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## **3. HUMAN REPRODUCTION**

## HUMAN REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM

#### 1. Male Reproductive System



- Testes found in the scrotal sac (scrotum). >
- The low temperature (2-2.5° C less than the body > temperature) of scrotum helps for spermatogenesis.
- Seminiferous tubule is lined internally with >
- Male germ cells (spermatogonia): They become sperms.
- Sertoli cells: They give nutrition to the germs cells.b.

#### Duct system

- Include rete testis, vasa efferentia, epididymis & vas deferens. They conduct sperms from testis as follows:
- Seminiferous tubules → rete testis → vasa efferentia → epididymis (stores sperms temporarily)  $\rightarrow$  vas deferens → join with duct of seminal vesicle to form ejaculatory duct  $\rightarrow$  urethra  $\rightarrow$  urethral meatus.

#### 2. Female Reproductive System



#### Accessory ducts (Duct system)

#### Include 2 oviducts (Fallopian tubes), a uterus & vagina.

- Oviducts: Each oviduct (10-12 cm long) has 3 parts:
  - · Infundibulum: Funnel-shaped opening provided with many finger-like fimbriae. It helps to collect the ovum.
  - Ampulla: Wider part.
  - Isthmus: Narrow part. It joins the uterus.
- > Uterus (womb):

The uterine wall has 3 layers:

- Perimetrium: External thin membrane.
- Myometrium: Middle thick layer of smooth muscle.
- Endometrium: Inner glandular and vascular layer.
- Hymen (Maiden head): A membrane which partially cover the vaginal opening. It is often torn during the first coitus. It may also be broken by a sudden fall, active participation in some sports items etc. In some women, hymen persists after coitus. So the hymen is not a reliable indicator of virginity or sexual experience.

## GAMETOGENESIS



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- Proliferation of ruptured uterine endometrium.
- Suppression of FSH secretion.
- Secretion of LH (Luteinizing hormone).



#### progesterone:

Makes endometrium maximum vascular, thick and soft.

#### FERTILIZATION

- Fusion of a sperm with ovum is called **fertilization**. It occurs in **Ampullary region** of fallopian tube.
- The embryo with 8-16 blastomeres is called a morula.
- Morula continues to divide and transforms into blastocyst.
- In blastocyst, blastomeres are arranged into trophoblast (outer layer) and an inner cell mass attached to trophoblast.
- The trophoblast layer gives nourishment to inner cell mass. Also, it gets attached to endometrium.
- Inner cell mass becomes embryo

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## **4. REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH**

#### Reasons for population explosion

- Increased health facilities and better living conditions.
- o Rapid decline in death rate, maternal mortality rate (MMR) and infant mortality rate (IMR).
- Increase in number of people in reproducible age.

## CONTRACEPTIVE METHODS

## Natural/Traditional methods

- Avoid chances of ovum and sperms meeting. It includes
  - Periodic abstinence: Avoid coitus from day 10 to 17 (fertile period) of menstrual cycle to prevent conception.
  - Coitus interruptus (withdrawal): 0 Withdraw penis from the vagina just before ejaculation avoid to insemination.
  - Lactational amenorrhea: It is the 0 absence of menstrual cycle & ovulation due to intense lactation after parturition. Fully breastfeeding increases lactation. This is effective up to 6 months following parturition.
- Natural methods have no side effect. But > chances of failure are high.

#### Barriers

- They prevent physical meeting of sperm & > ovum. E.g.
  - Condoms (E.g. Nirodh): it also Protects from STD s

### Intra Uterine Devices (IUDs)

IUDs are ideal method to delay pregnancy or space children.

#### Types of IUDs:

IUDs	ACTION	EXAMPLES Lippes loop. CuT, Cu7, Multiload 375.	
Non-medicated IUDs	They retard sperm motility		
Copper releasing IUDs:	Cu ions suppress motility and fertilising capacity of sperms.		
Hormone releasing IUDs	They make the uterus unsuitable for implantation	Progestasert, LNG- 20.	

#### Oral contraceptives

- Oral administration of progestogens or progestogenoestrogen combinations in the form of tablets (pills).
- They inhibit ovulation and implantation and thicken cervical mucus to prevent entry of sperms.
- Pills are very effective with lesser side effects.
- Saheli: New oral contraceptive for the females. It is developed by Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI, Lucknow).

#### Surgical methods (sterilization)

It is very effective but reversibility is very poor.

- Vasectomy: Sterilization procedure in males. In this, a small part of the vas deferens is removed or tied up
- Diaphragms, cervical caps and vaults: Used in Female
- through a small incision on the scrotum.
- Tubectomy: Sterilization procedure in females. In this, a small part of the fallopian tube is removed or tied up through a small incision in the abdomen or through vagina.



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## **MEDICAL TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY (MTP)**

· Intentional or voluntary termination of pregnancy before full term is called MTP or induced abortion.

#### Importance of MTP

- o To avoid unwanted pregnancies due to casual intercourse or failure of the contraceptive used during coitus or rapes.
- o It is essential in cases where continuation of pregnancy could be harmful to the mother or to the foetus or both.

Amniocentesis: In this, some amniotic fluid of the foetus is taken to analyse the foetal cells & dissolved substances. It is used to test the presence of genetic disorders, survivability of the foetus etc.

## SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES- EXAMPLES & PREVENTION

- · Diseases transmitted through sexual intercourse . E.g. Gonorrhoea,
- syphilis,
- · genital herpes,
- chlamydiasis,
- · genital warts,
- trichomoniasis,
- hepatitis-B & AIDS.

#### Prevention:

- Avoid sex with unknown partners/multiple partners.
- Always use condoms during coitus. Þ
- In case of doubt, go to a qualified doctor for early > detection and get complete treatment.

## **INFERTILITY & ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES**

- · Infertility is the inability to produce children .
- · The reasons for this may be physical, congenital, diseases, drugs, immunological or even psychological.
- The technologies used to correct the infertility problems are called Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART). Some of them are given below:

### 1. In vitro fertilisation (IVF) or Test tube baby programme

In this method, ova from the wife/donor and sperms from the husband/donor are collected and are induced to form zygote under simulated conditions in the laboratory. This is followed by Embryo transfer (ET).

ET is 2 types:

• Zygote Intra Fallopian Transfer (ZIFT): Transfer of zygote or early embryo (with up to 8 blastomeres) into fallopian tube.

### 2. Gamete Intra Fallopian Transfer (GIFT)

Transfer of an ovum from a donor into the fallopian tube of another female who cannot produce ovum, but can provide suitable environment for fertilization and development.

#### 3. Intra cytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI)

It is a laboratory procedure in which a single sperm (from male partner) is injected directly into an egg (from female partner). After fertilization, the embryo is implanted into the woman's uterus.

### 4. Artificial insemination (AI) technique

The semen collected from husband or a donor is artificially introduced into the vagina or the uterus of the female.

Artificial insemination into the uterus is known as intrauterine insemination (IUI).

This technique is useful for the male partner having inability to inseminate female or low sperm counts etc.

- Intra Uterine Transfer (IUT): Transfer of embryo with more than 8 blastomeres into the uterus.

#### Problems of ART

- o It needs specialized professionals & expensive instruments. So these facilities are available only in very few centres.
- Emotional, religious and social problems.

Legal adoption is a good method for couples looking for parenthood.

#### \*\*\*\*\*\*

## 5. PRINCIPLES OF INHERITANCE AND VARIATION

#### Gregor Mendel is the Father of genetics.

Mendel selected 7 pairs of true breeding pea(*Pisum sativum*)varieties:

7 Characters	Contrasting Traits		
7 Characters	Dominant	Recessive	
1. Stem height	Tall	Dwarf	
2. Flower colour	Violet	White	
3. Flower position	Axial	Terminal	
4. Pod shape	Inflated	Constricted	
5. Pod colour	Green	Yellow	
6. Seed shape	Round	Wrinkled	
7. Seed colour	Yellow	Green	

INHERITANCE OF ONE GENE

**Monohybrid cross:** A cross involving 2 plants differing in one character pair. E.g. Mendel crossed tall and dwarf pea plants to study the inheritance of one gene.

#### 1. Incomplete Dominance

- It is an inheritance in which heterozygous offspring shows intermediate character b/w two parental characteristics.
- E.g. Flower colour in snapdragon (dog flower or Antirrhinum sp.) and Mirabilis jalapa (4'O clock plant).



Here, cross between homozygous red & white produces pink flowered plant. Thus phenotypic & genotypic ratios are same. Phenotypic ratio= 1 Red: 2 Pink: 1 White Genotypic ratio= 1 (RR): 2 (Rr): 1(rr)

- Allele: Alternative forms of a gene. E.g. T (tall) and t (dwarf) are two alleles of a gene for the character height.
- Phenotype: Physical expression of a character.
- · Genotype: Genetic constitution of a character.

Monohybrid phenotypic ratio:

3 Tall: 1 Dwarf = <u>3:1</u> Monohybrid genotypic ratio:

- L Hamanna tall (TT )
- 1 Homozygous tall (TT) 2 Heterozygous tall (Tt)
- 1 Homozygous dwarf (tt)

= <u>1:2:1</u>

Parents: TT tt Homozygour Homozygous tall dwarf Gametes: (T) (t)F1: Tt (Tall) Selfing: × Tt Tt Gametes: (T) (t)  $\overline{\mathbf{D}}$ F2: T  $(\mathbf{t})$ TT Tt **(T)** (tall) (tall) Tt tt (tall) (dwarf)

#### 2. Co-dominance

- It is the inheritance in which both alleles of a gene are expressed in a hybrid. E.g. AB blood group in human.
- ABO blood groups are controlled by the gene I.
- The gene I has three alleles IA, IB & i.

Alleles from parent 1	Alleles from parent 2	Genotype of offspring	Blood types (phenotype)
IA	IA	IA IA	A
I <sup>A</sup>	1 <sup>B</sup>	I <sup>A</sup> I <sup>B</sup>	AB
I <sup>A</sup>	1 -	I <sup>A</sup> i	A
I <sup>B</sup>	I^	IA IB	AB
B	1 <sup>B</sup>	I <sup>B</sup> I <sup>B</sup>	В
B	i	l <sup>B</sup> i	В
i	i	ii	0

When  $I^A$  and  $I^B$  are present together, they both express their own types of sugars. This is due to **co-dominance**.

## **CHROMOSOMAL THEORY OF INHERITANCE**

Proposed by Walter Sutton & Theodore Boveri.

Thomas Hunt Morgan proved chromosomal theory of inheritance using fruit flies (Drosophila melanogaster).

- > Breeding can be done throughout the year.
- Hundreds of progenies per mating.
- Male and female flies are easily distinguishable. E.g. Male is smaller than female.

It is the suitable material for genetic study because,

- They can grow on simple synthetic medium.
- Short generation time (life cycle: 12-14 days).
- It has many types of hereditary variations that can be seen with low power microscopes.

## SEX DETERMINATION IN HUMAN BEINGS (XX-XY TYPE)

- Human has 23 pairs of chromosomes (22 pairs of autosomes and 1 pair of sex chromosomes).
- A pair of X-chromosomes (XX) is present in the female, whereas X and Y chromosomes are present in male.
- During spermatogenesis, males produce 2 types of gametes: 50 % with X-chromosome and 50 % with Y-chromosome.
- · Females produce only ovum with an X-chromosome.
- There is an equal probability of fertilization of the ovum with the sperm carrying either X or Y chromosome.
- The sperm determines whether the offspring male or female.









Frederick Griffith used mice & Streptococcus pneumoniae.

Streptococcus pneumoniae has 2 strains:

- Smooth (S) strain (Virulent): Has polysaccharide mucus coat. Cause pneumonia.
- Rough (R) strain (Non-virulent): No mucus coat. Do not cause Pneumonia.

#### Experiment:

- S-strain → Inject into mice → Mice die
- R-strain → Inject into mice → Mice live
- S-strain (Heat killed) → Inject into mice → Mice live
- S-strain (Hk) + R-strain (live) → Inject into mice → Mice die

- Proteases and RNases) did not affect transformation. It means that the transforming substance was not a protein or RNA.
   Digestion of DNA with DNase inhibited
- Digestion of DNA with DNase inhibited transformation. It means that DNA caused transformation of R cells to S cells. It proves that DNA was the transforming principle.

### Hershey-Chase Experiment (Blender Experiment)



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He concluded that some **'transforming principle'** transferred from heat-killed S-strain to R-strain. It enabled R-strain to synthesize smooth polysaccharide coat and become virulent. This must be due to the transfer of genetic material.

#### Biochemical characterization of transforming principle

- Oswald Avery, Colin MacLeod & Maclyn McCarty worked to determine the biochemical nature of 'transforming principle' in Griffith's experiment.
- They purified biochemicals (proteins, DNA, RNA etc.) from heat killed S cells using suitable enzymes.

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 $(\mathbf{P}^{32})$  and some others on medium containing radioactive sulphur (S35).

- Viruses grown in P32 got radioactive DNA because > only DNA contains phosphorus. Viruses grown in S<sup>35</sup> got radioactive protein because protein contains sulphur.
- These preparations were used separately to infect E. > coli.
- After infection, the E. coli cells were gently agitated > in a blender to remove the virus particles from the bacteria.
- Then the culture was centrifuged to separate lighter > virus particles from heavier bacterial cells.
- Bacteria infected with viruses having radioactive > DNA were radioactive. i.e., DNA had passed from the virus to bacteria. Bacteria infected with viruses having radioactive proteins were not radioactive. i.e., proteins did not enter the bacteria from the viruses. This proves that DNA is the genetic material.

## CENTRAL DOGMA OF MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

• It is proposed by Francis Crick. It states that the genetic information flows from  $DNA \rightarrow RNA \rightarrow Protein$ .

replication

DNA transcription mRNA translation Protein

#### Central dogma

· In some viruses, flow of information is in reverse direction (from RNA to DNA). It is called reverse transcription.

#### DNA REPLICATION

Replication is the copying of DNA from parental DNA.

#### The Machinery and Enzymes for Replication

- · During replication, the 2 strands unwind and separate by breaking H-bonds.
- Unwinding of the DNA molecule at a point forms a 'Y'shaped structure called replication fork.
- · The separated strands act as templates for the synthesis of new strands.
- In presence of an enzyme, DNA dependent DNA polymerase, many nucleotides join with one another to

### Transcription Unit

- It is the segment of DNA between the sites of initiation and termination of transcription. It consists of 3 regions:
  - A promoter: Binding site for RNA polymerase.
  - · Structural gene: The region between promoter and terminator where transcription takes place.
  - · A terminator: The site where transcription stops. Located towards 3'-end.

primer strand and form a polynucleotide chain (new strand).

During



stretches (Okazaki fragments) in  $5' \rightarrow 3'$  direction (Discontinuous synthesis).

· The Okazaki fragments are then joined together to form a new strand by an enzyme, DNA ligase. This new strand is called lagging strand.

## TRANSCRIPTION

#### Transcription unit and gene

Structural gene in a transcription unit is 2 types:

Monocistronic structural genes (split genes): It is seen in eukaryotes. Here, coding sequences (exons or expressed sequences) are interrupted by introns (intervening sequences).

Exons appear in processed mRNA.

Introns do not appear in processed mRNA.



- Polycistronic structural genes: It is seen in prokaryotes. Here, there are no split genes.

## GENETIC CODE

#### Salient features of genetic code

- Codon is triplet (three-letter code). ۶
- 61 codons code for amino acids. 3 codons (UAA, UAG & UGA) do not code for any amino acids. They act as stop codons (Termination codons or non-sense codons).
- Genetic code is universal. Means Applicable to all > from bacteria to human
- No punctuations b/w adjacent codons
- Genetic code is non-overlapping. >
- Þ Degeneracy/degenerate: some amino acids are coded by more than one codon

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## **7. EVOLUTION**

#### ORIGIN OF LIFE

#### **Urey-Miller experiment**

- Harold Urey & Stanley Miller experimentally proved theory of chemical evolution. They created a condition like that of primitive earth (i.e. high temperature, volcanic storms, reducing atmosphere with CH<sub>4</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>O, H<sub>2</sub> etc).
- They made electric discharge in a closed flask containing CH<sub>4</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub>, H<sub>2</sub> and water vapour at 800° C. As a result, <u>some</u> amino acids are formed.



#### a. Homologous organs

- Homologous organs are the organs having fundamentally similar structure and origin but different functions. This phenomenon is called Homology.
- E.g. Human hand, Whale's flippers, Bat's wing & Cheetah's foot. These forelimbs have different functions but similar anatomical structures such as bones (e.g. humerus, radius, ulna, carpals, metacarpals & phalanges).
- Homology in plants: E.g. Thorns of *Bougainvillea* and tendrils of *Cucurbita*.
- The origin of homologous organs is due to *Divergent* evolution. It is the evolution by which related species become less similar to survive and adapt in different environmental condition.
- Homology indicates common ancestry.

#### b. Analogous organs

These are the organs having similar function but different structure & origin. This phenomenon is called Analogy. E.g.

 Wings of insects (formed of a thin flap of chitin) and wings of birds (modified forelimbs).



## HARDY-WEINBERG PRINCIPLE

- It states that allele frequencies in a population are stable and is constant from generation to generation.
- E.g. Consider, in a diploid, p & q are the frequencies of



#### ans • Eyes of Octopus (retina from skin) and mammals (retina from embryonic brain).

- · Flipper of Penguins and Dolphins.
- · Sweet potato (modified root) & Potato (modified stem).
  - Origin of analogous organs is due to *Convergent* evolution. It is the evolution by which unrelated species become more similar to survive and adapt in similar environmental condition.

#### Evidences for evolution by natural selection:

**Industrial melanism:** In England, before industrialization, there were more white-winged moths on trees than dark winged (melanised) moths. After industrialization, more dark-winged moths and less white winged moths were developed. **Reason:** 

Before industrialization: There was white lichens covered the trees. In that background, white winged moths survived but dark winged moths were picked out by predators.

After industrialization: The tree trunks became dark due to industrial smoke and soot. No growth of lichens. So white winged moths did not survive because the predators identified them easily. Dark winged moth survived because of suitable dark background.

- Stabilizing selection: Here, more individuals acquire mean character value and variation is reduced.
- Directional selection: Individuals of one extreme (value

alleles **A & a** respectively. Frequency of  $AA = p^2$  Frequency

Frequency of  $AA = p^2$ Frequency of  $aa = q^2$ Frequency of Aa = 2pqHence  $p^2 + 2pq + q^2 = 1$ 

#### Factors affecting Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium

- a. Gene migration: Gene flow from one population to another.
- b. Genetic drift: Gene flow by chance causing change in frequency.
- c. Mutation: It results in formation of new phenotypes.
- **d. Genetic recombination:** Reshuffling of gene combinations during crossing over resulting in genetic variation.
- e. Natural selection: It is 3 types.

- other than mean character value) are more favoured.
- Disruptive selection: Individuals of both extremes are more favoured.







## 8. HUMAN HEALTH AND DISEASES

## COMMON INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN MAN

#### BACTERIAL DISEASES

a. Typhoid: Pathogen is Salmonella typhi.

- Mode of transmission: It enters small intestine through food & water and migrates to other organs via blood.
- Symptoms: Sustained high fever (39°-40° C), headache, weakness, stomach pain, constipation & loss of appetite. Intestinal perforation and death may occur.

Widal test is used for confirmation of the disease.

#### PROTOZOAN DISEASES

a. Malaria: Pathogen is Plasmodium sp. (P. vivax, P. malariae & P. falciparum).

Most serious (Malignant) malaria is caused by P. falciparum.

- Mode of transmission: By female Anopheles mosquito.
- Symptoms: Haemozoin (toxin released by Plasmodium) causes chill and high fever recurring every 3-4 days.

## HUMAN IMMUNE SYSTEM

#### IMMUNITY

#### It is 2 types: Innate and Acquired.

#### 1. Innate (inborn) immunity

- It is the *non-specific* immunity present at the time of birth.
- It includes 4 types of Barriers:
- a. Physical barriers: Prevents entry of microbes. E.g. Skin, Mucus coating of the respiratory, gastro-intestinal and urino-genital tracts. Mucus traps microbes.
- b. Physiological barriers: They prevent microbial growth. E.g. gastric HCl, saliva, tear etc.
- c. Cellular barriers: Phagocytes like WBC [Polymorphonuclear leukocytes (PMNL) or neutrophils, monocytes and natural killer lymphocytes], macrophages etc.
- d. Cytokine barriers: Virus infected cells secrete a cytokine protein called interferon. It protects noninfected cells from further viral infection.

#### 2. Acquired (adaptive) immunity

• It is pathogen specific immunity developed during lifetime.



## **AIDS (Acquired Immuno Deficiency** Syndrome)

 It is caused by HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus),

#### Transmission:

- Sexual contact with infected person.
- Transfusion of contaminated blood & blood products.
- Sharing of infected needles.
- From infected mother to her child through placenta.

#### **Diagnosis:**

ELISA test (Enzyme-linked immuno-sorbent Assay).

#### Prevention of AIDS:

- "Don't die of ignorance": Educate people about AIDS through organisations like National AIDS Control Organisation Non-Governmental (NACO), Organisations (NGOs), WHO etc. WHO started the following programmes:
- Make blood (from blood banks) safe from HIV.
- Use disposable needles and syringes.



Structure of an antibody molecule:

An antibody has 4 polypeptide chains: 2 light chains and 2 heavy chains (H<sub>2</sub>L<sub>2</sub>).

- Advocate safe sex and free distribution of condoms.
- Control drug abuse.
- Regular check-ups for HIV in susceptible population.

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## CANCER

 Cancer is an abnormal and uncontrolled multiplication of cells resulting in the formation of tumour (masses of cells).

#### **Types of Tumours**

- Benign tumours: Confined to the place of its origin. They do not spread to other parts. Cause little damage.
- Malignant tumours: Mass of proliferating cells (neoplastic or tumour cells) that grow rapidly, invade

#### Effects of Drug/alcohol abuse

- Reckless behaviour, vandalism and violence.
- Coma and death due to respiratory failure, heart failure or cerebral haemorrhage.
- Drugs mixed with alcohol may cause death.
- Damage of nervous system and liver cirrhosis.
- Mental and social distress to family and friends.
- Social problems like stealing and spread of infectious diseases (e.g. AIDS, hepatitis B).

and damage the surrounding normal tissues. Due to active division and growth, they starve normal cells by competing for nutrients.

#### Treatment of cancer

- o Radiotherapy
- o Chemotherapy
- Immunotherapy
- o Surgery

- Use of drugs and alcohol by pregnant woman affect the foctus (Foetal alcohol syndrome or FAS).
- Loss of sexual drive and necrospermia.
- Misuse of drugs by athletes (e.g. narcotic analgesics, anabolic steroids, diuretics & certain hormones to increase muscle strength and bulk and to promote aggressiveness).

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# **10. MICROBES IN HUMAN WELFARE**

## MICROBES IN HOUSEHOLD PRODUCT

#### • Lactobacillus or Lactic acid bacteria (LAB):

- It converts milk to curd by producing acids that coagulate and partially digest the milk proteins.
- Fresh milk can be converted to curd by adding some curd containing LAB. It also increases vitamin B<sub>12</sub> in curd.
- In stomach, LAB helps to check pathogens.

## MICROBES IN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS

#### Chemicals, enzymes & other bioactive molecules

- Organic acids: Acid producer microbes include Aspergillus niger (a fungus) : Citric acid Acetobacter aceti (a bacterium) : Acetic acid Clostridium butylicum (a bacterium) : Butyric acid Lactobacillus (a bacterium) : Lactic acid
   Lactic acid
- Alcohol: Yeast (S. cerevisiae) is used to produce ethanol.
- 3. Enzymes:

- Lipases: Used in detergent formulations. Help to remove oily stains from the laundry.
- · Pectinases & Proteases: To clarify bottled juices.
- Streptokinase: Produced by Streptococcus. Used as a 'clot buster' to remove clots from the blood vessels of patients who have myocardial infarction.

4. Cyclosporine A: Produced by *Trichoderma polysporum* (fungus). Used as an **immunosuppressive agent** in organ transplant patients.

5. Statins: Produced by *Monascus purpureus* (a yeast). Used as **blood-cholesterol lowering agents**. It inhibits the enzymes responsible for synthesis of cholesterol.

## MICROBES AS BIO CONTROL AGENTS

#### Microbial biocontrol agents

 Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt): To control butterfly caterpillar.

The dried spores of Bt (available in sachets) are mixed with water and sprayed on to vulnerable plants such as gut, the toxin is released and the larvae get killed. The scientists have introduced *B. thuringiensis* toxin genes into plants. E.g. Bt cotton.

 Trichoderma sp (fungus): These are free livings present in the root ecosystems. They control several plant

brassicas and fruit trees. These are eaten by the caterpillar. In their

pathogens.

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## **15. BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION**

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#### **Species- Area relationship**

According to the study of Alexander von Humboldt in South American jungles, within a region, species richness increases with increasing explored area, but only up to a limit.

Relation between species richness and area gives a rectangular hyperbola.



#### IMPORTANCE OF SPECIES DIVERSITY

 'Rivet popper hypothesis': It is an analogy used to understand the importance of biodiversity.

It is proposed by Stanford ecologist Paul Ehrlich.

In an airplane (ecosystem), all parts are joined with many rivets (species). If passengers pop a rivet (extinction of a species), it may not affect flight safety (functioning of the ecosystem). But as more and more rivets are removed, the plane becomes dangerously weak. Loss of rivets on the wings (key species that drive major ecosystem functions) is more dangerous than loss of a few rivets on the seats or windows.

#### LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY

Causes of Biodiversity losses ('The Evil Quartet')

#### 1. Habitat loss and fragmentation: Most important cause.

- E.g. Tropical rain forests (loss from 14% to 6%).
- Thousands of hectares of rain forests are being lost within hours.
- The Amazon rain forest is being cut for cultivating soya beans or for conversion of grass lands for cattle.
- Fragmentation badly affects animals requiring large territories and migratory animals.
- Over-exploitation: Stellar's sea cow, Passenger pigeon etc. extinct due to over exploitation.
- Alien species invasions: Alien species cause decline or extinction of indigenous species. E.g.
  - Nile Perch introduced in Lake Victoria (East Africa) caused extinction of more than 200 species of cichlid fish.
- Co-extinction: When a species becomes extinct, the species associated with it also extinct. E.g.
  - Extinction of the parasites when the host is extinct. Biodiversity conservation

#### BIO DIVERSITY CONSERVATION

2 types: In situ (on site) and Ex situ (off site).

#### a. In situ conservation (on site)

It is the conservation of genetic resources within natural or human-made ecosystems in which they occur. E.g. National Parks, Sanctuaries, Biosphere reserves, cultural landscapes, natural monuments etc.

#### b. Ex situ conservation (off site)

It is the conservation of organisms outside their habitats. E.g. genetic resource centres, zoological parks, wildlife safari parks, botanical gardens, gene banks, cryopreservation etc.

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