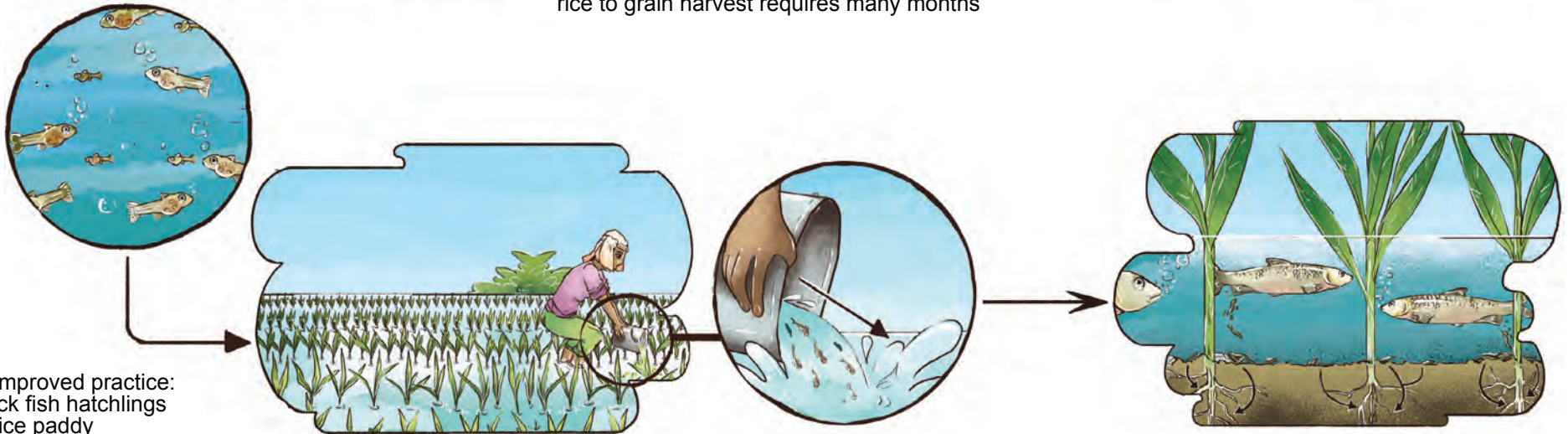


# Lesson: Rather than being hungry before the rice harvest, grow fish in the rice paddies and eat them.



1. Traditional problem:  
rice to grain harvest requires many months

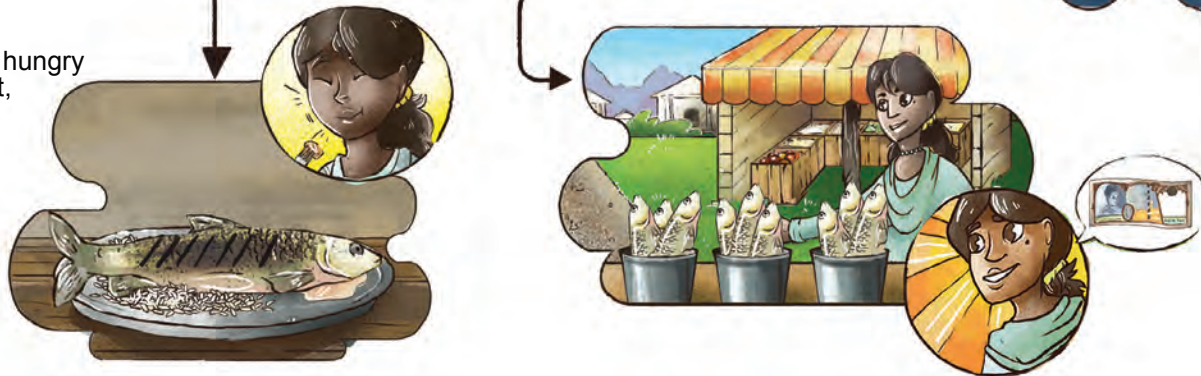
2. Hunger before rice is harvested



3. Improved practice:  
stock fish hatchlings  
in rice paddy

4. Fish will deposit manure  
to help feed rice and  
therefore reduce need  
to purchase fertilizer

5. Instead of being hungry  
prior to rice harvest,  
catch and eat fish

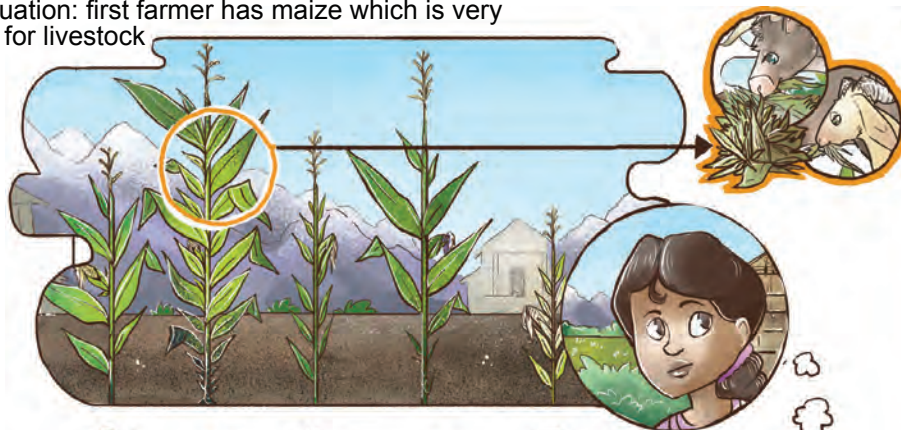


## Chapter 12: Crop Breeding



# Lesson: Exchanging seeds with farmers from other villages can be beneficial.

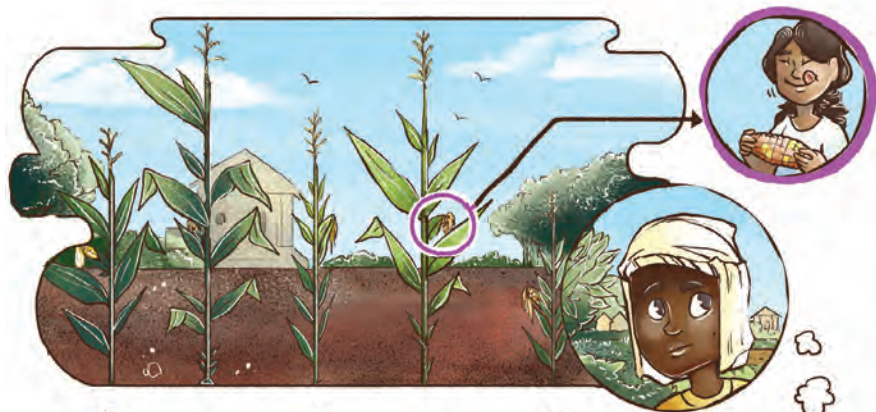
1. Situation: first farmer has maize which is very good for livestock



2. First farmer wants maize which is tastier or healthier for humans



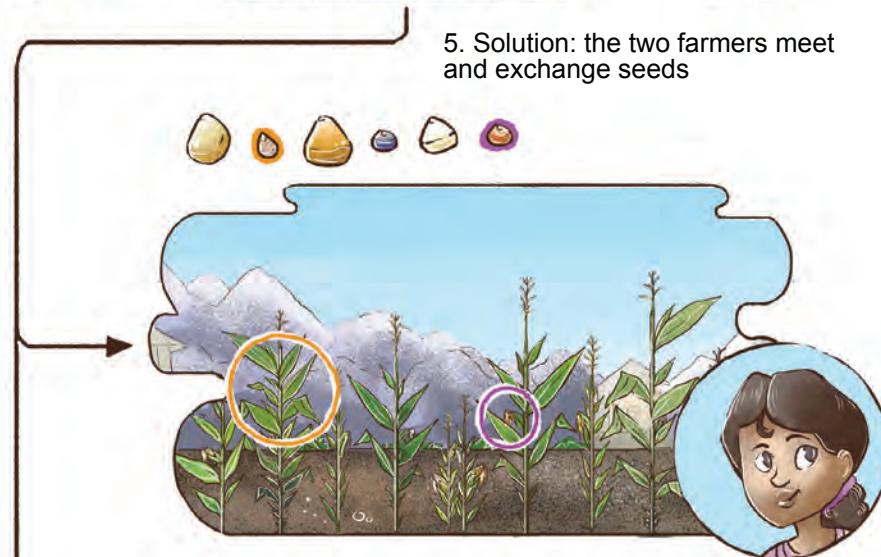
3. Second farmer in nearby village has maize which is tastier for humans



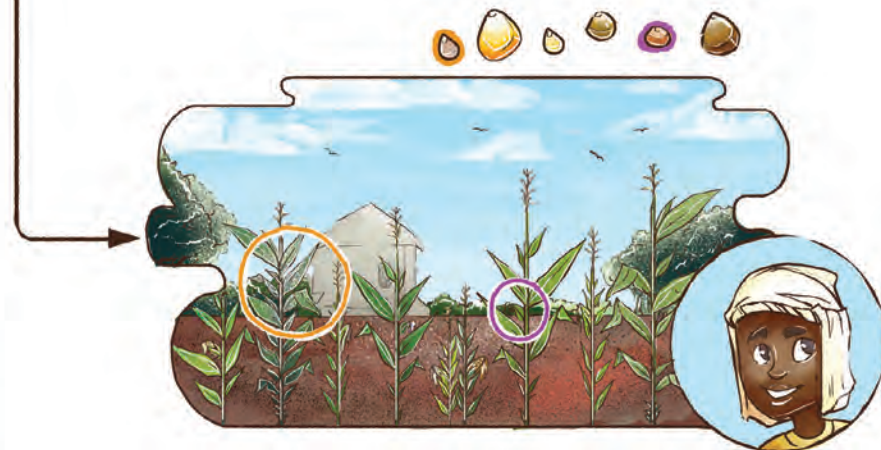
4. Second farmer wants maize which is very good for livestock



5. Solution: the two farmers meet and exchange seeds



6. Now both farmers have best maize for all purposes

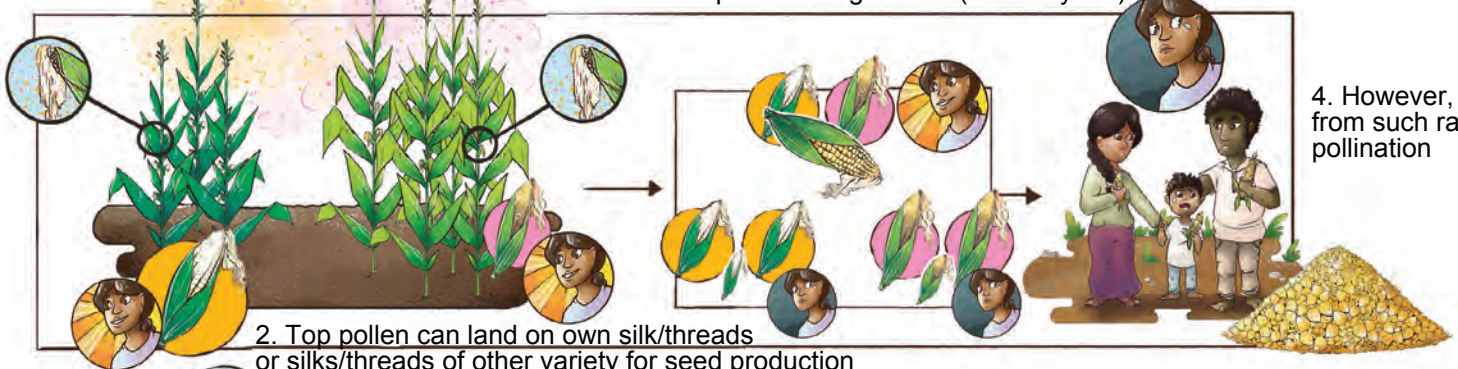




# Lesson: Instead of purchasing expensive hybrid maize seed, it is possible to produce one's own higher producing hybrid seed less expensively.

3. Pollen from one variety that randomly lands on silks of the second variety may produce larger cobs (called hybrid)

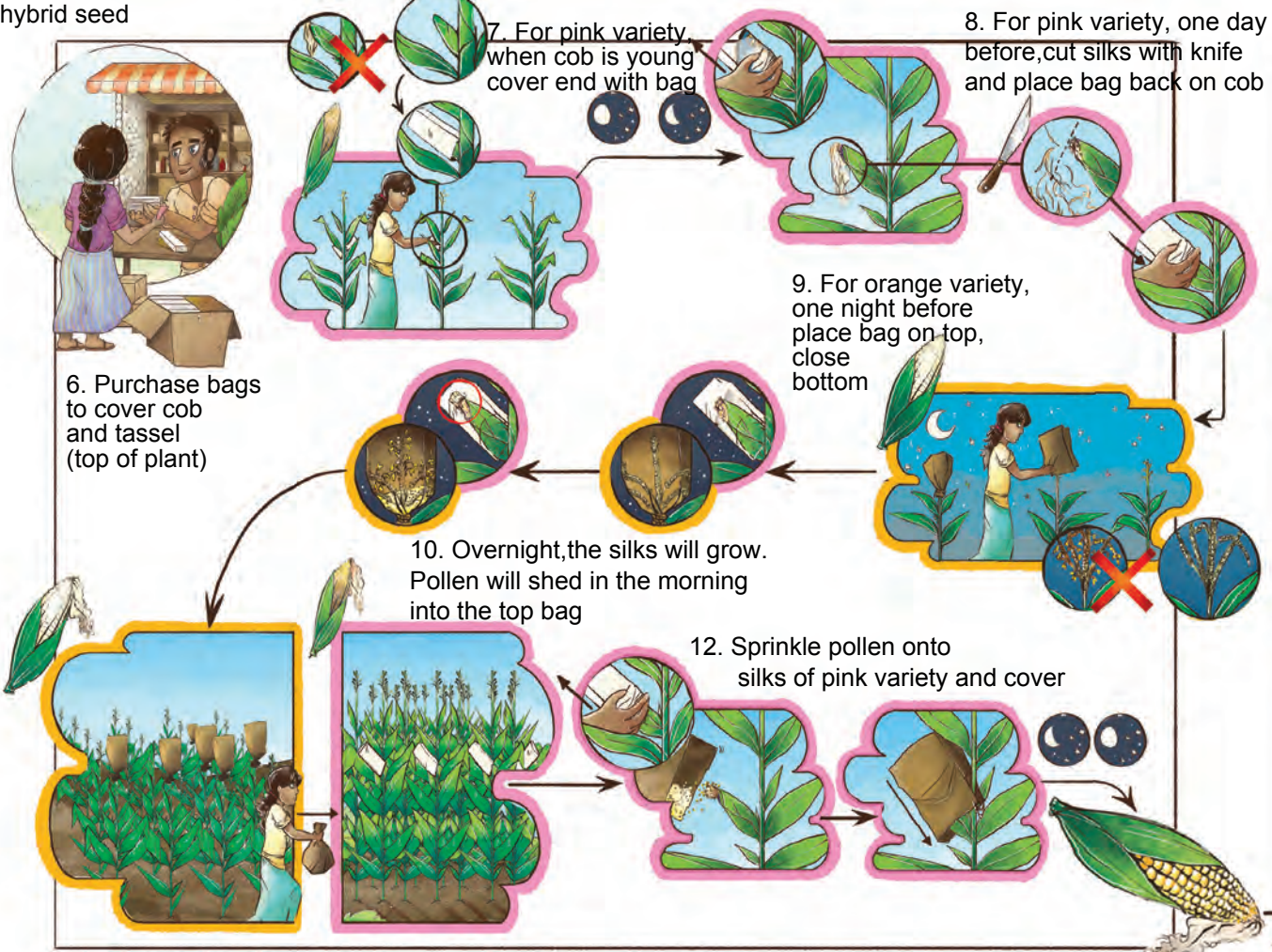
1. Traditional practice: two or more maize varieties (orange, pink) grow



4. However, most cobs are small from such random, open pollination

2. Top pollen can land on own silk/threads or silks/threads of other variety for seed production

5. New practice is to deliberate hybrid seed production



7. For pink variety, when cob is young cover end with bag

8. For pink variety, one day before, cut silks with knife and place bag back on cob

9. For orange variety, one night before place bag on top, close bottom

10. Overnight, the silks will grow. Pollen will shed in the morning into the top bag

12. Sprinkle pollen onto silks of pink variety and cover

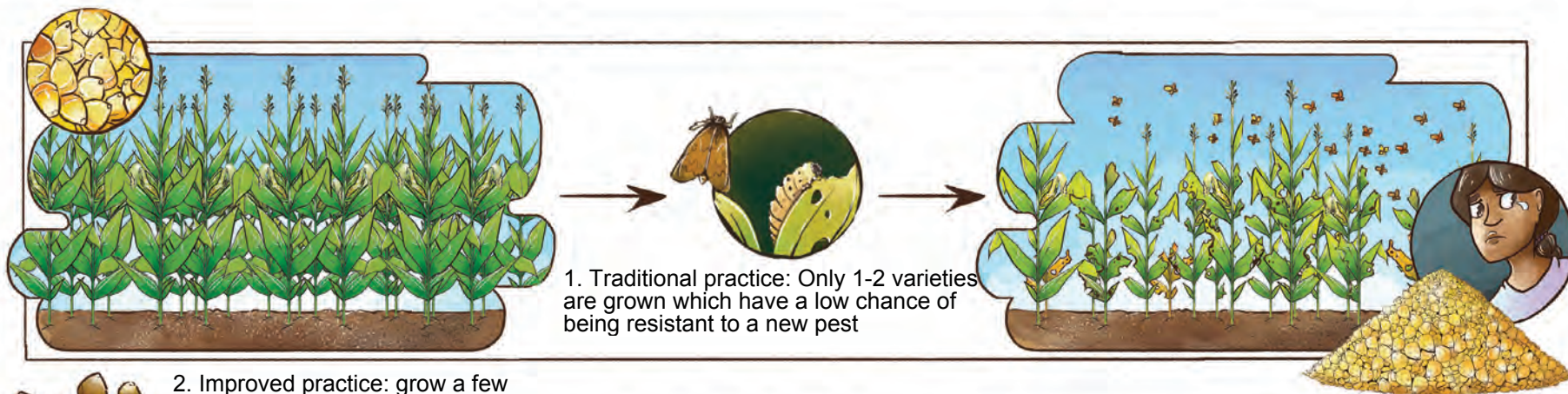
11. Collect bag of pollen in the mid-morning from orange variety

13. All seeds are a hybrid of the two varieties. They may look the same colour, shape and size if the parents were pure (inbred) or different if the parents were not pure

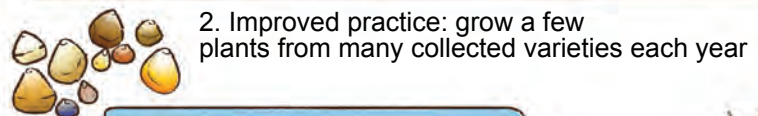
14. Potential for higher yield



Lesson: It is useful to maintain multiple varieties of each crop in order to test whether a particular variety may overcome a new problem (e.g. a new pest).

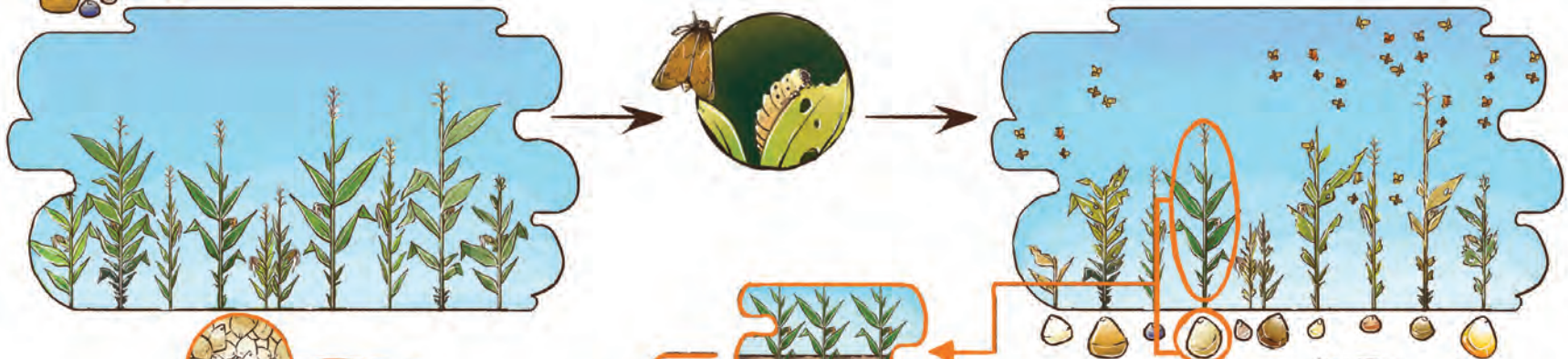


1. Traditional practice: Only 1-2 varieties are grown which have a low chance of being resistant to a new pest



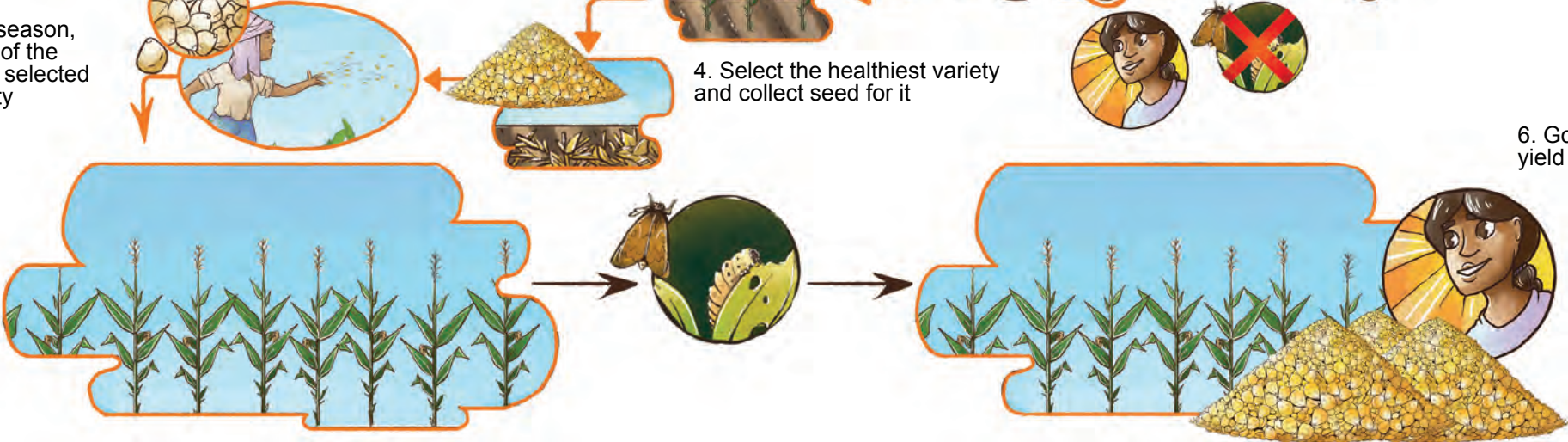
2. Improved practice: grow a few plants from many collected varieties each year

3. Observe if any of the varieties can overcome a problem (e.g. a new pest)



4. Select the healthiest variety and collect seed for it

5. In next season, sow more of the previously selected crop variety

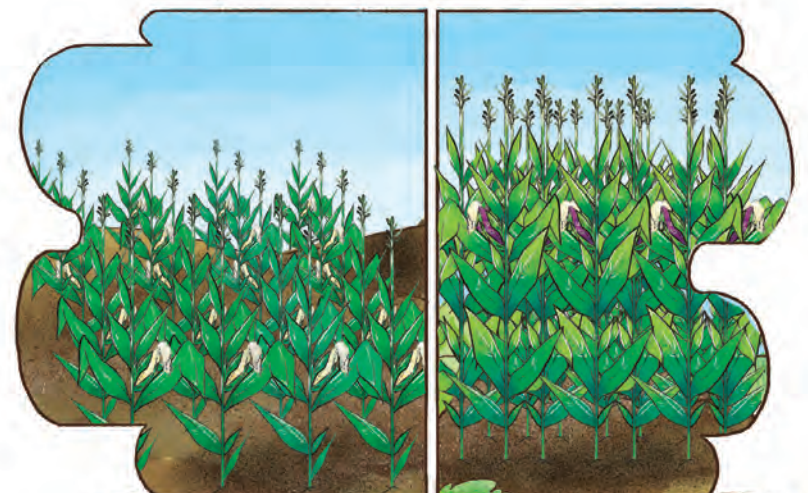


6. Good yield

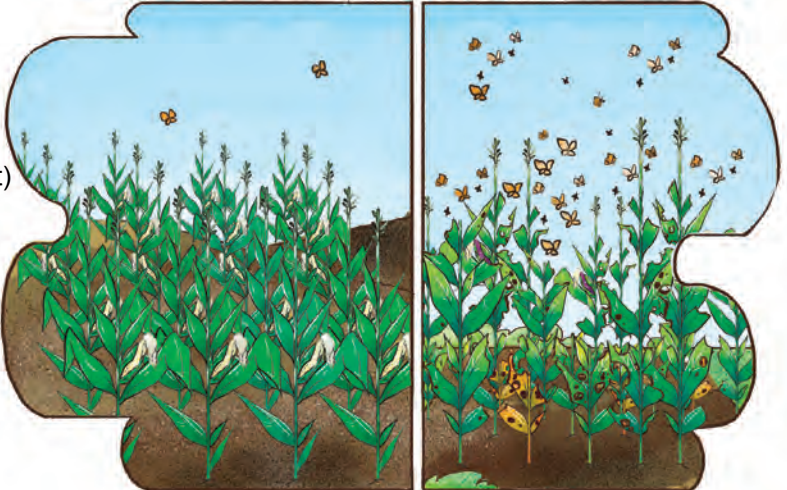


# Lesson: It may be possible to combine the best aspects of two crop varieties into a single new variety (part 1).

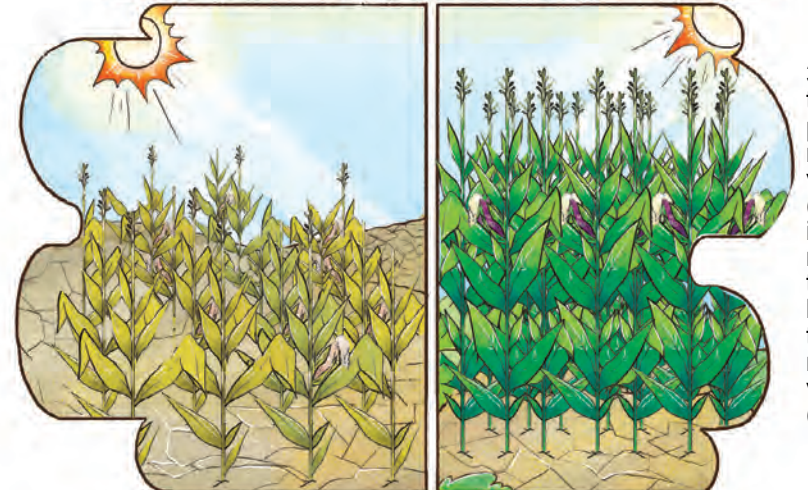
1. Example: Imagine two varieties of maize (white, purple)



2. Imagine the the white maize variety (left) is tolerant to insects but not the purple maize variety (right)



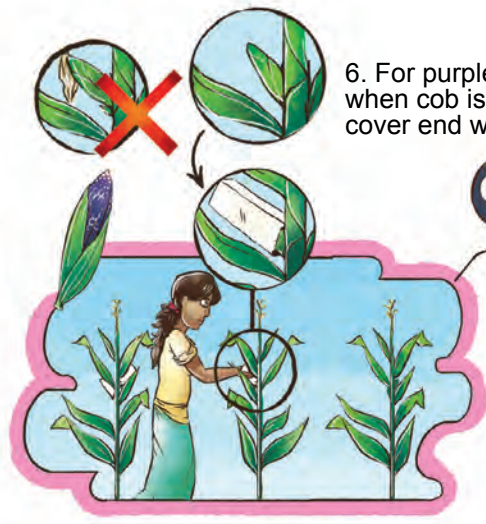
3. Imagine that the purple maize variety (right) is resistant to drought but not the white maize variety (left)



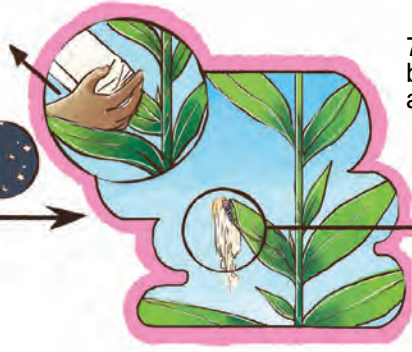


# Lesson: It may be possible to combine the best aspects of two crop varieties into a single new variety (part 2).

4. It may be possible to create a new maize variety which has the desired traits (e.g. insect resistance and drought resistance) from two varieties: like two parents creating a child



6. For purple variety, when cob is young, cover end with bag



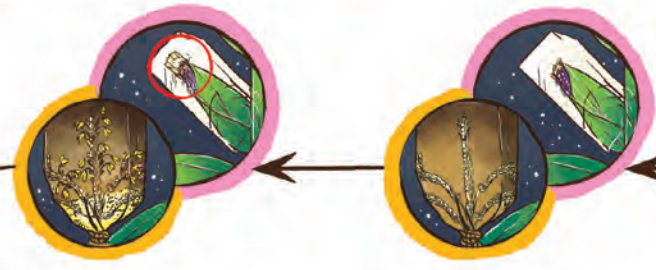
7. For purple variety, one day before, cut silks with knife and place bag back on cob



8. For white maize variety one night before, place bag on top, close bottom



5. Purchase bags to cover cob and tassel (top of plant)



9. Overnight, the silks will grow. Pollen will shed in the morning into the top bag



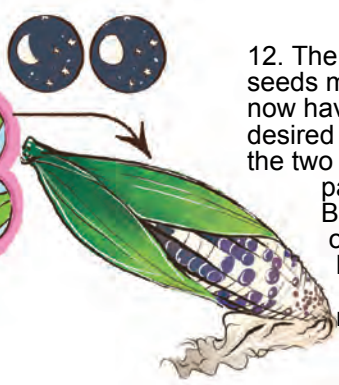
10. Collect bag of pollen in the mid-morning from white variety.



11. Sprinkle pollen onto silks of purple variety and cover



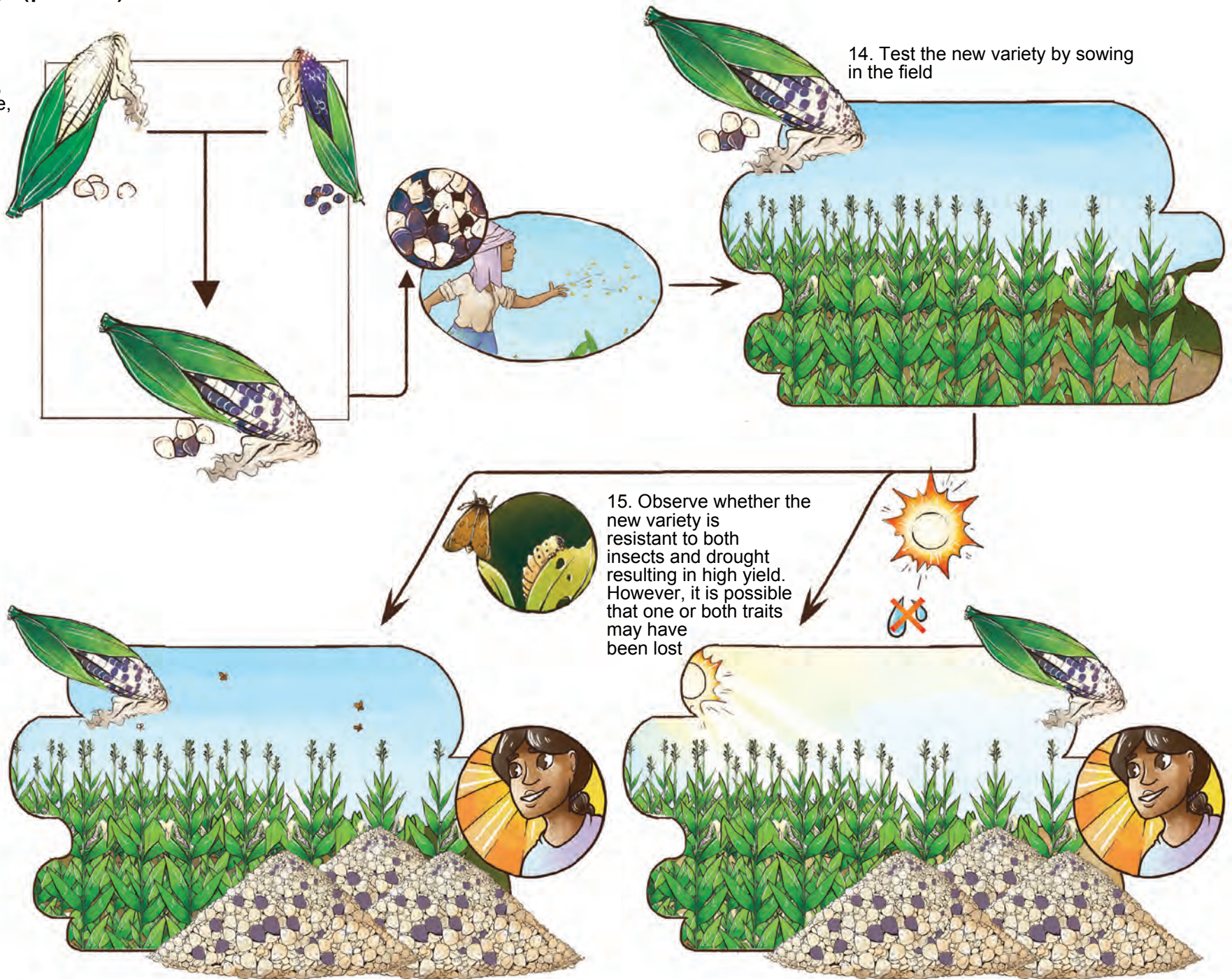
12. The final seeds may now have the desired traits from the two original parents. But also one or both traits may be lost





# Lesson: It may be possible to combine the best aspects of two crop varieties into a single new variety (part 3).

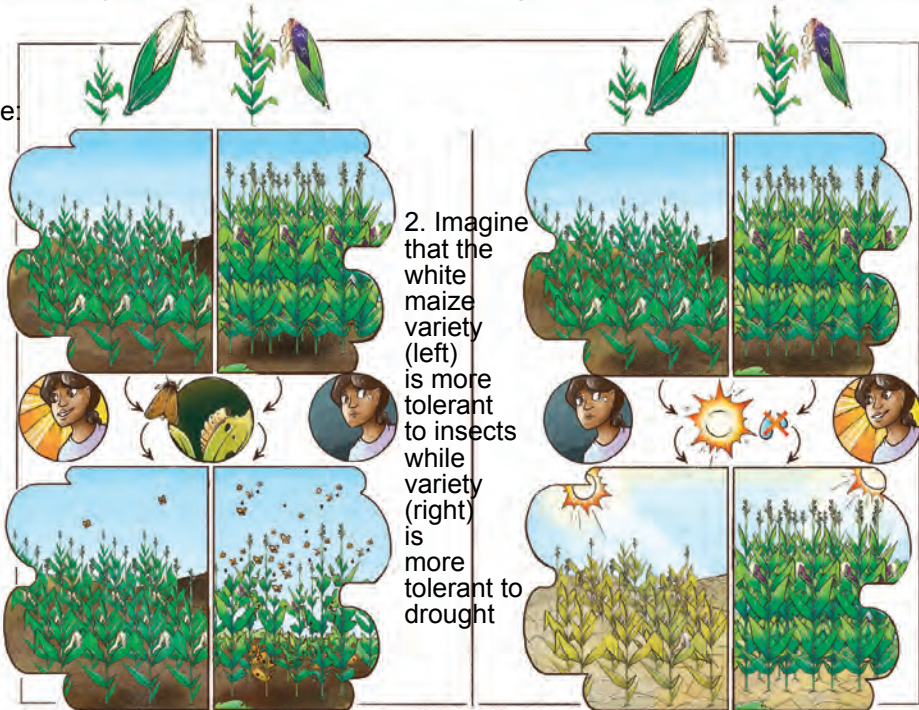
13. To review, as an example, the white maize variety (resistant to insect) and purple maize variety (resistant to drought) were used to create a new child with the hope that the child would have both good traits.



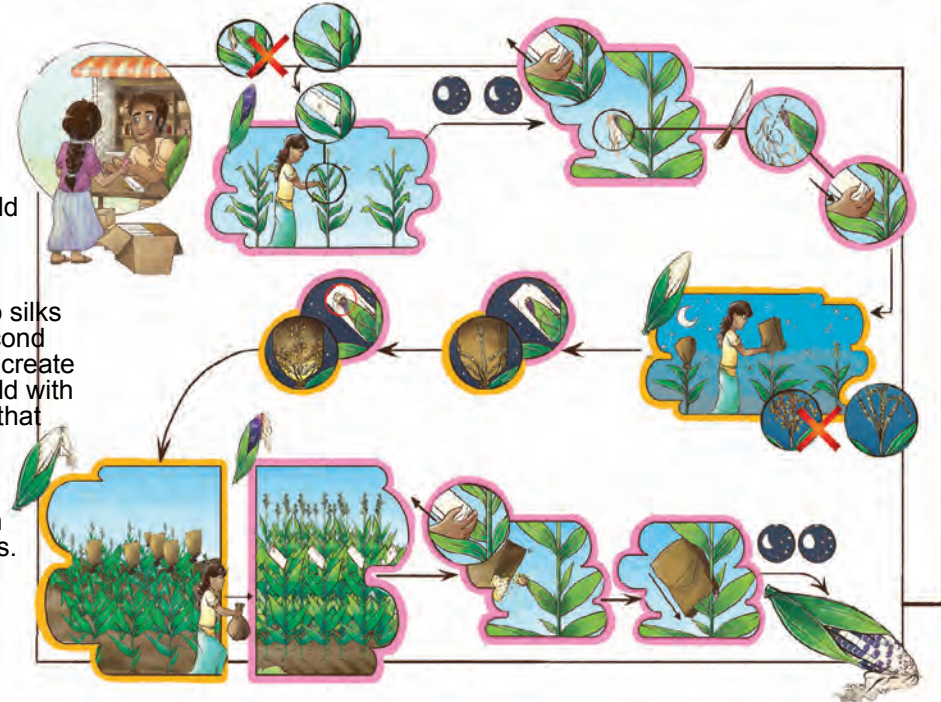


Lesson: After the best benefits of two crop varieties have been combined into a single variety, it is possible to have the new variety closely resemble one of the original varieties (part 1)

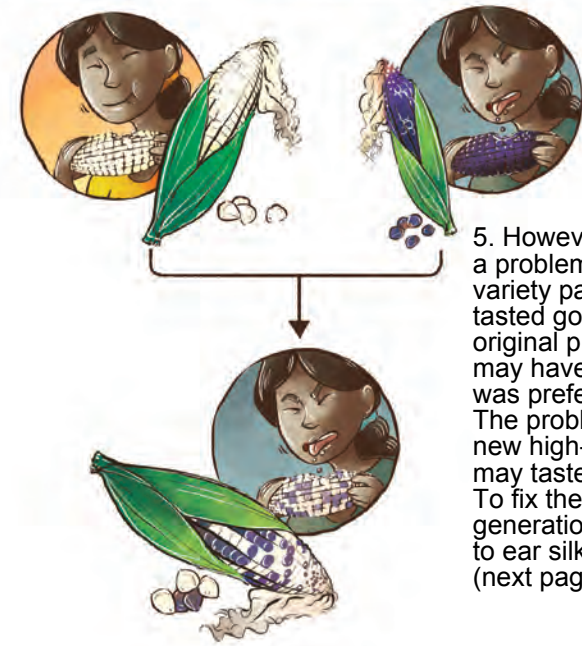
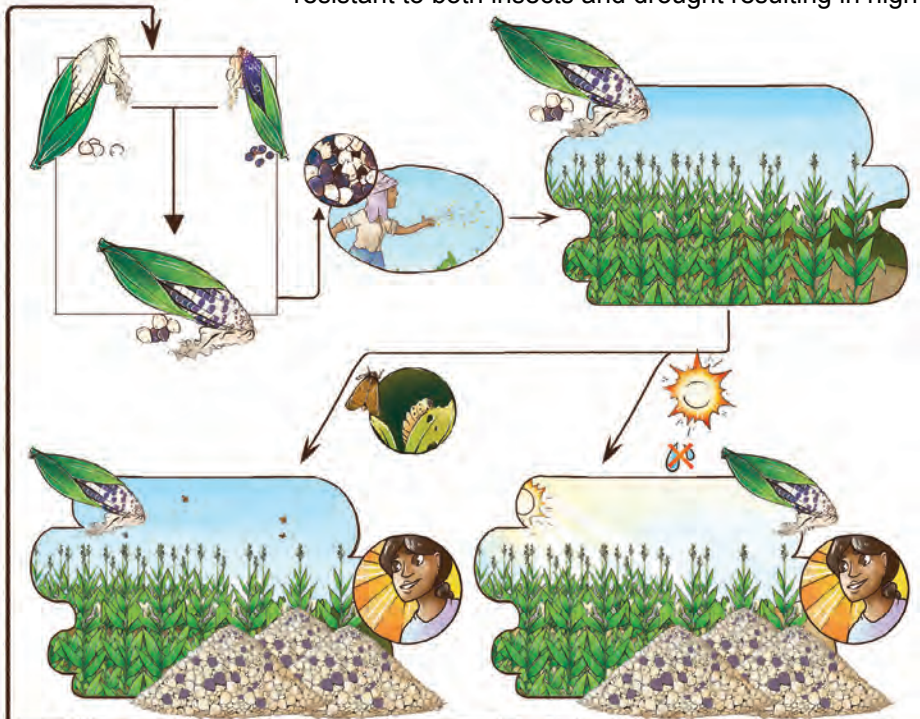
1. Example: Imagine two varieties of maize (white, purple)



3. As described earlier, add the pollen of one variety to the cob silks of the second variety to create a new child with the hope that the child variety would have both good traits.



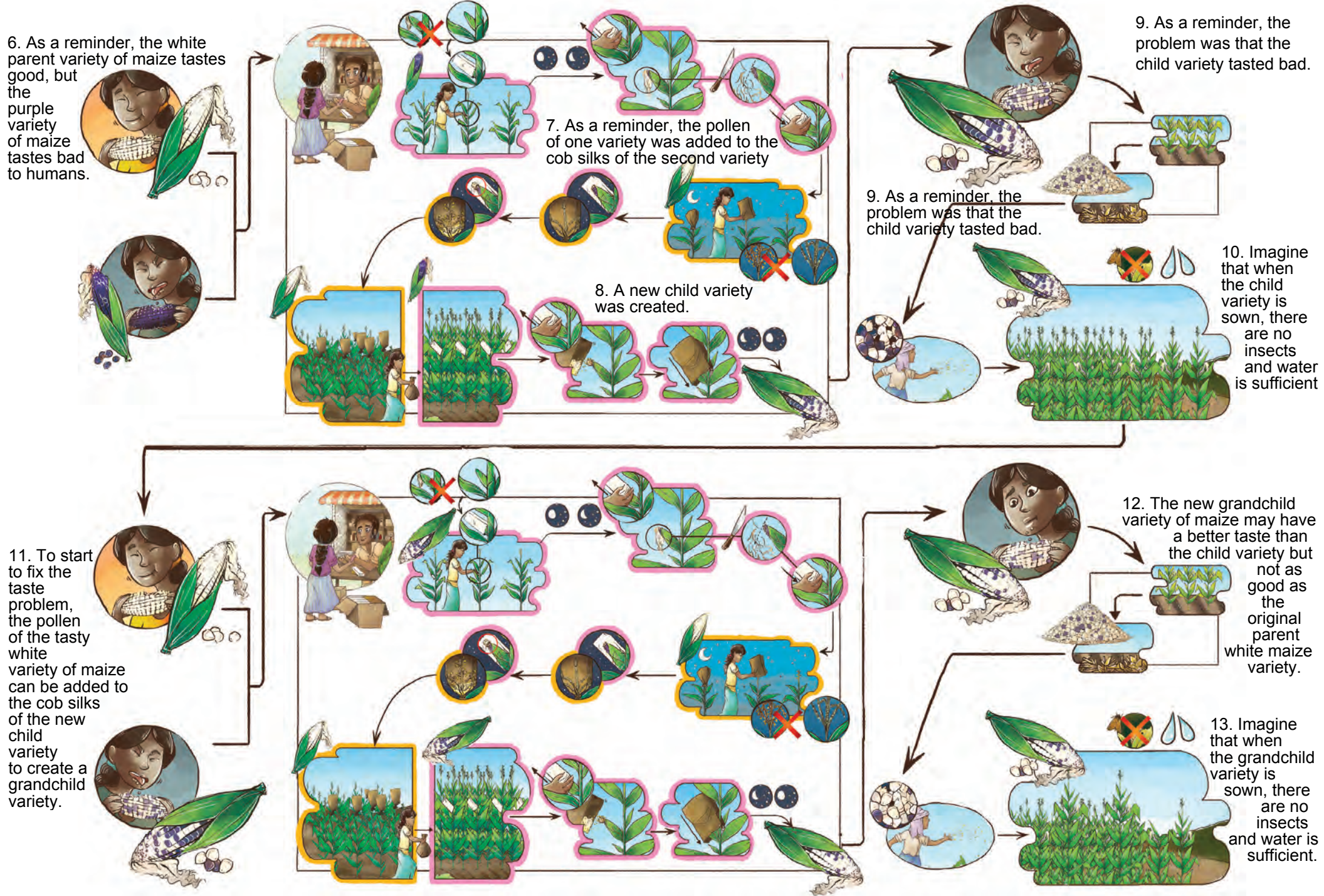
4. As described earlier, it is hoped that the new variety will be resistant to both insects and drought resulting in high yield



5. However, there may be a problem: the original white variety parent may have tasted good, while the original purple parent variety may have tasted bad (but was preferred by chickens). The problem is that the new high-yielding child variety may taste bad to humans. To fix the problem, multiple generations of adding pollen to ear silks will be required (next page).



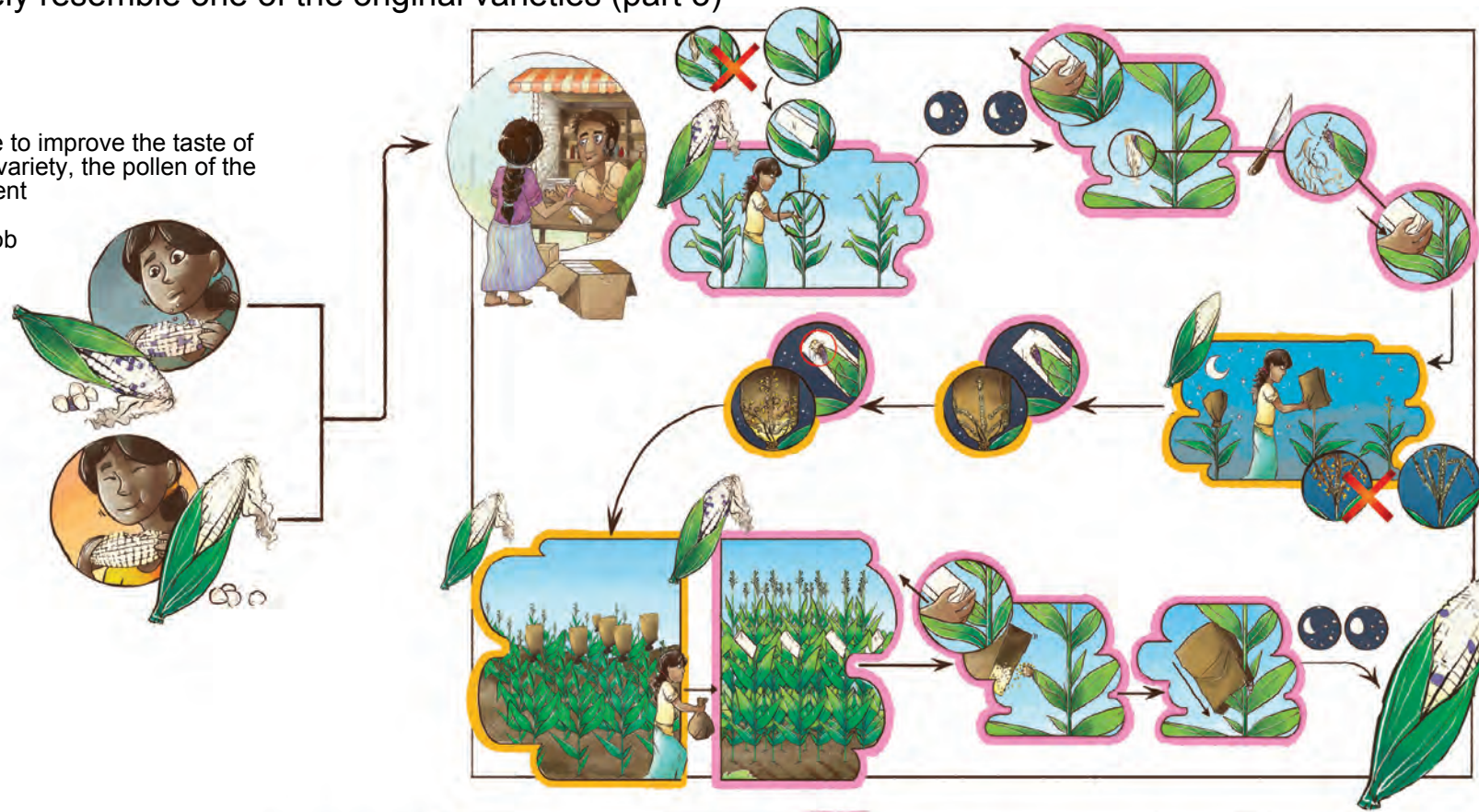
Lesson: After the best benefits of two crop varieties have been combined into a single variety, it is possible to have the new variety closely resemble one of the original varieties (part 2)





Lesson: After the best benefits of two crop varieties have been combined into a single variety, it is possible to have the new variety closely resemble one of the original varieties (part 3)

14. To continue to improve the taste of the grandchild variety, the pollen of the tasty white parent variety can be added to the cob silks of the grandchild variety.

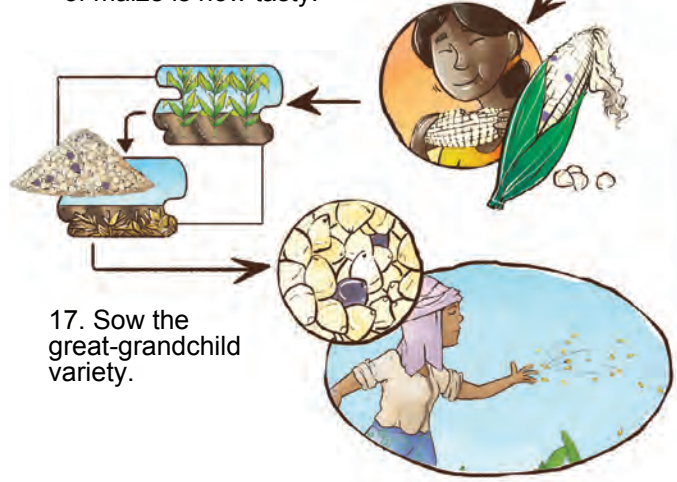


15. The new great grandchild variety will more resemble the original white parent variety

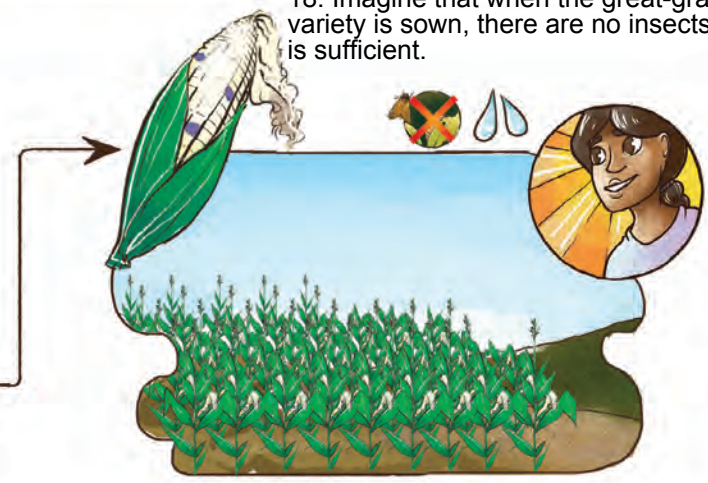
16. The great-grandchild variety of maize is now tasty.

18. Imagine that when the great-grandchild variety is sown, there are no insects and water is sufficient.

19. It is not clear whether the great-grandchild variety has kept its resistance to both insects and drought.



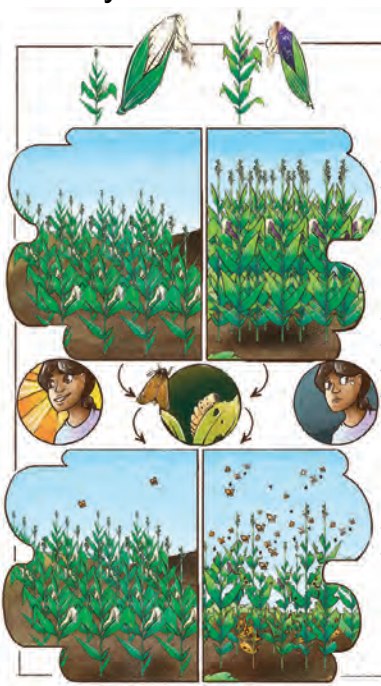
17. Sow the great-grandchild variety.



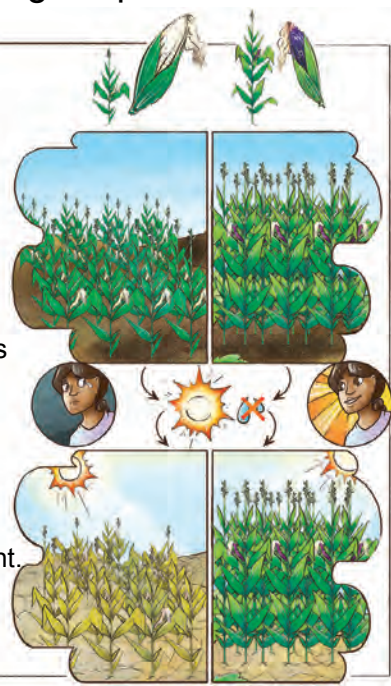


Lesson: After the best benefits of two crop varieties have been combined into a single variety, it is possible to have the new variety closely resemble one of the original parent varieties but to maintain the benefits of both varieties (part 1)

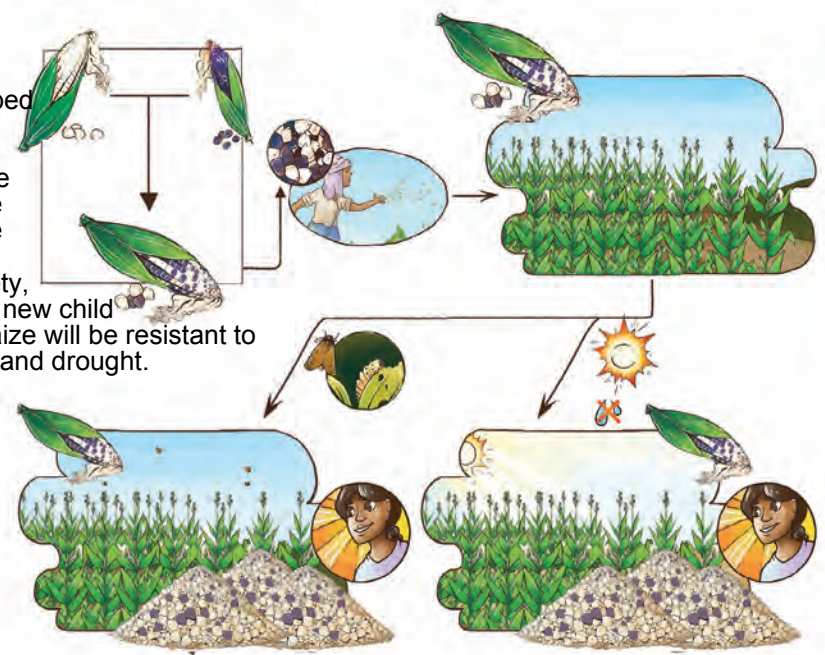
1. As a reminder, imagine two varieties of maize (white, purple)



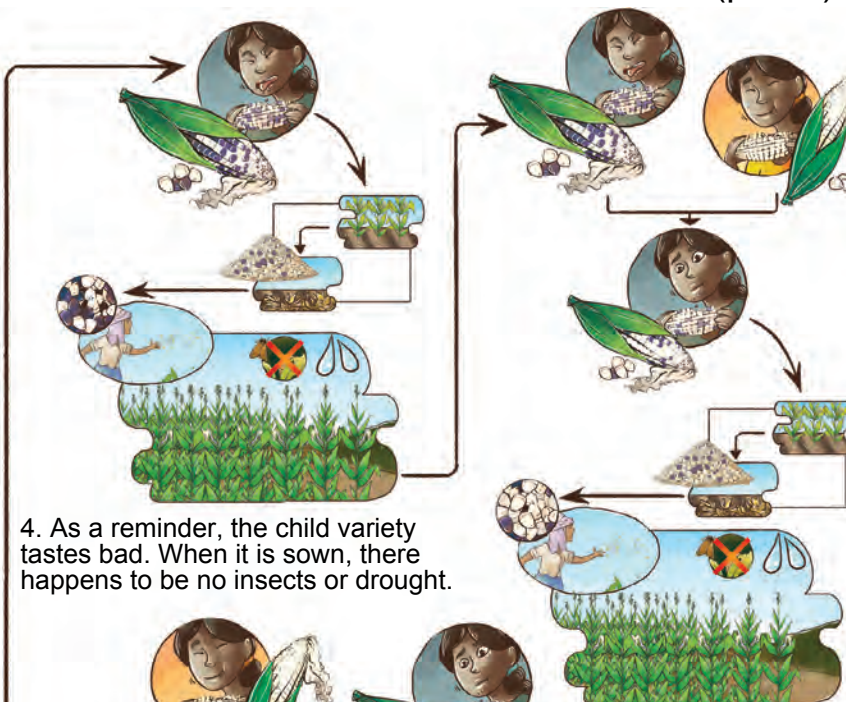
2. Again, imagine that the white maize variety (left) is more tolerant to insects while the white variety (right) is more tolerant to drought.



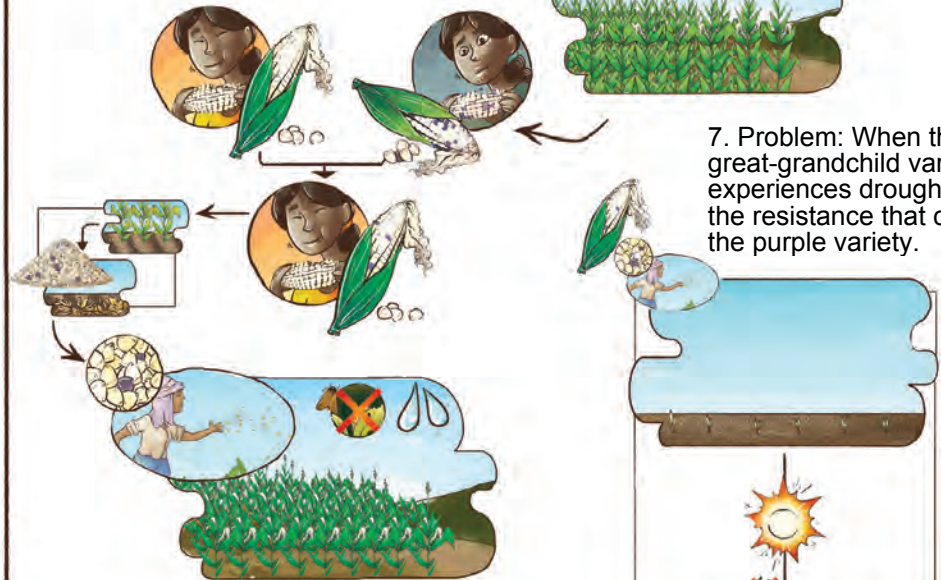
3. As described earlier, it is hoped that by adding the pollen of one variety to the silks of the second variety, the resulting new child variety of maize will be resistant to both insects and drought.



4. As a reminder, the child variety tastes bad. When it is sown, there happens to be no insects or drought.

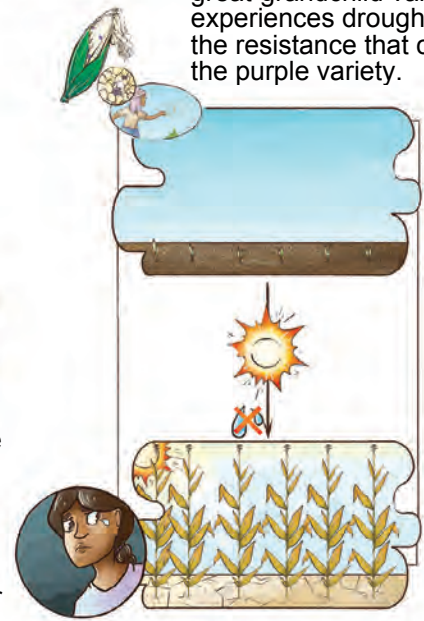


5. As a reminder, to improve the taste of the child variety, the pollen of the tasty white parent variety can be added to the cob silks of the child variety to create a grandchild variety. When it is sown, there happens to be no insects or drought.



7. Problem: When the great-grandchild variety experiences drought, it has lost the resistance that came from the purple variety.

6. As a reminder, to continue to improve the taste of the grandchild variety, the pollen of the tasty white parent variety can be added to the cob silks of the grandchild variety to create a great-grandchild variety. When it is sown, there happens to be no insects or drought.



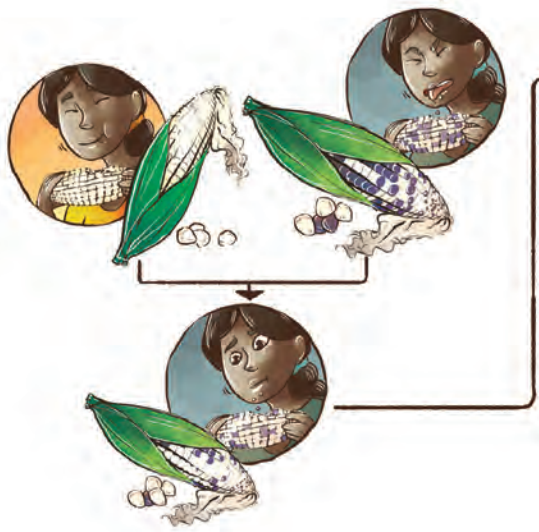


Lesson: After the best benefits of two crop varieties have been combined into a single variety, it is possible to have the new variety closely resemble one of the original parent varieties but to maintain the benefits of both varieties (part 2)

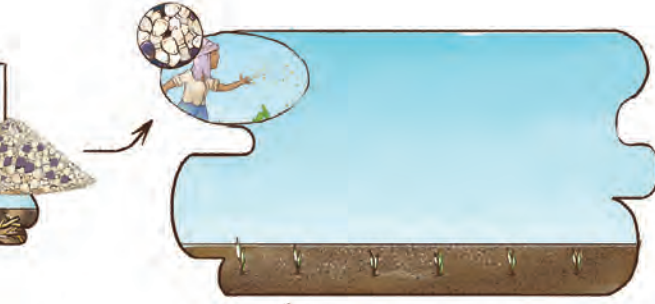
8. There is a method to maintain the benefits of both the white variety and purple variety, but at the same time have the variety resemble the most desired white variety that is tasty.



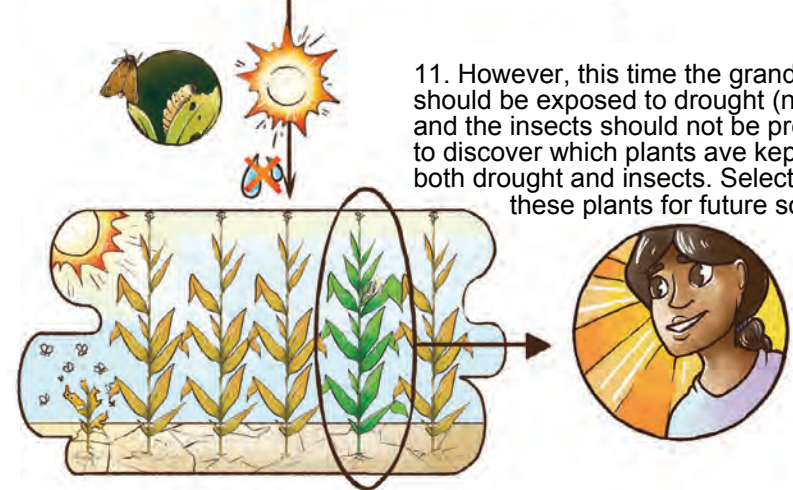
9. After creating the child variety from the white and purple parent maize varieties, sow the child variety.



10. As before, to improve the taste of the child variety, the pollen of the tasty white parent variety can be added to the cob silks of the child variety to create a grandchild variety.



11. However, this time the grandchild variety should be exposed to drought (no irrigation) and the insects should not be prevented, in order to discover which plants have kept resistance to both drought and insects. Select the seeds of only these plants for future sowing.

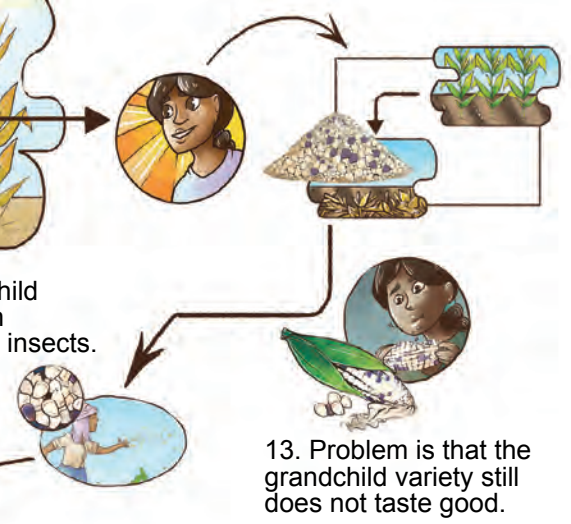




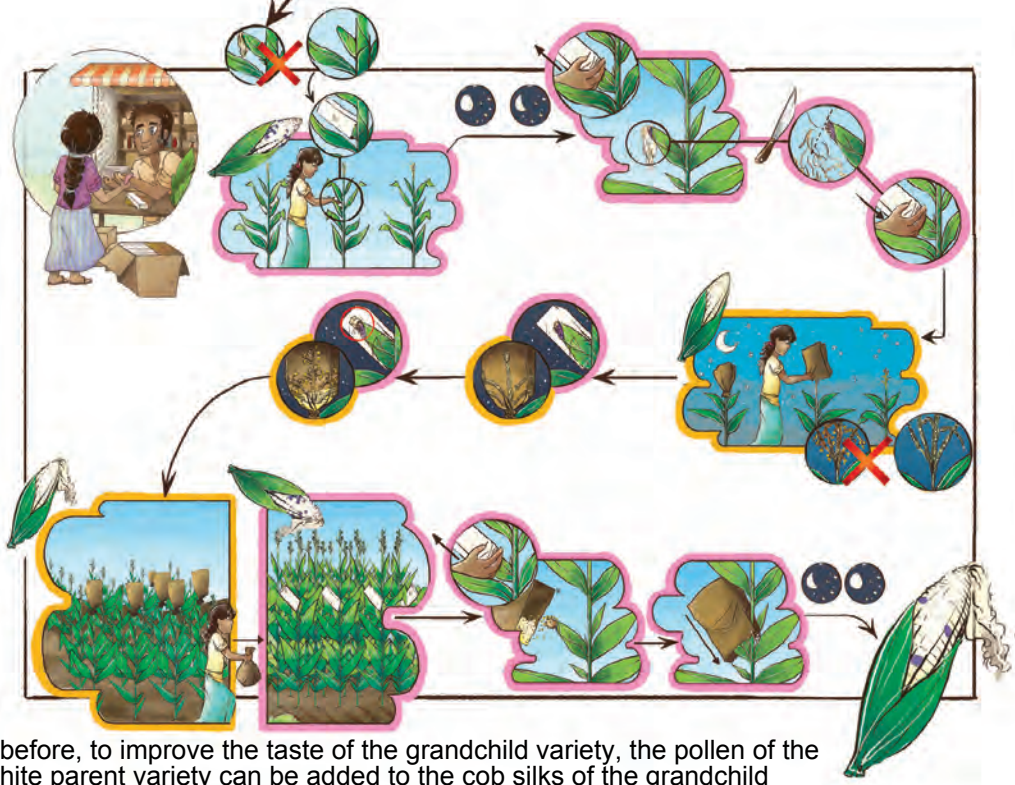
Lesson: After the best benefits of two crop varieties have been combined into a single variety, it is possible to have the new variety closely resemble one of the original parent varieties but to maintain the benefits of both varieties (part 3)



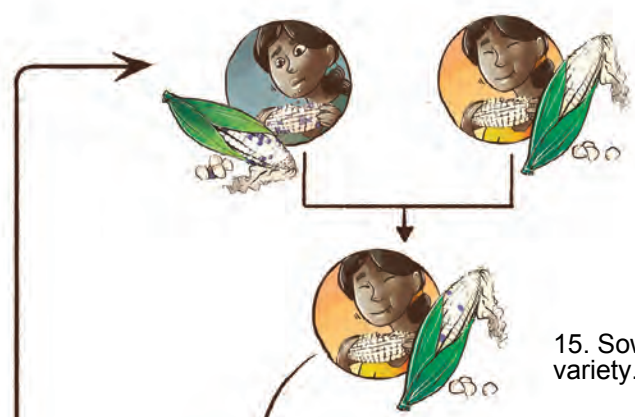
12. To repeat, sow the seeds of the grandchild plants which have resistance similar to both parent varieties, in this case to drought and insects.



13. Problem is that the grandchild variety still does not taste good.



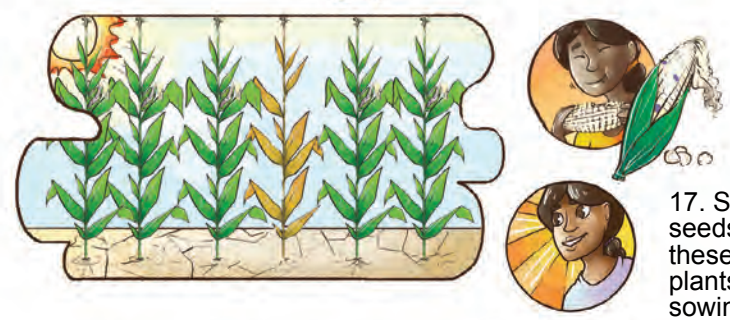
14. As before, to improve the taste of the grandchild variety, the pollen of the tasty white parent variety can be added to the cob silks of the grandchild variety to create a great-grandchild variety.



15. Sow the great-grandchild variety..



16. However, again this time the great-grandchild variety should be exposed to drought (no irrigation) and the insects should not be prevented, in order to discover which plants have kept resistance to both drought and insects.

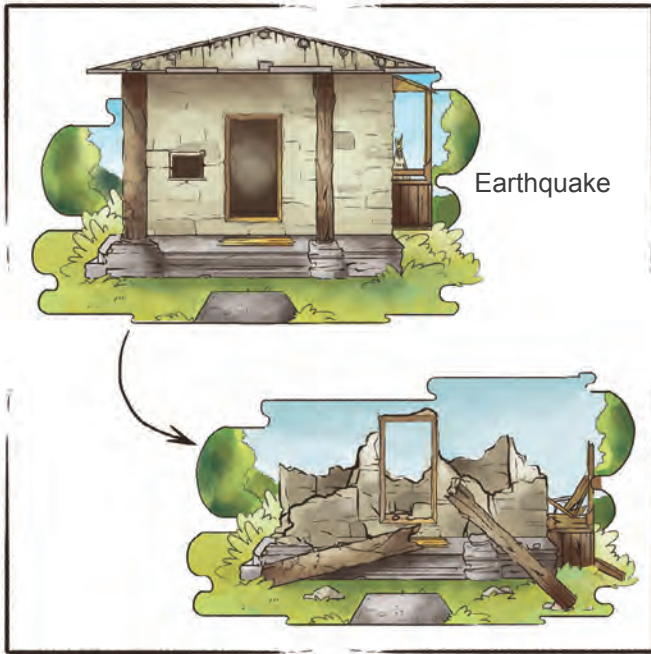


17. Select the seeds of only these healthy plants for future sowing.



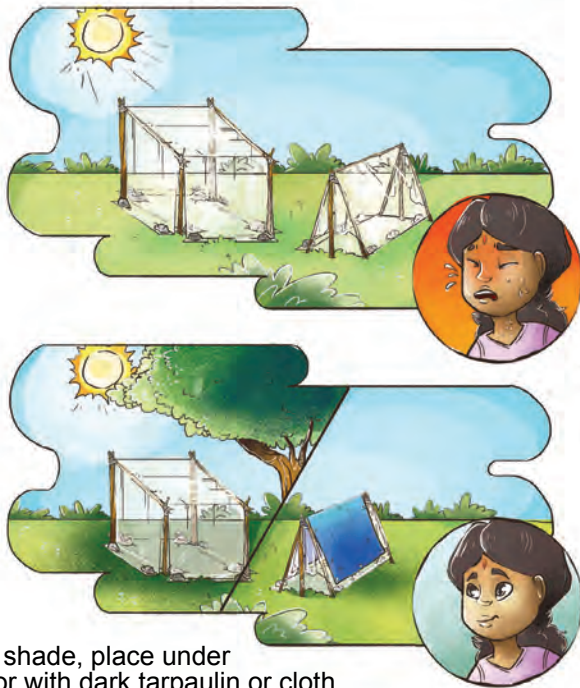
## Chapter 13: Disaster Relief

# Lesson: How to build shelter from a roll of tarpaulin or plastic sheets



1. Wood frame tied with rope or duct tape (water proof)

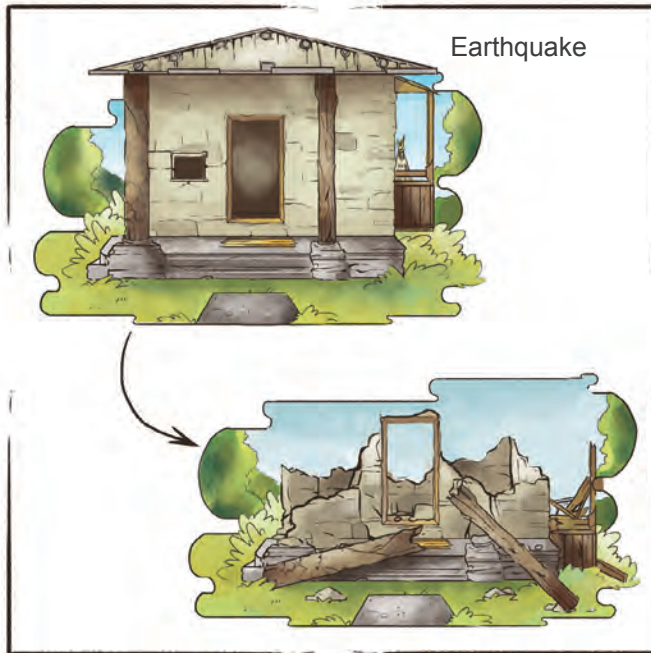
2. Roll of tarpaulin or plastic



3. For shade, place under trees or with dark tarpaulin or cloth

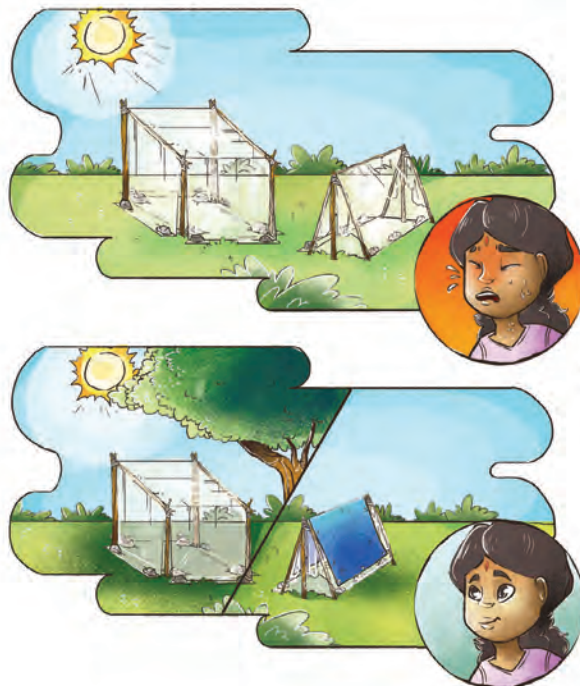
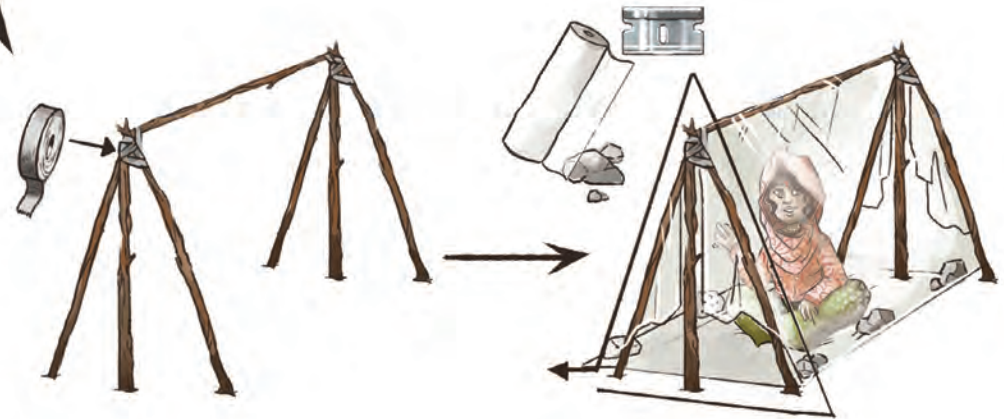


# Lesson: How to build shelter from a roll of tarpaulin or plastic sheets



1. Wood frame tied with rope or duct tape (water proof)

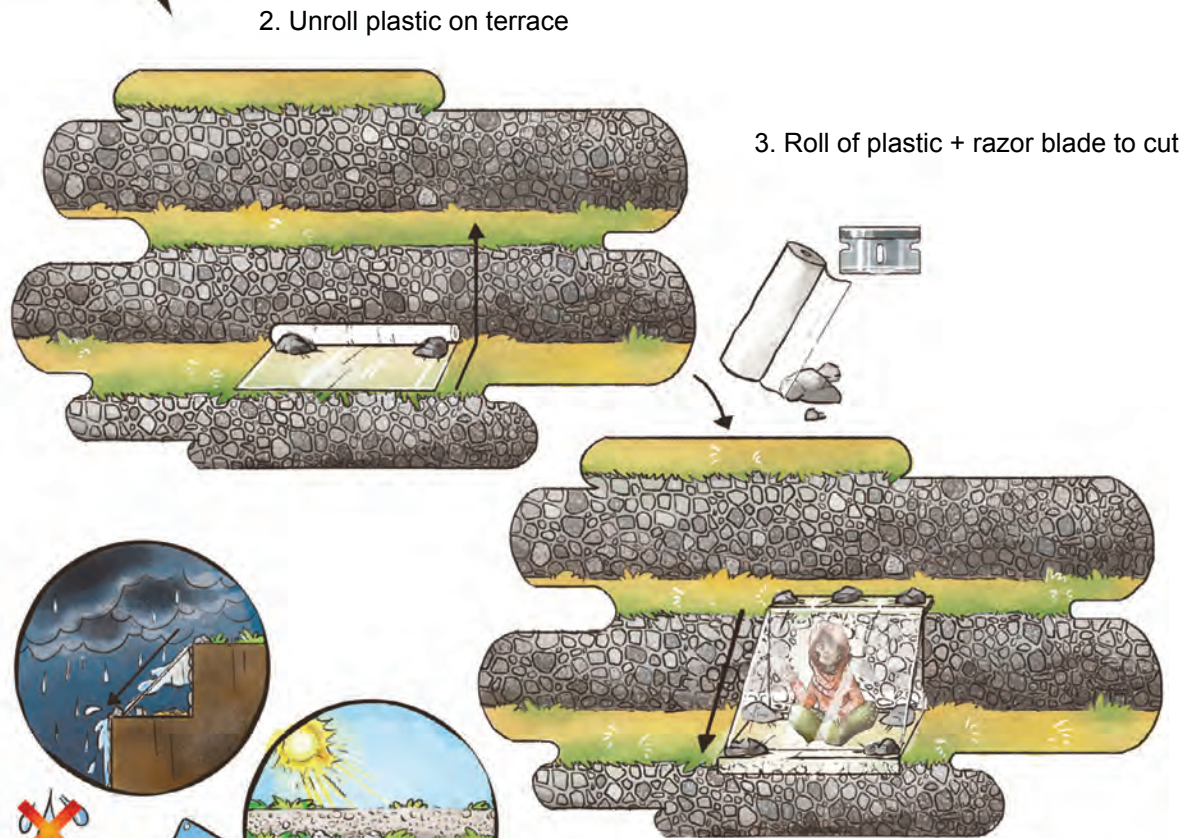
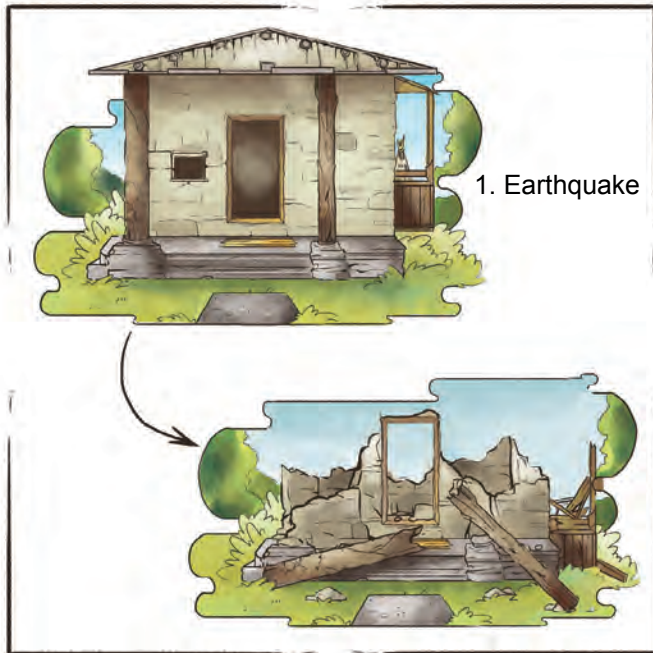
2. Roll of tarpaulin or plastic



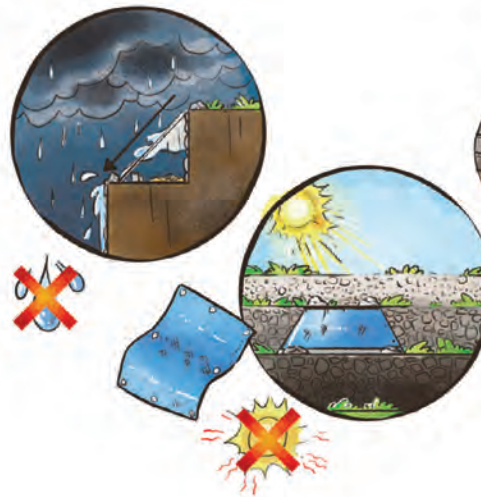
3. Can use tree branch

4. For shade, place under trees or with dark tarpaulin or cloth.

Lesson: How to build a shelter from a roll of tarpaulin or plastic sheets, rapidly, without using wood by using the terrace wall



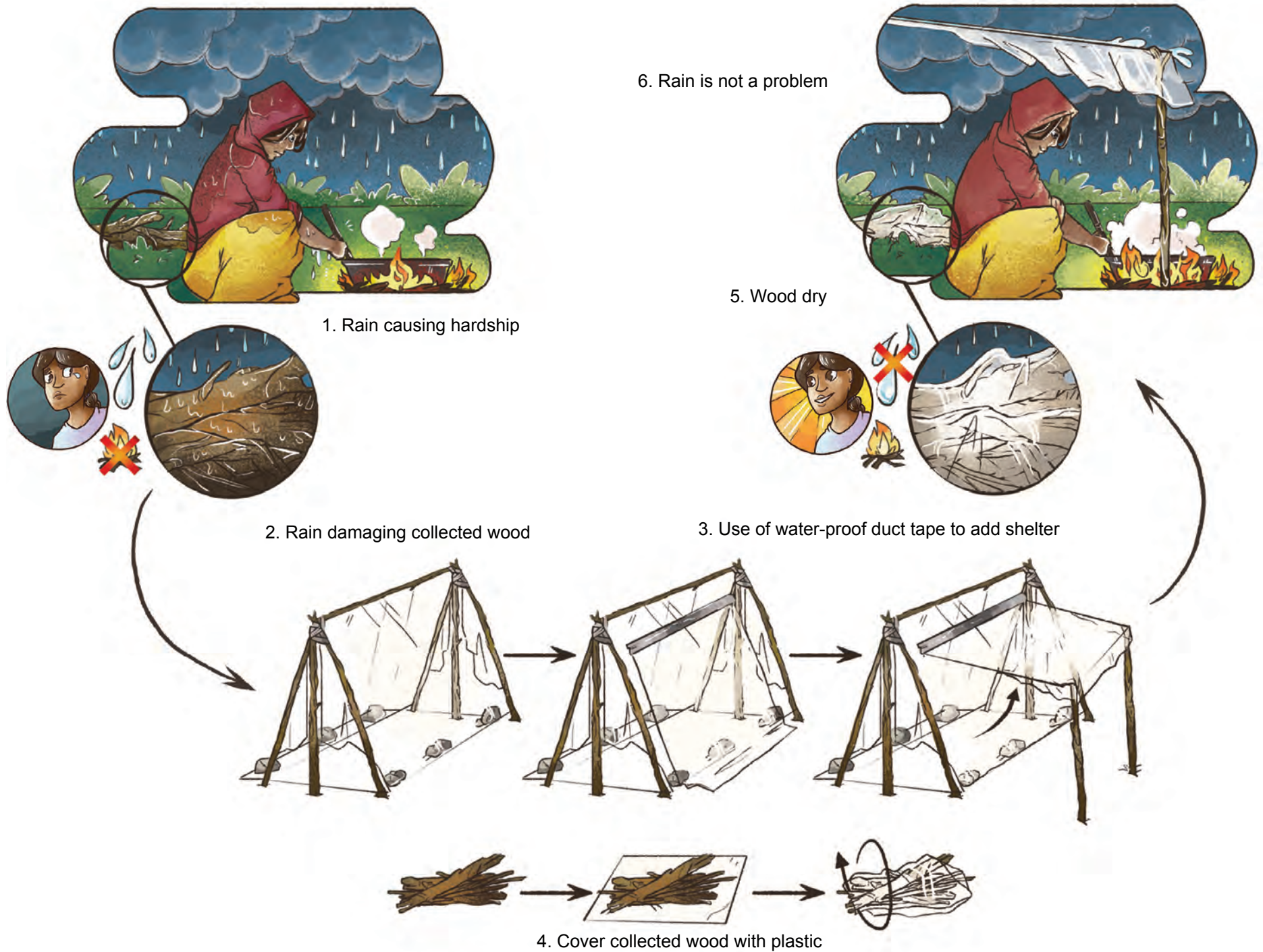
4. Place in area with low water flow



5. For shade, cover with dark tarpaulin or dark cloth



Lesson: Roll of plastic or tarpaulin can be used to create a shelter for cooking and to keep collected wood dry

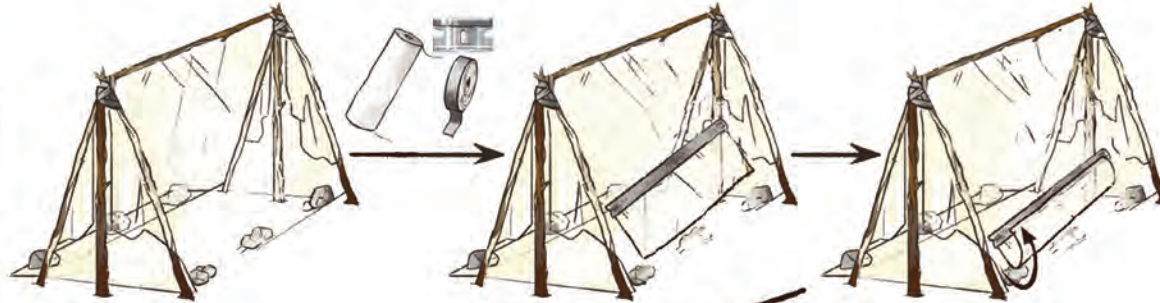


Lesson: A roll of plastic or tarpaulin may be used to collect clean drinking water from rainfall (water harvesting)



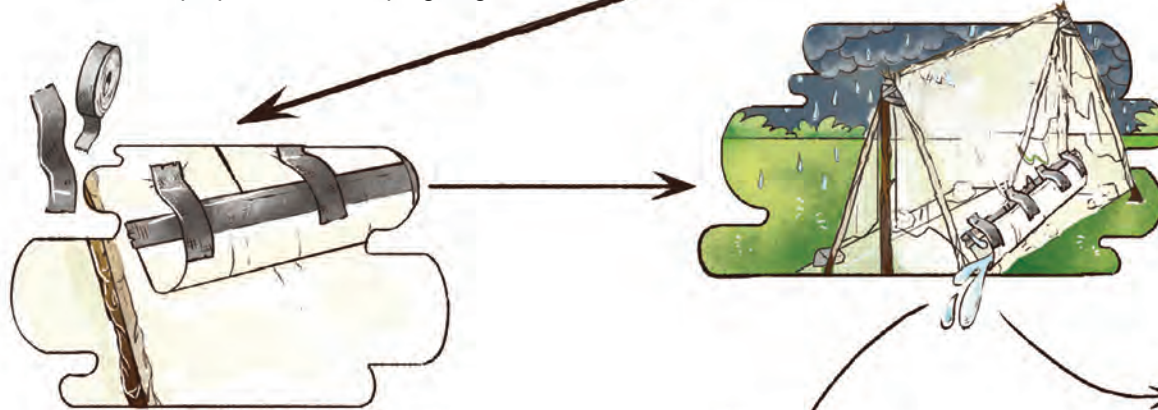
1. Thirsty

2. Roll of plastic, razor blade and water-proof duct tape



3. Tape plastic at a sloping angle

4. Fold up



6. Collect rain

5. Add tape

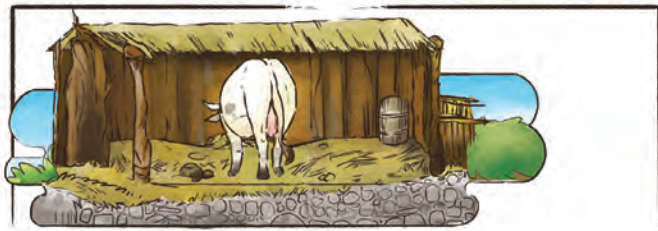


8. If no jug, then make bag to collect rain from same plastic and water-proof tape

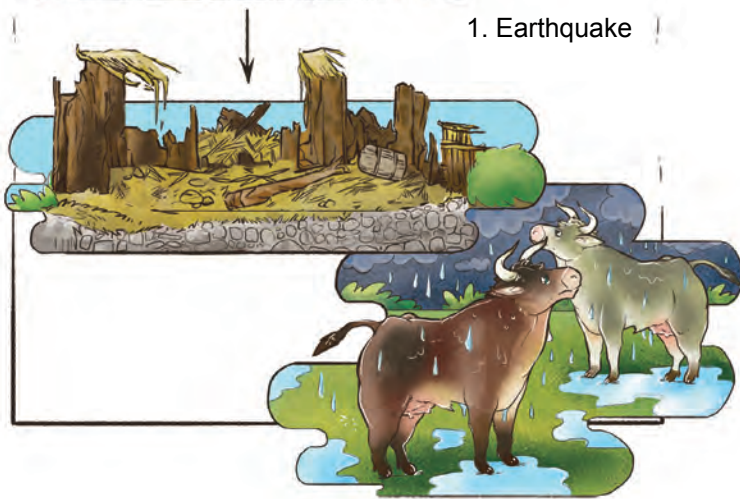
7. Use jug or container to collect rain



# Lesson: A shelter can be made for animals using a roll of plastic or tarpaulin



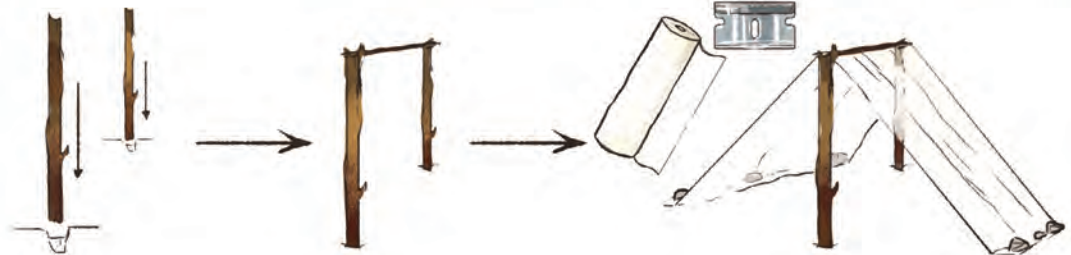
1. Earthquake



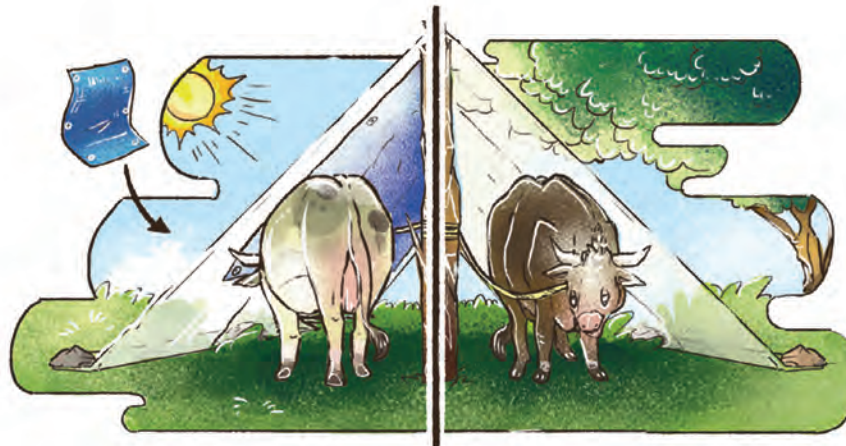
2. Roll of plastic or tarpaulin



3. Razor blade for cutting



4. For shade, add dark tarpaulin or dark cloth



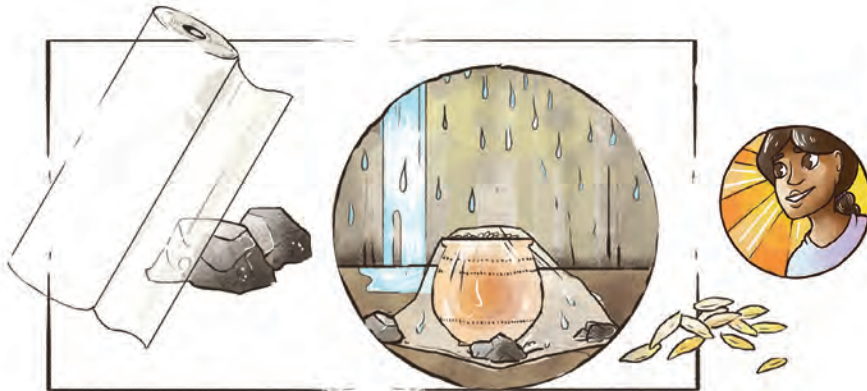
5. For shade, use trees

# Lesson: A roll of plastic or tarpaulin, or a bag may be used to protect seeds or food from rainfall

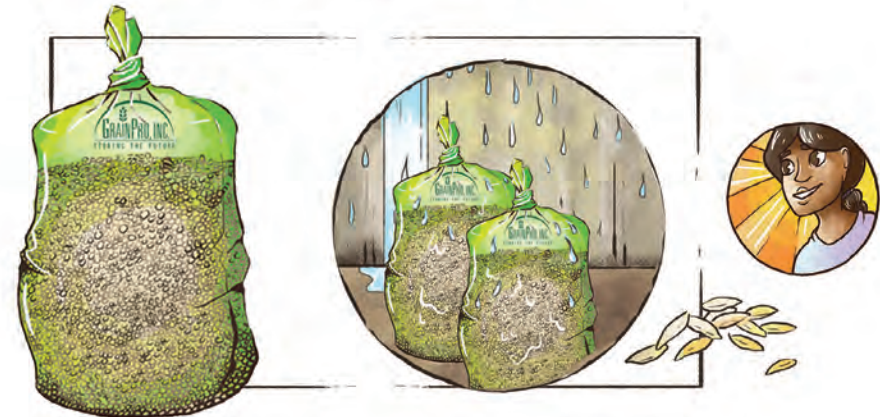
1. Earthquake causing damage to home or granary



2. Seeds will be damaged by rain



3. Roll of plastic or tarpaulin will protect seeds

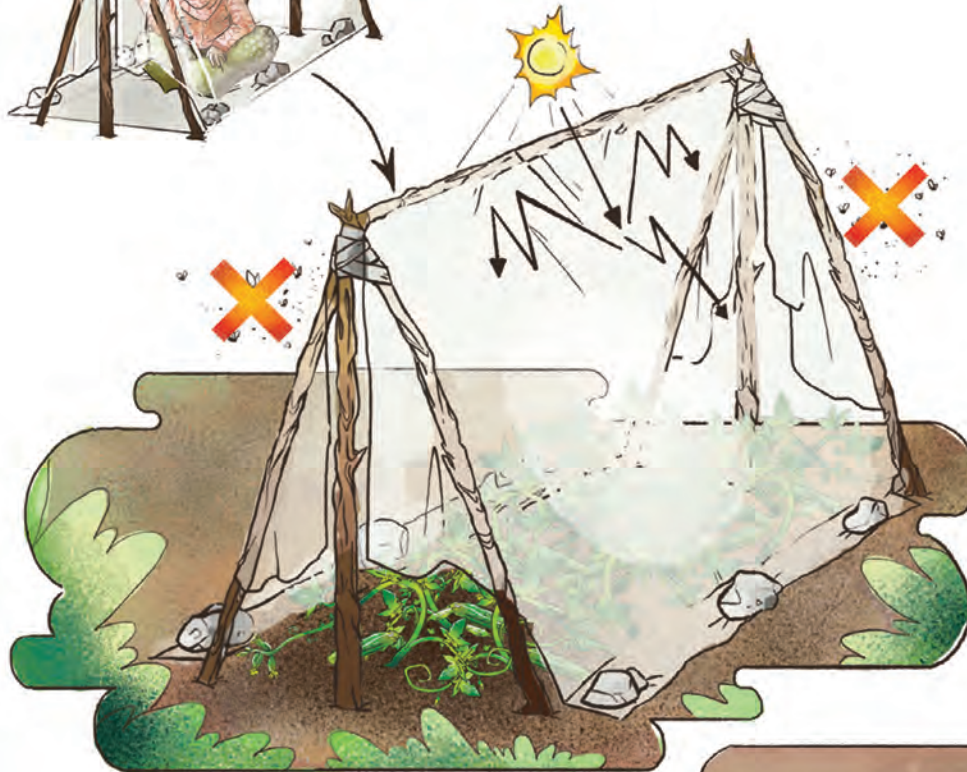


4. Plastic bag will protect seeds from rain. A special bag from Grainpro will also protect seeds from insects and mold



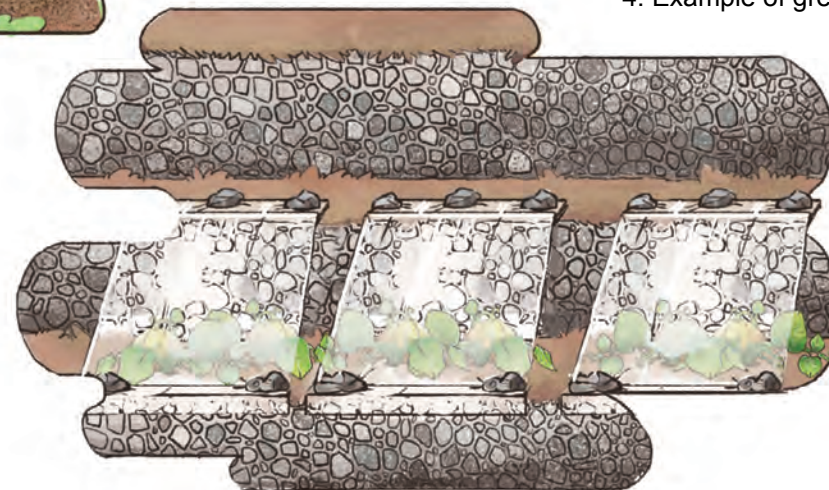
# Lesson: A tent shelter can be re-purposed later into a greenhouse or shade house for plants

1. Tent



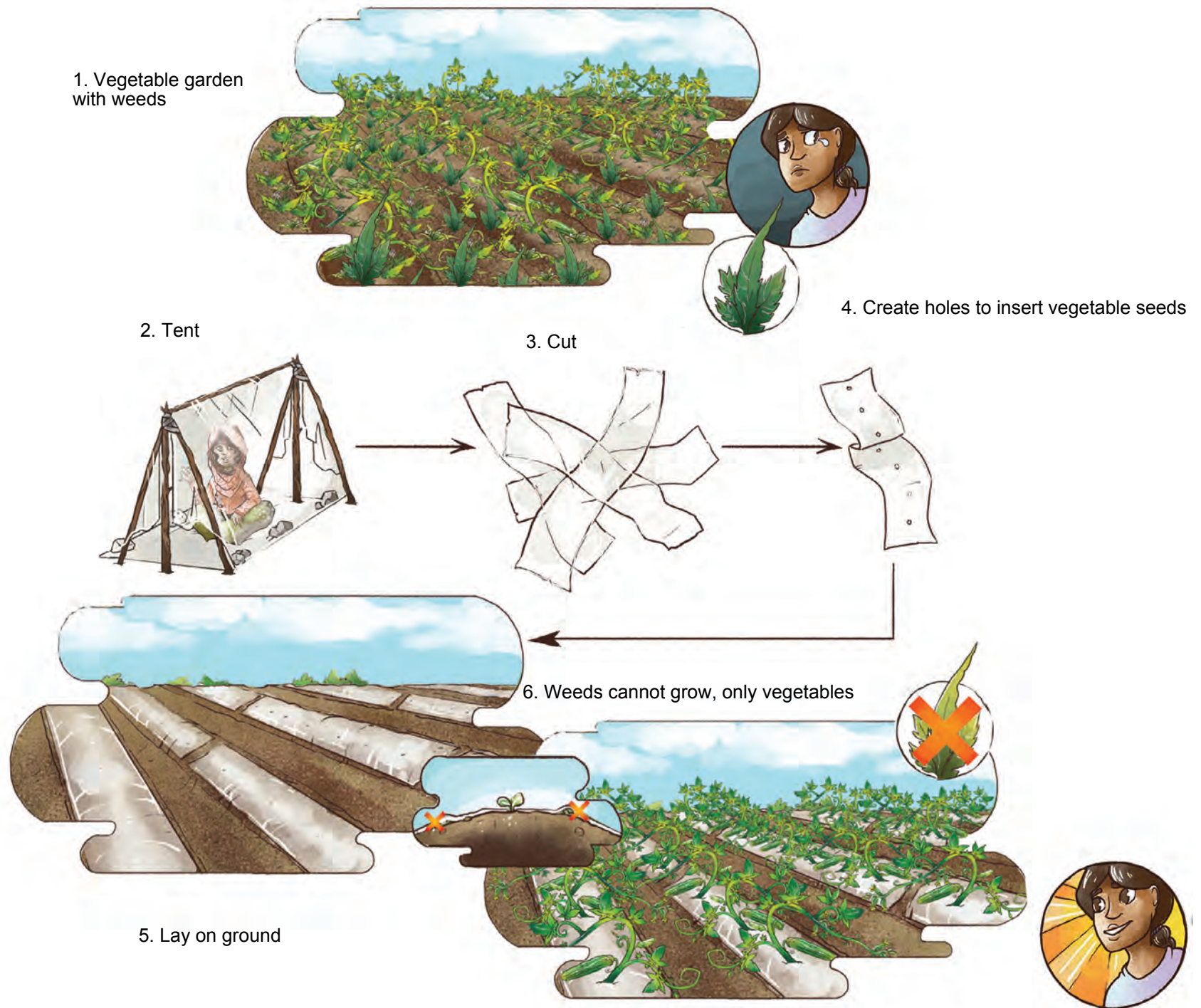
2. If clear plastic, then use as a greenhouse in the winter season, or to protect against insects.

3. If dark plastic, then open sides of tent and use as a shade house to assist young vegetable seedlings to grow.

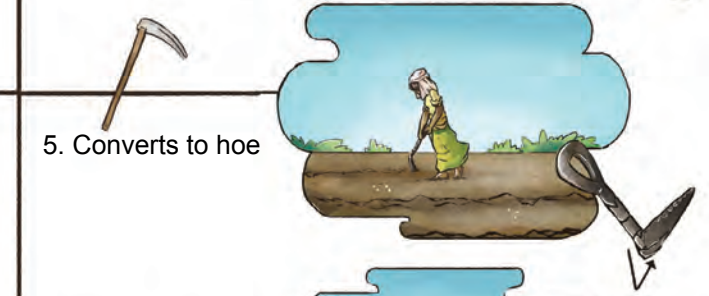
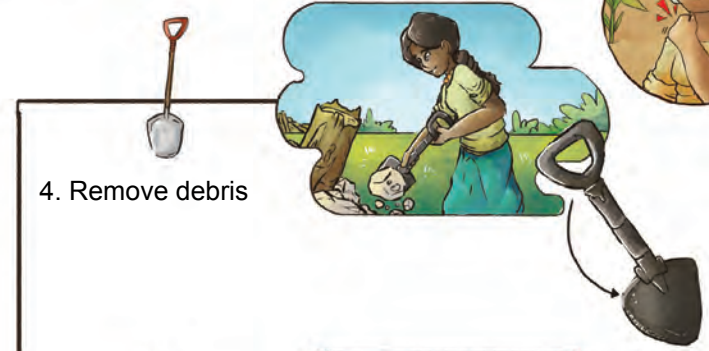
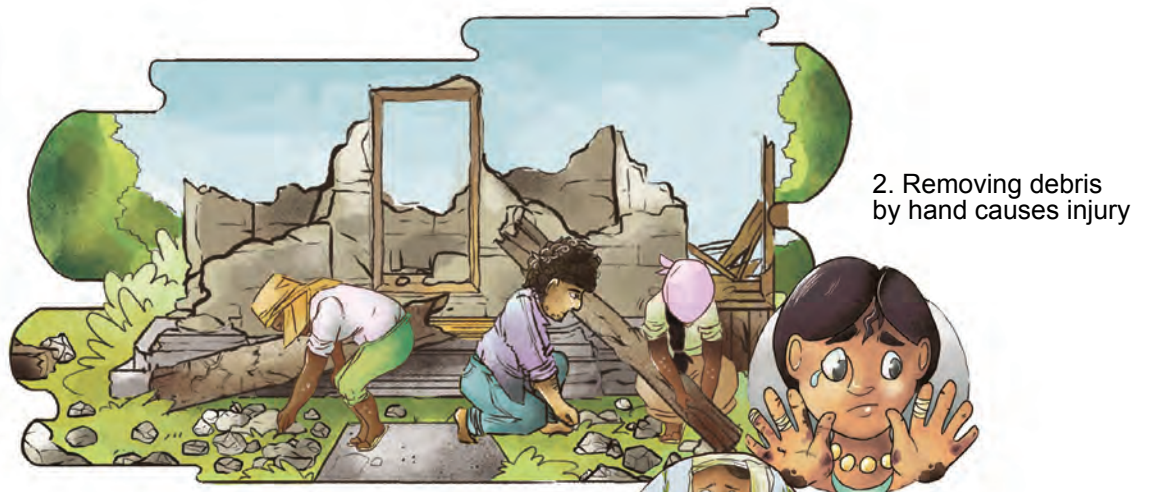
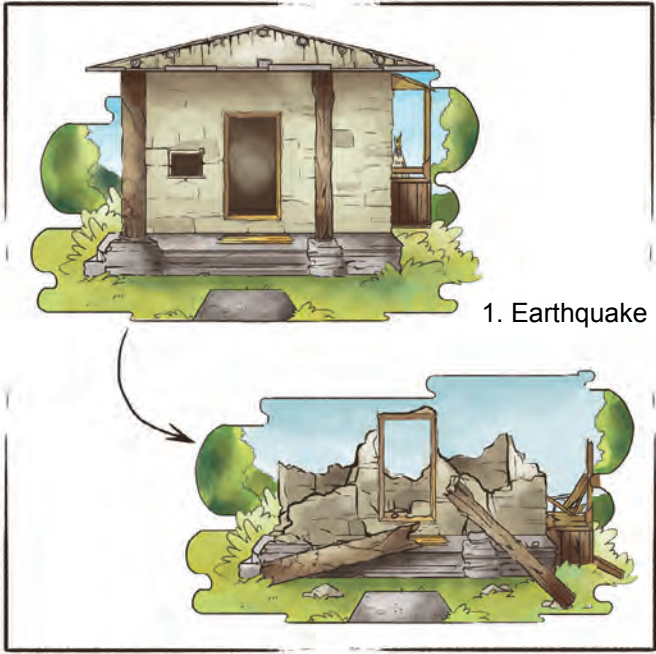


4. Example of greenhouse on terrace

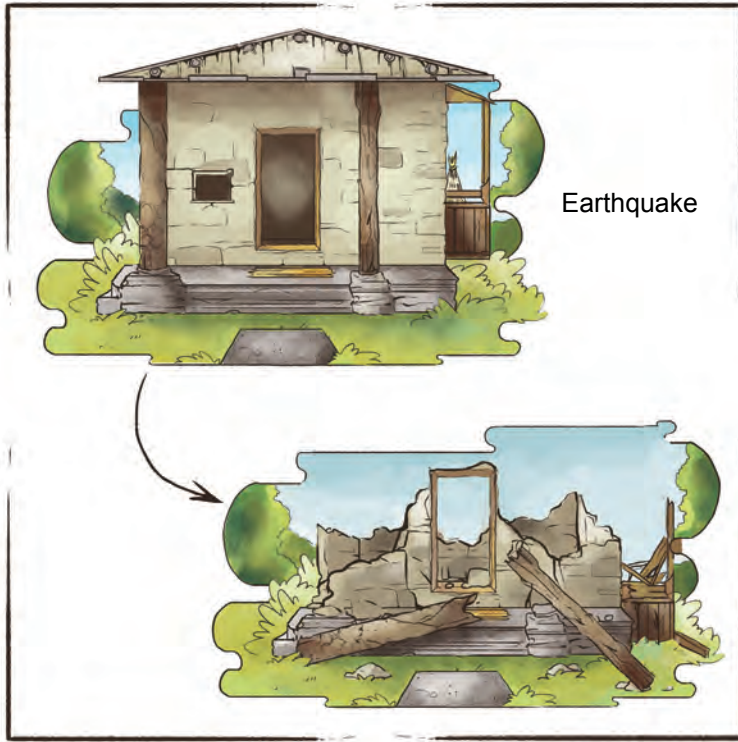
Lesson: Tarpaulin or plastic used for tent shelters can be re-purposed to prevent weeds in home gardens













# Lesson: Seed package contains an early maturing variety to produce food early

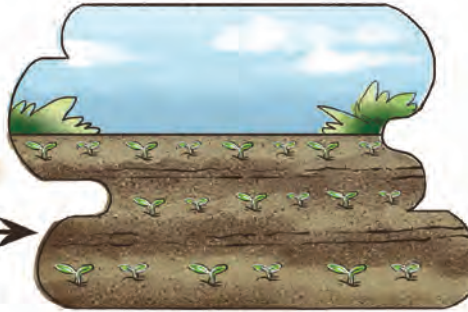
1. Traditional seed variety



2. Traditional seed harvested and stored



3. Sow seeds



4. In early season harvest is poor

5. Early maturing seed variety



6. Seed package



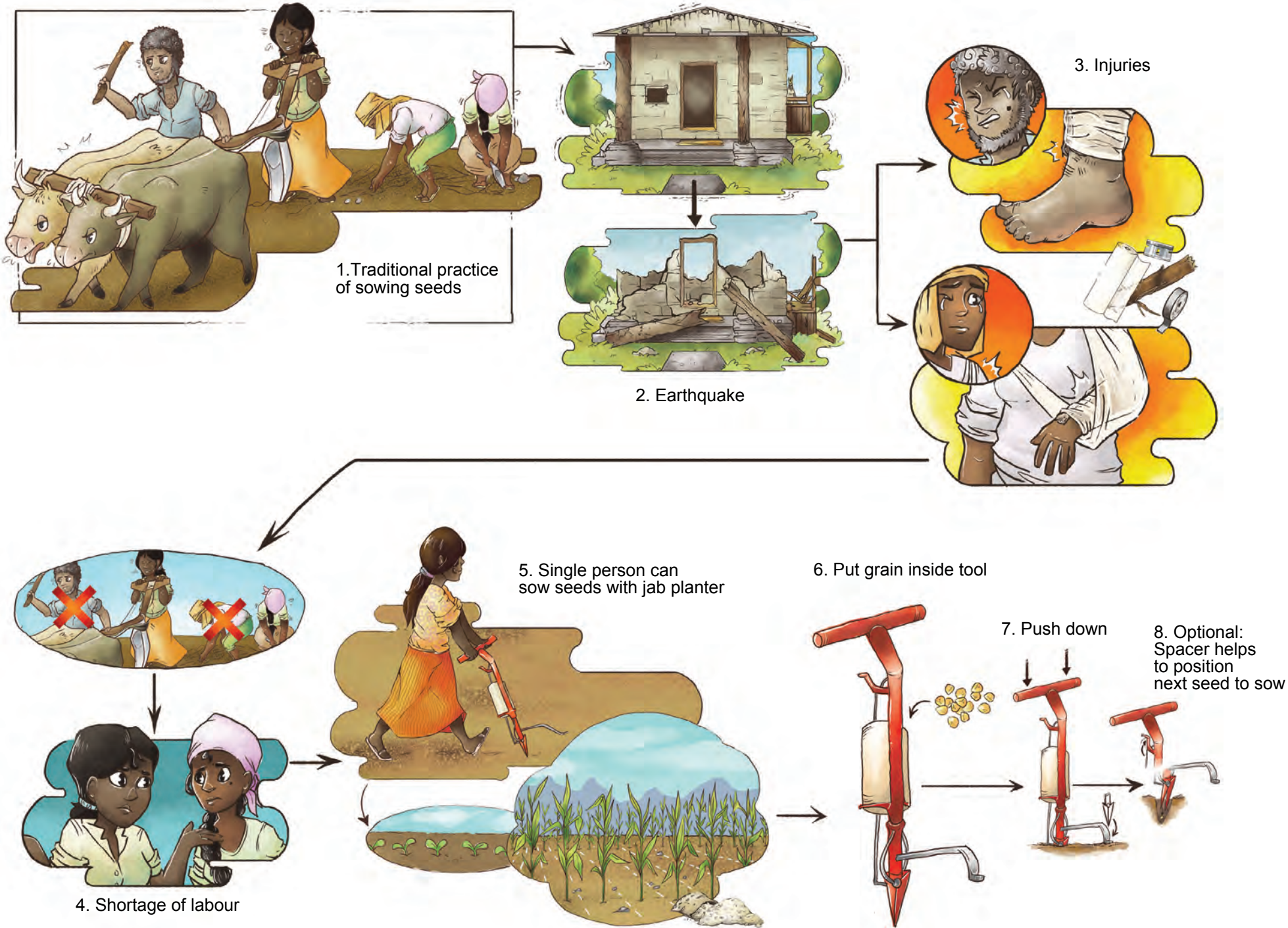
7. Sow seeds



8. In early season harvest is good

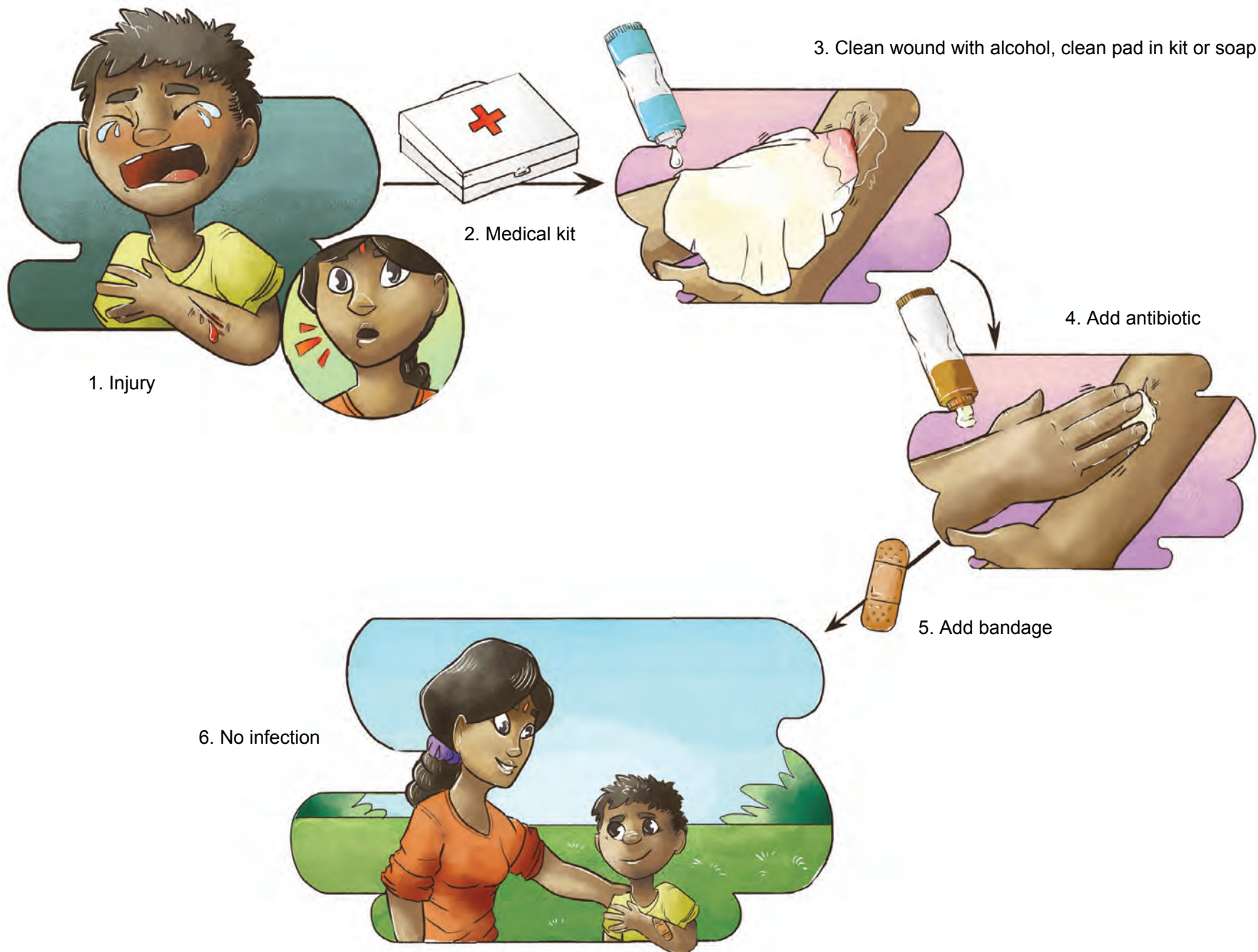


# Lesson: A job planter reduces labour required to sow seeds





Lesson: After a cut, clean wound, then apply antibiotic to the wound, before adding a bandage to prevent infection



## Bonus Chapter: *Alternate Versions*





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