

**Class 5
EVS**

A Seed Tells A Farmer's Story

A Tell

1. Are rotis made in your home? From which grains are they made?

Ans. Yes, rotis are made in my home. These are made of wheat or bajra grains.

2. Have you eaten roti made from bajra and jowar? Did you like these?

Ans. Yes, I have eaten roti made from bajra and jowar. They are good in taste.

B Find Out and Write

1. In your house what is done to protect grains and pulses from insects?

Ans. My mother keeps grains and pulses in air-tight containers. Sometimes, she dries them in the sun.

2. Which are the different festivals related to farming celebrated in different seasons? Find out more about any one such festival and write in your notebook— The name of the festival, in which season is it celebrated, in which states of India, what special foods are made, is it celebrated only at home with the family, or together with many people?

Ans. There are many festivals related to farming, e.g., Lohri, Holi, Baisakhi, etc. Let us take the example of Lohri.

Lohri: Celebrated in the winter season (January) in Punjab, Lohri marks the end of the harvest season and the beginning of the Punjabi New Year. It is a time for bonfires, traditional dances, and feasting. Lohri is celebrated with family and friends and often involves exchanging gifts. It is celebrated mainly in Punjab, Haryana, West Bengal, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh.

3. Talk to the elders in your family and find out if there were some special foods cooked earlier, that are not cooked any more.

Ans. My mother shared with me that earlier, laddoos of sesame seed and beaten rice were made at home. Now, we just buy 'gajak' from the market.

4. Find out about the crops—cereals, vegetables, pulses—that are grown in your area. Of those, is there anything that is famous across the country?

Ans. Many crops like wheat, maize, rice, potatoes, mangoes, litchi, etc. are grown in my area. One of these litchis is famous across the country.

5. Can you identify these grains?



Ans. Yes, I can identify these grains. These are

- i. Corn seeds
- ii. Mustard Seeds
- iii. Wheat grains
- iv. Bajra grains

C Discuss

1. The bajra seed saw differences in the way Damjibhai and Hasmukh did farming (for example, in irrigation, ploughing, etc.). What were these differences?

Ans. Damjibhai did farming in a different way than Hasmukh did. Damjibhai followed the traditional method of farming. He used bullocks to plow the field. He stored grains to be used as seeds. Hasmukh, on the other hand, started modern or new methods of farming. He bought a tractor to plow the field. Expensive fertilizers are used to grow more crops.

2. Hasmukh said, "With profits from our fields, we can progress". What is your understanding of 'progress'?

Ans. Progress means a better lifestyle. People get better houses to live in. They get more nutritious food to eat. Children get better schooling. Houses have all modern gadgets like TVs, fridges, radios, etc. People may buy a vehicle for personal transport.

D Write

1. What kind of progress would you like to see in your area?

Ans. I would like to see the following progress in my area:

- i. All-around cleanliness with no overflowing drain
- ii. Good Schools
- iii. Big and well-equipped hospitals
- iv. Better transportation and communication facilities
- v. Good places for recreation and entertainment.

E Discuss and Think

1. What can happen to Hasmukh's farm after some years?

Ans. Hasmukh's farm will lose fertility after some years because Hasmukh is using chemical fertilizers. Hasmukh is in danger of falling into a debt trap as he has taken out loans to buy tractors, seeds, and fertilizers. In the future, he may not be able to properly work on his farm.

2. Damjibhai's son Hasmukh chose to become a farmer like his father, Hasmukh's son Paresh is not a farmer, but a truck driver. Why would he have done so?

Ans. Paresh observed that his father was at a great loss. Even the bank loans were yet to be repaid. Also, farming had become very expensive. Therefore, in order to repay the bank loans and earn more, he started working as a truck driver.

3. The seeds were not sure that what Hasmukh was talking about was really progress? What do you feel?

Ans. I think the seeds were correct in their thinking. New methods of agriculture tend to overexploit the soil and other resources. This leads to a loss of fertility in the soil, which may result in the land becoming barren. Too much irrigation depletes the groundwater and thus leaves little water for the future. A machine can do the work of many people, which leaves many people jobless. Apparently, it looks like progress, but it is not real progress.

4. Have there been any changes near your area, which may be difficult to call 'progress'?

What changes are these? What are the different opinions about them?

Ans. Yes, there have been many changes in my area that have been made for progress, but there are some losses associated with them, due to which it is difficult to call them progress.

For example:

- i. Increased transportation has made it easier to reach far-off places. But it results in a lot of pollution, which causes serious health problems.
- ii. A lot of electric machines and equipment have been made for many household tasks, such as washing clothes, cutting vegetables, cleaning houses, etc. These help us finish our work in less time and do not require such labor. But this can cause obesity and joint problems because these do not encourage us to do any physical exercise and also make us lethargic.
- iii. With the help of computers, many time-consuming jobs can be finished in a very short time, but this has taken the jobs of many people.

F	Project
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1. What questions come to your mind about farmers and farming? Write some questions in your group and ask a farmer. For example, how many crops do they grow in a year? Which crop needs how much water?

Ans. An example of the questionnaire is given below:

Student: Since when have you been farming?

Farmer: I have been farming for the last 20 years.

Student: Which are the main crops you grow in your field?

Farmer: I usually grow rice and wheat.

Student: Which are the other crops you grow in your field?

Farmer: I also grow maize, mustard, and some vegetables.

Student: How do you irrigate your field?

Farmer: I use the water from the canal.

2. Visit a farm near your area. Observe and talk to the people there. Write a report.

Ans. One of my friends has a farm on the outskirts of the city. There is a big house at one edge of the farm. The house has a big courtyard. There is a tractor, a threshing machine, and much small farm equipment kept outside the house. There are 5–6 people who live permanently at my friend's farm. They have been working on this farm for many years. At present, the whole farm is full of mustard crops. It presents a beautiful landscape of yellow and green colors. There is also a small orchard on the farm. It has trees of many fruits, like mango, guava, pomegranate, lemon, etc. I can also see many packets of synthetic fertilizer kept in the farmhouse. There are some jars of insecticides kept in a refrigerator.

G Journey of a Bajra Seed—From a Field to a Plate

1. What can you see in each picture?

Ans. Picture 1: A lad is separating and taking out the cobs from the bajra crops.

Picture 2: The bajra cob is kept in a mortar. It will be punched with a pestle to separate the grains from the cobs.

Picture 3: Bajra seeds are kept on a plate.

Picture 4: A lady is grinding bajra seeds to make flour. She is using chakki (grinding stone) for that.

Picture 5: Bajra flour is kept on a plate.

Picture 6: Dough has been made from bajra flour.

Picture 7: Chapatti is being made from dough.

Picture 8: Chapatti is being cooked on a tawa.

Picture 9: Chapattis kept on a plate.

2. What technology could have been used to cut the stem in picture 1?

Ans. The stem is usually cut by a sickle.

3. What do you think is being done in the grinder (chakki) in picture 4?

Ans. Flour is being made in the grinder.

4. What ways (technologies) would have been used to do the work shown in picture 5 and 6? You can see that the dough is ready in picture 6. When do you think a sieve (Chhalni) would have been used? Discuss each step in detail, in any language you wish to use.

Ans. In most households, making dough does not involve using technology. Ladies simply use the age-old method of kneading the dough with their bare hands. The flour is usually sieved before making the dough. After that, water needs to be added to the flour. People usually estimate the required amount of water for making dough. After kneading for some time, the dough gets ready.

H What We Have Learnt

1. There have been many changes over time, in our food. What can this mean? Use the seed story and what you know from your elders to explain.

Ans. There have been many changes in our food. Earlier, people used to eat chapatti made of different kinds of grains, but now wheat is the main ingredient in chapatti. My mother says that when she was a child, her father used to buy wheat grains. The wheat grains were washed and dried in the sun. Then it was taken to a chakki to make flour. Now, we buy packed atta (flour), and I have seen wheat grains in pictures only. Most of the children of my age would not recognize a particular grain. For example, I was surprised when I learned how the rice grain looked with a cover on it.

Many of us now use instant food instead of traditional food. I think people will forget how to cook some of the traditional dishes.

2. What would happen if all the farmers were to use only one kind of seed and grow only one kind of crop?

Ans. It will be a scary situation. We cannot survive by eating just one kind of crop. We need dal and sabji, along with rice. We cannot eat a diet that contains only rice or only chapatti. We need many other foods to satisfy our taste or our nutritional needs.