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B.Sc. PART- III
PAPER- VII, GROUP- [C]

(i) FOOD WEB
OR
FOOD NET

Paper - VII, Group - 'C'

Food web or Food Net

Definition → "Food web or food net is interlocking of two or more types of food chains at different trophic levels in such a way that a particular food becomes available to two or more types of populations while a consumer has choice of two or more types of food."

Rabbit feeds on juicy plant parts. It begins to eat alternate food if the preferred species declines in number.

Similarly, Rabbit is eaten by a number of carnivores like fox, jackals, wild cat and wild dog. These carnivores begins to feed on mouse, squirrel and shrew if rabbit population declines. This gives a chance for rabbit to increase its population. Tiger is known to feed on different types of wild animals. However in, Sunderbans it preys upon fish and crabs. A snake can feed upon mouse, shrew as well as frog. Wolf eats fox, rabbit

and deer. Jackal is both predator and scavenger. Human beings are both herbivores and carnivores. (2)

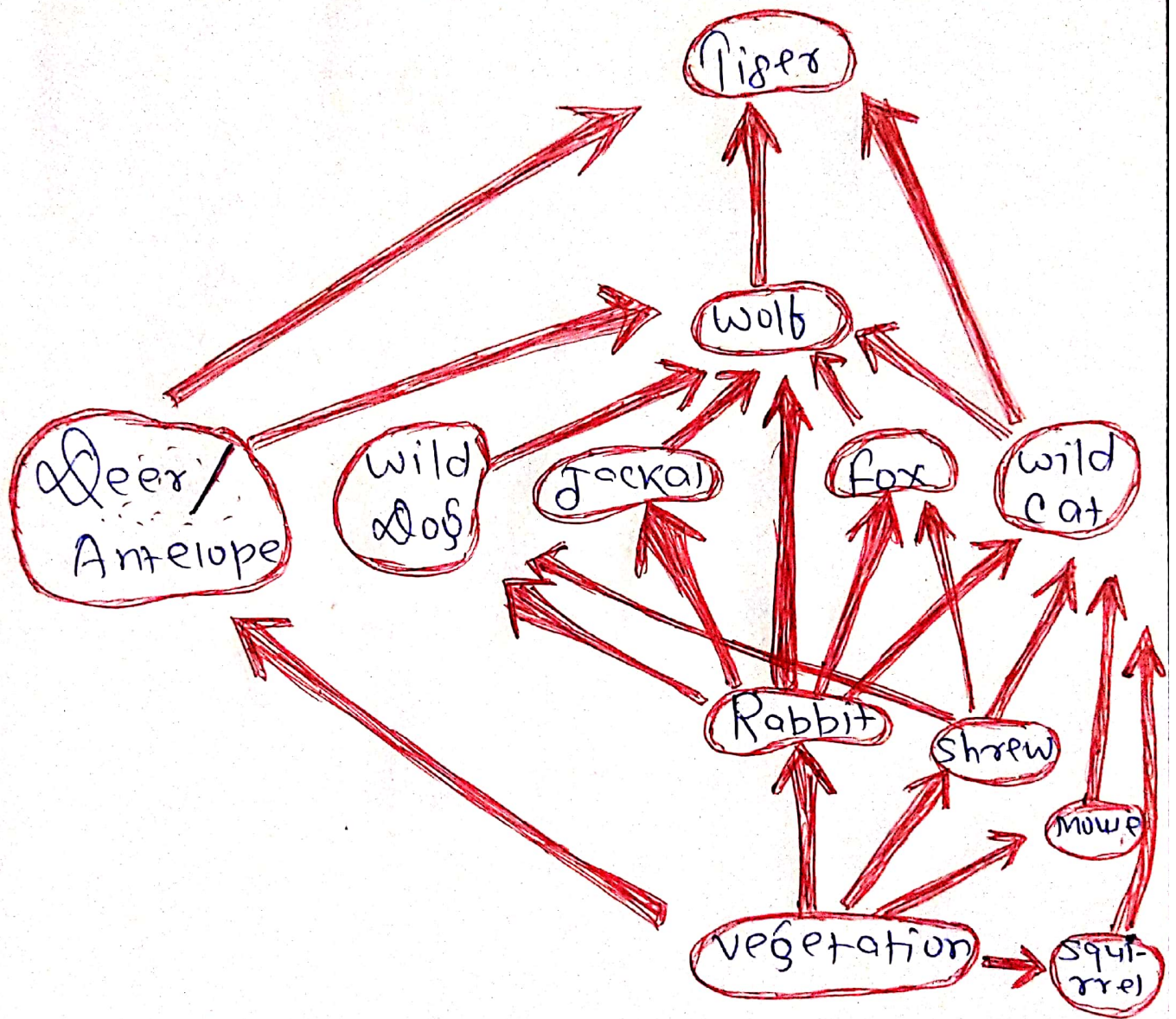


Figure → Terrestrial Food web

Characteristics of Food web

- i) A food web is never straight.
- ii) It does not consist of a single series but a number of interconnected food chains.
- iii) A predator can operate at different positions.
- iv) A number of alternate sources of food become available.
- v) Large scale population fluctuations become fewer.
- vi) Both negative and positive feedback checks develop.

Importances of Food web

- Concept of food web is more real ecologically than simple food chains.
 - It provides for alternate sources of food.
 - None get starved if its preferred species is reduced in numbers.
 - No species is exploited beyond the degree of its recovery.
 - Food web provides stability to ecosystem
- Dr. Umesh Kumar, U.P. College, Rajasthan