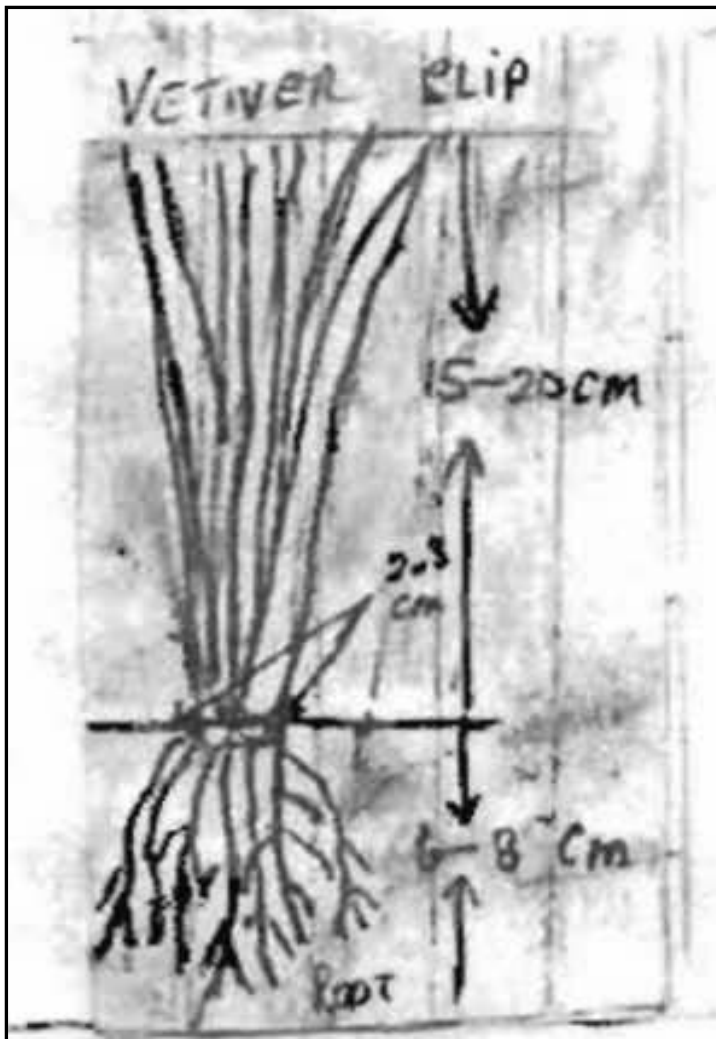


ADVISORY SERVICES UNIT
Hillside Barrier (Vegetative)

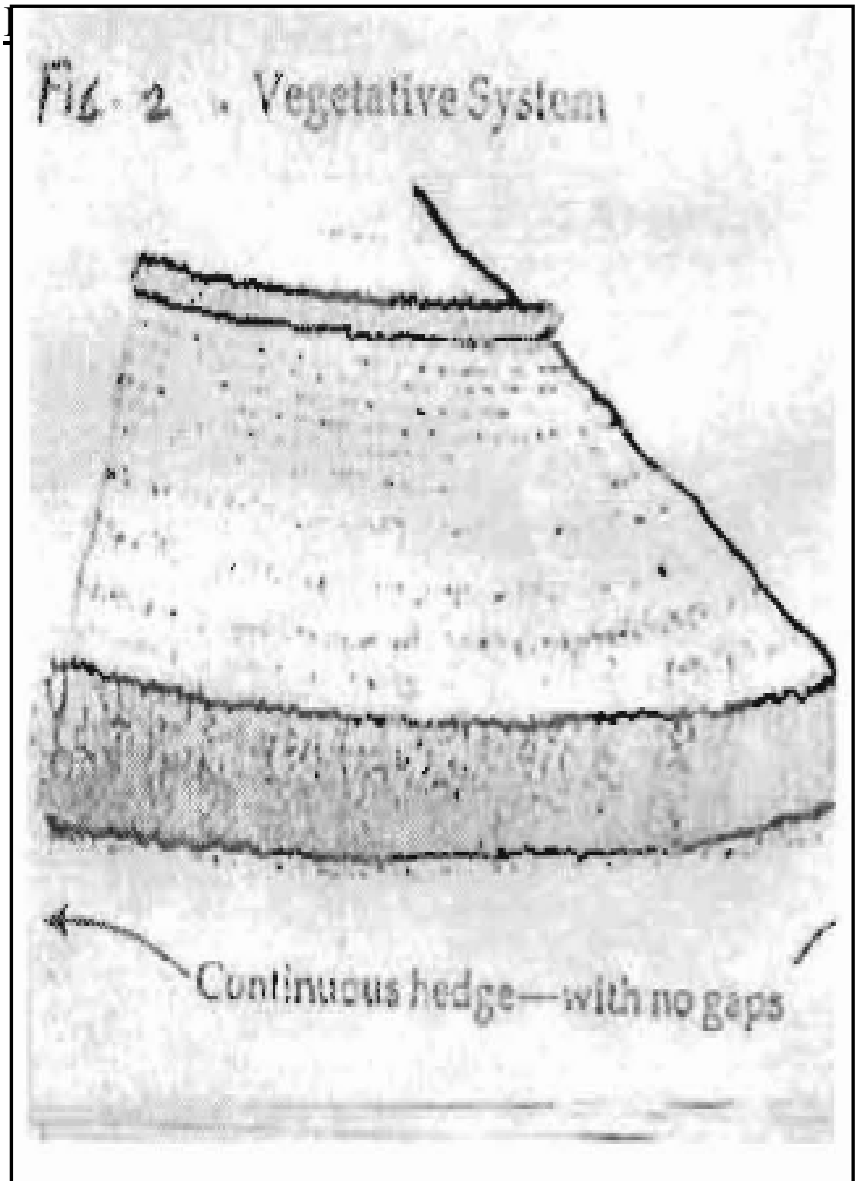
Many grasses and trees have been tried over the years to be used as Hillside Barriers. However, to date Vetiver Grass (Khus Khus) has proven to be the most successful. This plant is ideally suited for the vegetative system of soil and moisture conservation.



- a. When planted correctly Vetiver zizanioides will grow to form a dense hedge.
- b. It has a strong fibrous root system that penetrates and bind the soil to a depth of up to 3 metres.
- c. It will grow on all soil types regardless of fertility, thus includes sands, shales, gravels, clays, etc.
- d. It helps to retain fertilizer on the farm
- e. It protects streams and rivers from pollution by trapping contaminated soil particles.
- f. It helps in moisture retention.
- g. It reduces the velocity of run off from fields.

To be effective as a method of soil conservation, the vegetative system must form a hedge as shown below in figure 2. It usually takes two to three growing season to establish a hedge dense enough to withstand torrential rains and protect the soil.

- a. Slips (see figure 1) are planted in holes along the contour
- b. Slips are planted 8-10cm apart
- c. Always plant slips at the beginning of the Rain season to ensure that they get full benefit of the rain
- d. Holes are opened along the contour, put slips into hole taking care not to bend the roots upward, then firm the soil to the roots of the slip;
- e. On slopes over 25 degrees, establish barriers 9-12 meters apart after every 3-4 rows of coffee.
- f. On slopes below 25 degrees, establish barriers 15-30 meters apart after every 5-10 Rows of coffee
- g. Barriers can be established on gully banks, road banks, along footpath and also used to stabilize landslides.



Maintenance

- Replant unthrifty or dead slips to prevent gaps from developing along the line; and
- When the hedge is fully developed, trim to a height of 30-50 centimeters

Prepared by

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 2004 October 26

