

THE GRACE OF GIVING

Part 4 The Truth about Tithing



1 Now I say, *as long as the heir is a child*, he does not differ at all from a slave although he is owner of everything,

Galatians 4:1–5

2 but *he is under guardians and managers* until the date set by the father.

3 So also we, *while we were children*, were held in bondage under *the elemental things of the world*.

**4 But when the fullness of the
time came, God sent forth His
Son, born of a woman, born
under the Law,**

5 so that He might redeem
those who were under the Law,
that we might receive the
adoption as sons.

We are no longer Under the Law, but the law (scriptural commands and principles) provides a structure to grow on until Christ is formed in us and we are fully led by the Spirit.

Rules and principles are like training wheels to teach us God's ways, which are higher than ours, and are unattainable without the Grace of God.

"Tithing" was never intended to be a verb/ command, but rather a tangible expression of love from the heart of one who had been awakened to the reality of the goodness of God.

Learning to give our first
"tenth" to the Lord is like
learning the arithmetic of
heavenly generosity.

9 Honor the LORD *from your
wealth* And from *the first of all
your produce;*

Proverbs 3:9–10

**10 So your barns will be filled
with plenty And your vats will
overflow with new wine.**

18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High.

Genesis 14:18–23

**19 He blessed him and said,
“Blessed be Abram of God Most
High, Possessor of heaven and
earth;**

20 And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." *He gave him a tenth of all.*

21 The king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give the people to me and take the goods for yourself."

22 Abram said to the king of Sodom, "*I have sworn to [exalted] the LORD God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth,*

23 that I will not take a thread
or a sandal thong or anything
that is yours, for fear you would
say, 'I have made Abram rich.'

Abraham's tithe was born
from a freewill, self-initiated
response to God's favor,
putting his treasure where
his heart was.

Abraham's revelation was that God possessed everything, and was giving Him an immeasurable inheritance.

A tenth was the least He could do in response!

20 Then Jacob made a vow,
saying, "***If God will be with me***
and will *keep me* on this journey
that I take, and will *give me food*
to eat *and garments* to wear,

Genesis 28:20–22

22 "This stone, which I have set up as a pillar, will be God's house, and *of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You.*"

Transactional giving is for those who have not yet encountered or embraced the Grace of God, and so have not entered into His gracious lifestyle.

When giving is done because
of Law, the joy of giving
is lost on us, and we do it
only because we believe we
have to.

The Law of Moses was a covenant based on a King-vassal model ("Suzerain" covenant).

Israel was bound to God through a system framed by rewards and punishments.

Giving the tenth under Moses was a legal requirement to remain in covenant with God, and so the people came to view it like we view paying taxes.

Since it was Holy to the Lord, withholding the tithe was considered robbery in their covenant economy.

In the New Covenant mindset
it all belongs to Him,
and as His Heirs,
it all belongs to us!

26 “Moreover, you shall speak to the Levites and say to them, ‘When you take from the sons of Israel the tithe which I have given you from them for your inheritance...

Numbers 18:26

When we remain under
the Law (giving because
we have to), withholding
our giving is like failing
to pay our taxes.

What happens when we fail to pay our taxes?

8 “Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, ‘How have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings.

Malachi 3:8–11

9 "You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation *of you!*

11 "Then *I will rebuke the devourer for you*, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast *its grapes*," says the LORD of hosts.

We are no longer under the covenant of Moses. We no longer **have** to pay tithes to the priesthood. He does not **punish** us for withholding our heart by withholding our tithes...

But when we lay up our
treasures in Heaven, the
devourer has no access to steal
our money.

The Grace of giving is based on
a love relationship with a
Father who **owns** all things and
has given all things to us for an
inheritance.

6 “You have *sown much*, but *harvest little*; *you eat*, but *there is not enough* to be satisfied; *you drink*, but *there is not enough* to become drunk;

Haggai 1:6–9

you put on clothing, but ***no one***
is warm enough; and he who
earns, ***earns wages to put into a***
purse with holes."

7 Thus says the LORD of hosts,
"Consider your ways!"

8 "Go up to the mountains,
bring wood and *rebuild the
temple*, that I may be pleased
with it and be glorified," says the
LORD.

9 *"You look for much, but behold, it comes to little;* when you bring *it* home, I blow it away. Why?" declares the LORD of hosts,

“Because of *My house* which *lies desolate*, while *each of you runs to his own house.*

Sowing into the work of
the Church is laying up
treasures in heaven.

The New Covenant
economy is based on
sowing and reaping — not
law. Its ways and rules are
as inviolable as farming.

When we enter into Grace,
we are now only subject
to the immutable laws of
sowing and reaping.

**8 And God is able to make all
grace abound to you, so that
always having all sufficiency in
everything, you may have an
abundance for every good deed;**

2 Corinthians 9:8–10

9 as it is written, "HE
SCATTERED ABROAD, HE GAVE
TO THE POOR, HIS
RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURES
FOREVER."

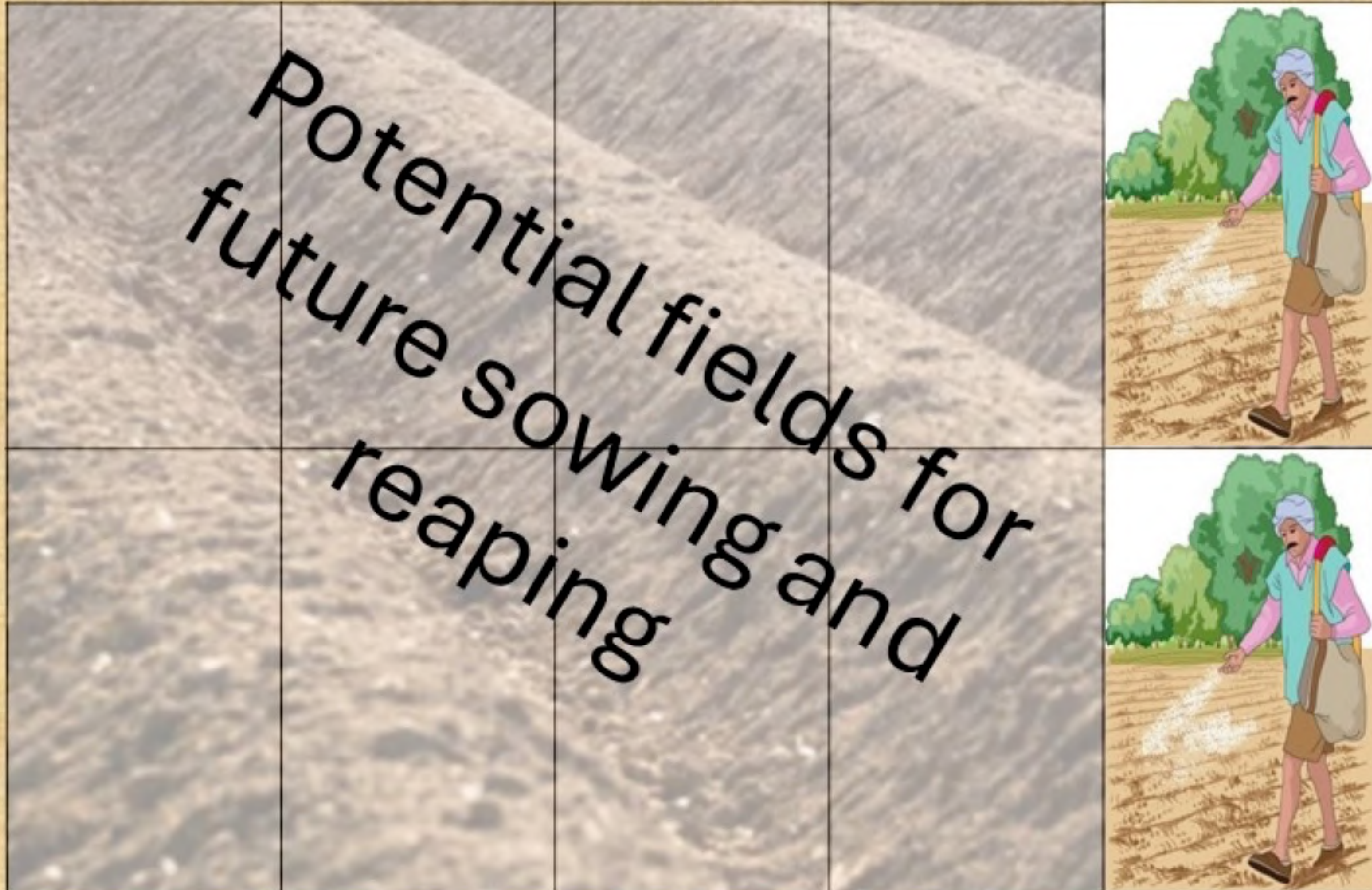
10 Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness;

Like farming, the laws
of sowing and reaping
work relentlessly over
the course of time.

Kingdom giving and
financial stewardship
is foreign to any get
rich quick scheme.

The Maintenance Farmer

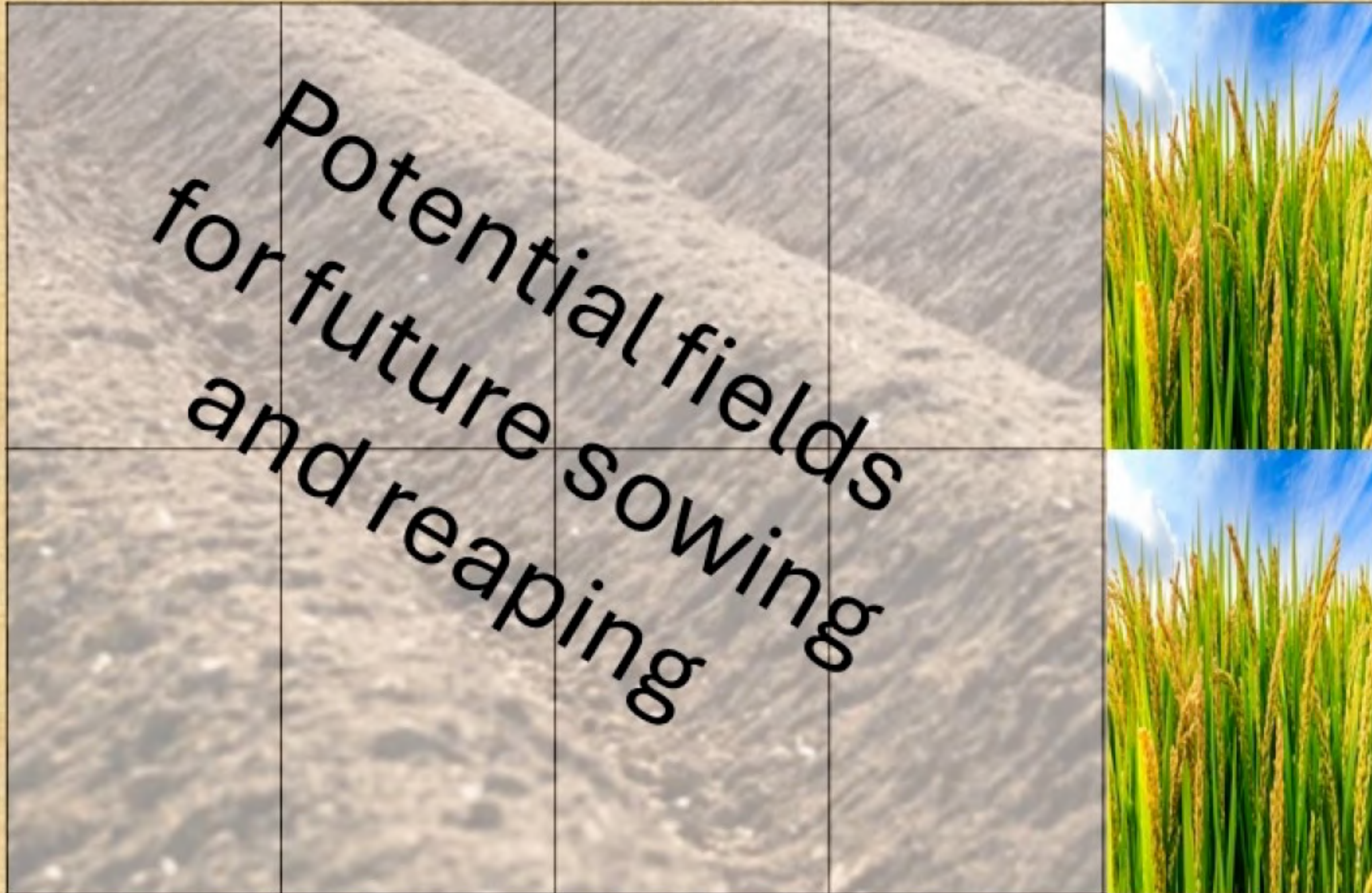
Year One



- Owns 10 Acres
- **Sows 50Kg** of seed (*enough to sow 2 acres*)
- (Average seed potential is 10-fold)

The Maintenance Farmer

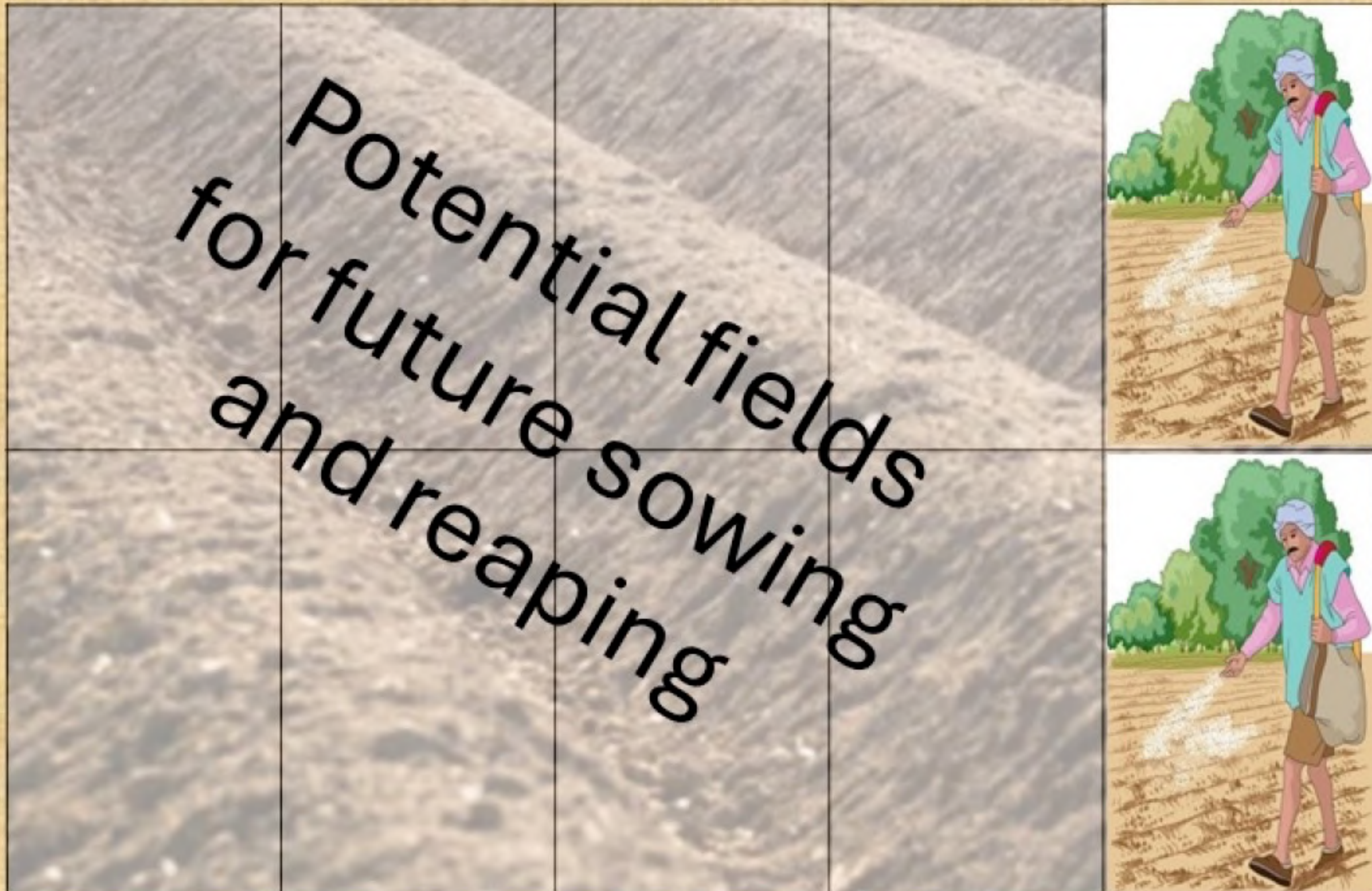
Year One



- **Reaps 500kg** of rice
- Puts aside ***the best 10%*** of his seed for sowing next year (**50kg**)
- He and family eat **450** kg of rice that year.

The Maintenance Farmer

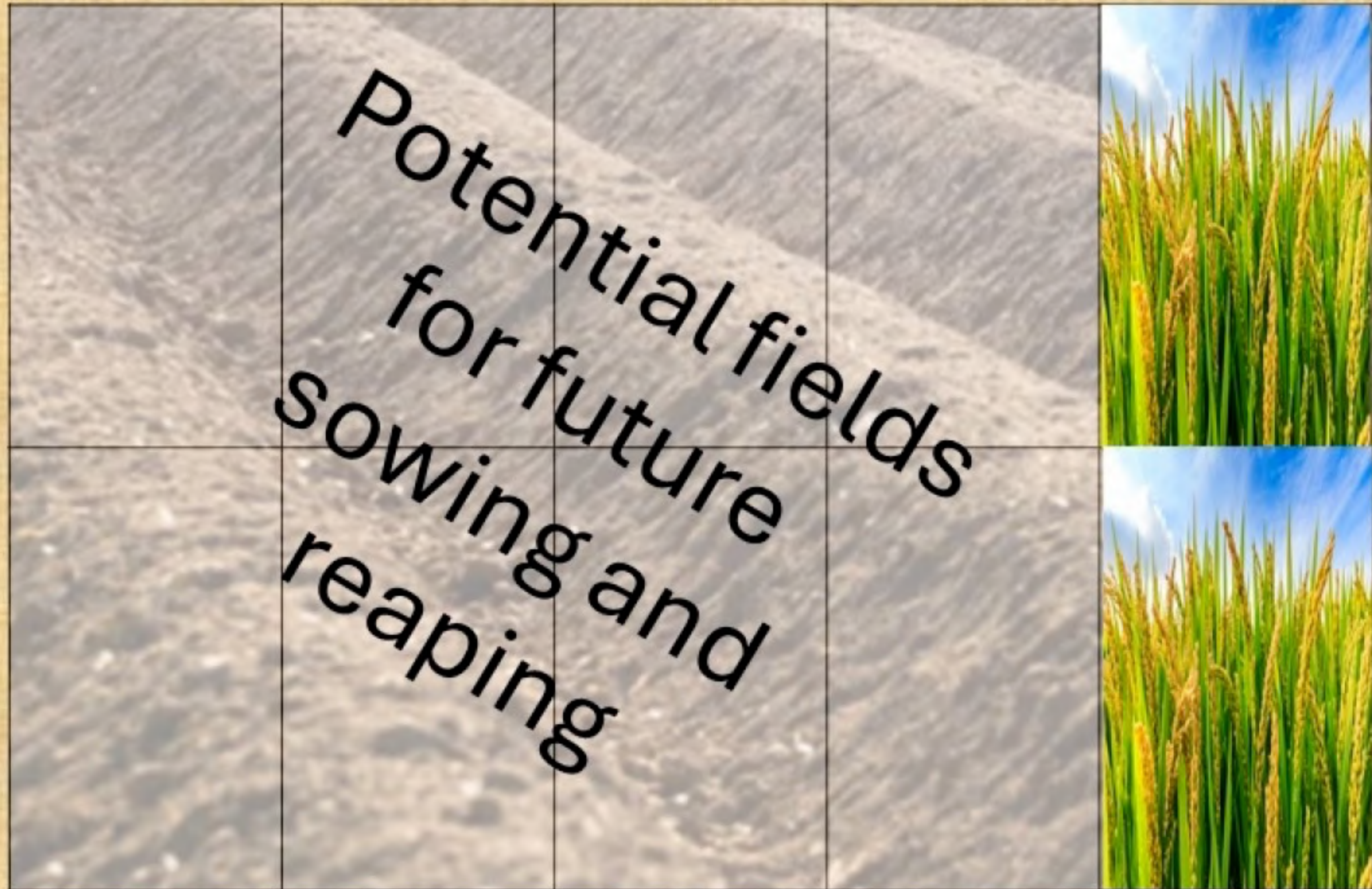
Year Two



- Still Owns 10 Acres of potential for future sowing and reaping.
- **Sows** the **50Kg** of prime seed he put aside, (*same as last year*)

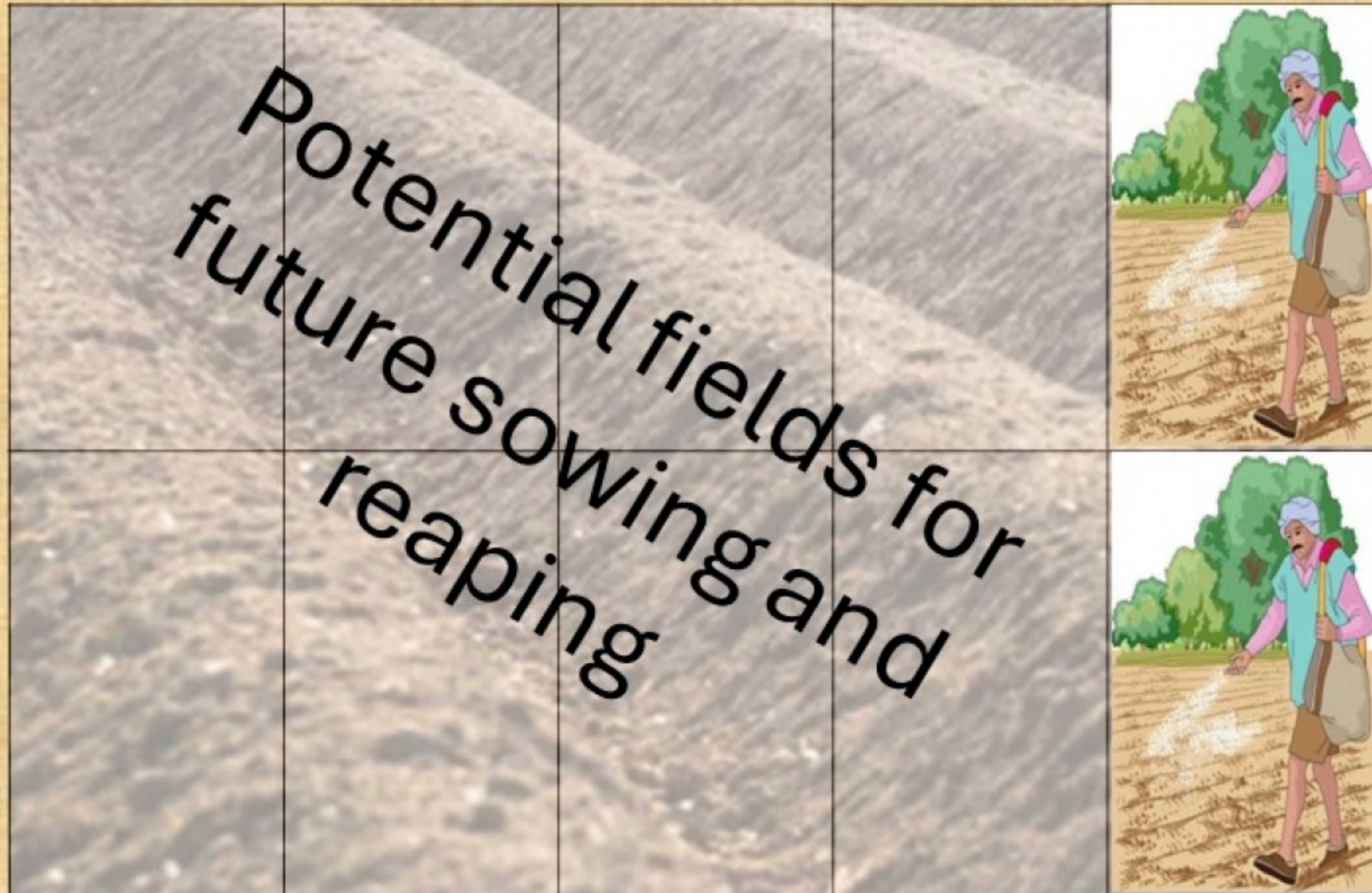
The Maintenance Farmer

Year Two



- **Reaps 500kg** of rice
- Again, ***puts aside the best 10%*** of his seed for sowing next year (**50kg**)
- He and family eat **450** kg of rice that year. (*Same as last year*)

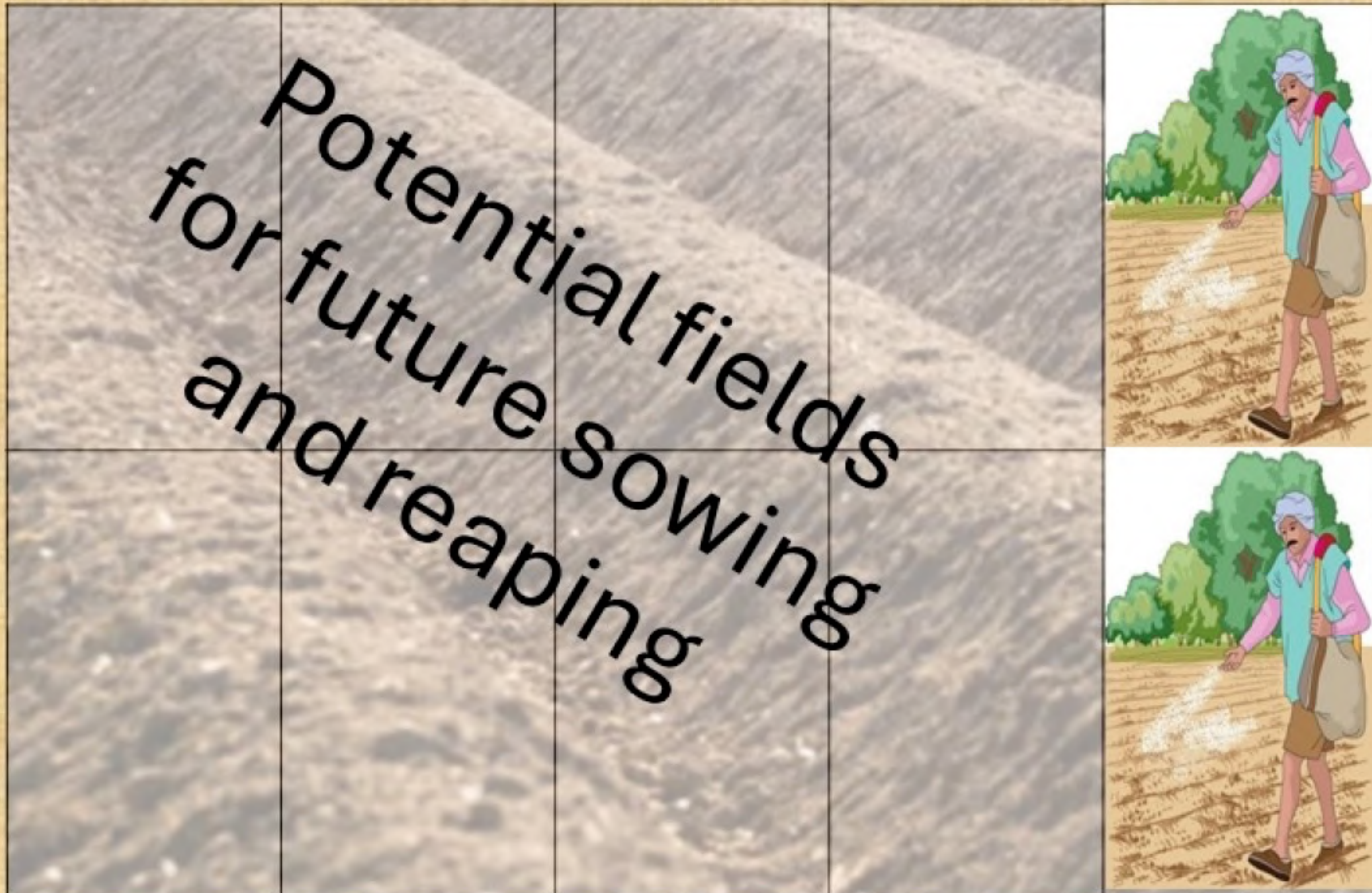
The Maintenance Farmer Years Three - Ten



- Still Owns 10 Acres of land (potential) 8 of which has gone fallow.
- **Sows 50Kg of seed each year** (always the best of last year's harvest), only uses 2 acres (**20%**) of his **potential**.

The Poverty Farmer

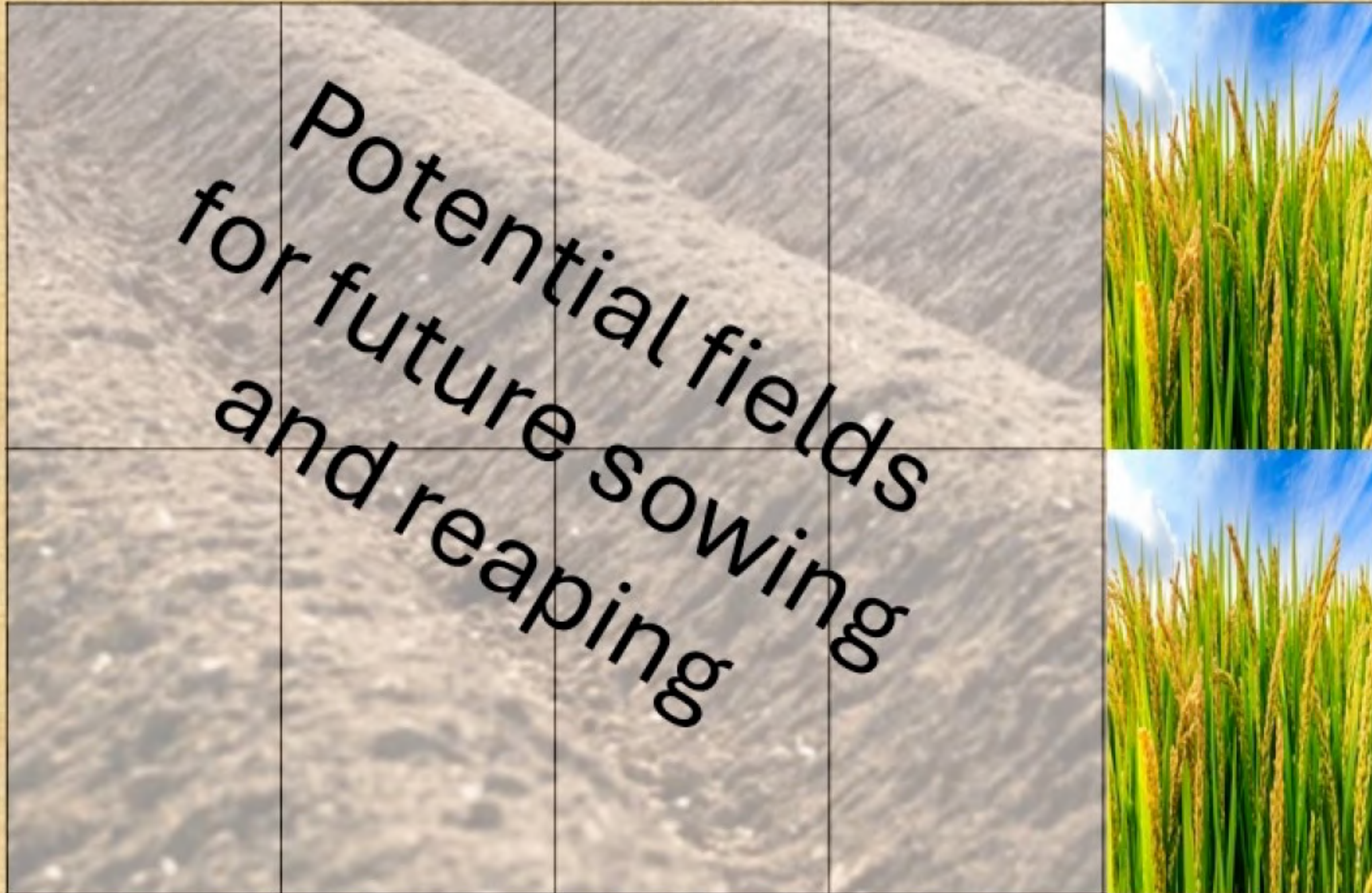
Year One



- Owns 10 Acres, (same potential as maintenance Sower)
- **Sows 50Kg** of seed (enough to sow 2 acres)
- His seed is just as good as the others'.

The Poverty Farmer

Year One



- **Reaps 500kgs** of rice
- He and family **eat 475kg** of rice that year – (*MUCH* more than the Joneses).
- **Has only 25kg (5%) left for sowing** into next year's harvest.

The Poverty Farmer

Year Two



- Still Owns 10 Acres of potential.
- Sows the leftover **25Kg** of seed he did not eat last year. (only enough to sow **1 acre** – 10% of his potential)

The Poverty Farmer Year Two



- Reaps **250kg.** (*1/2 as much as last year*)
- His family is mad at him because they are hungry.
- Has to sell 4 acres to buy seed for next year and maintain his extravagant lifestyle.

The Poverty Farmer

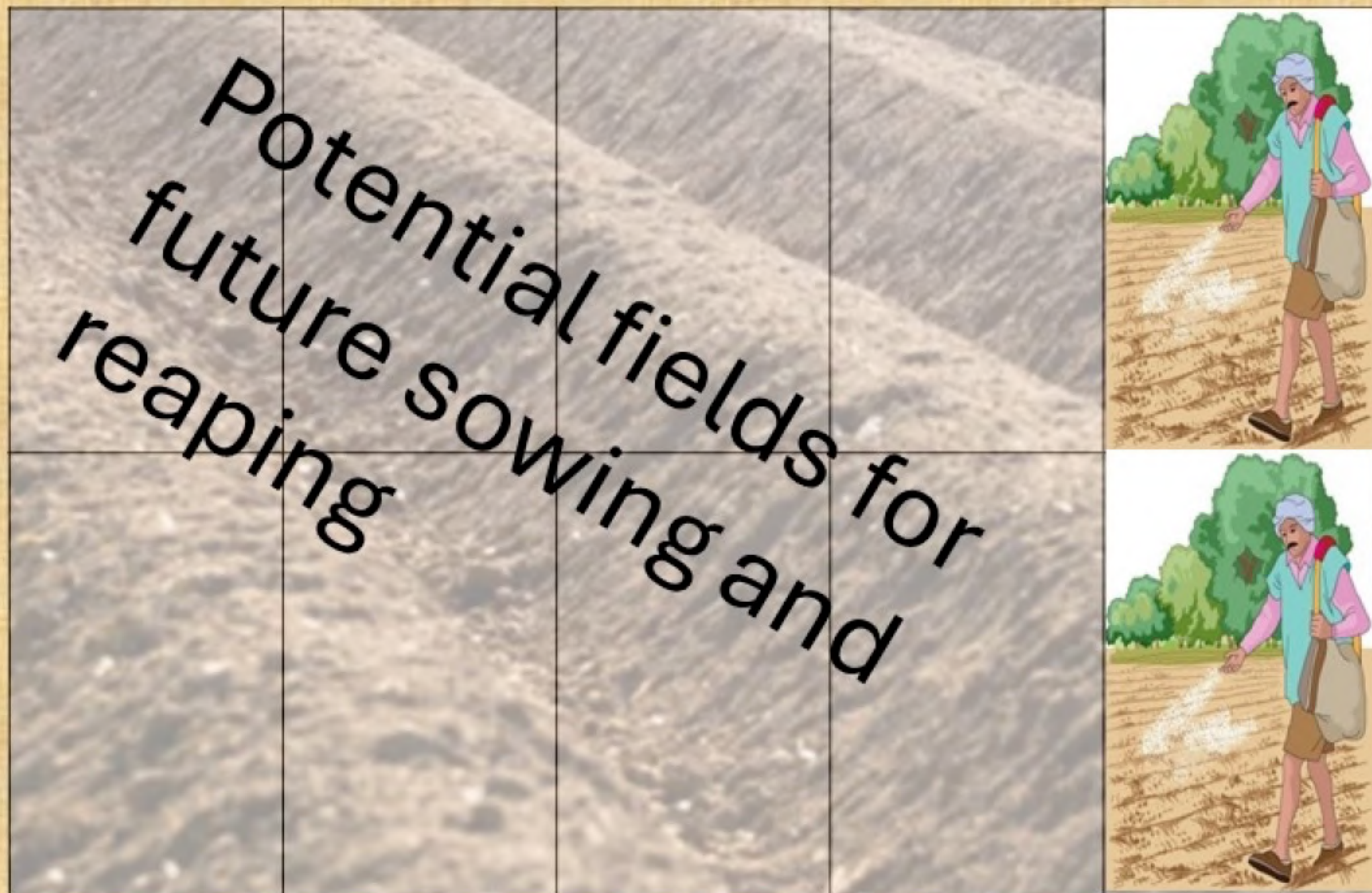
Year Three - Ten



- Has to keep selling off acreage to buy rice to feed his family, and new seed for sowing.
- His sowing and reaping potential *decreases*, and he ends up in a debt spiral.

The Prosperity Farmer

Year One



- Owns 10 Acres (same as the other farmers)
- **Sows 50Kg** of seed (enough to sow 2 acres – same as the others)

The Prosperity Farmer

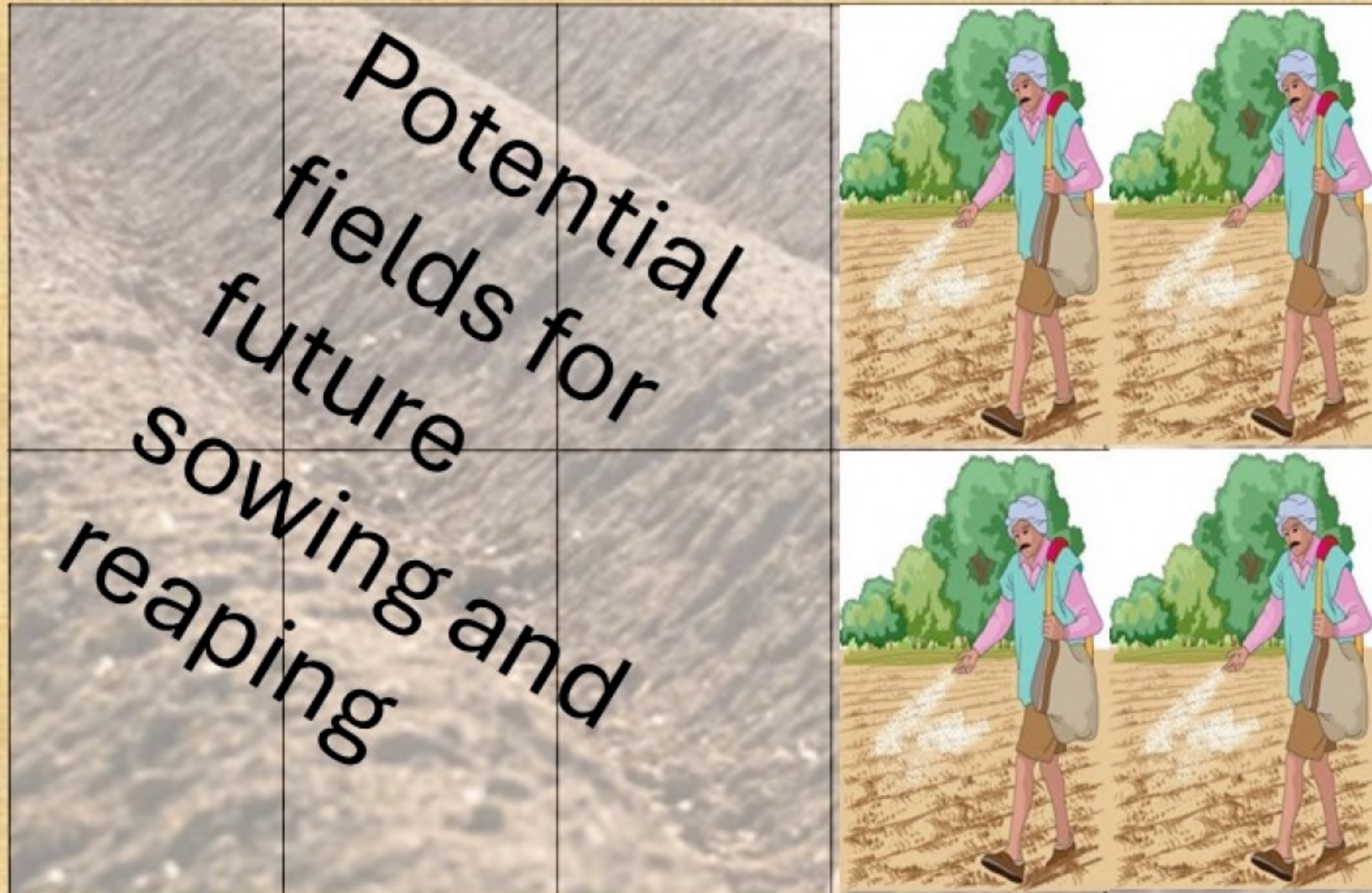
Year One



- **Reaps 500kg** of rice
- Puts aside *the best* **20%** of his seed for sowing.
- *His family pays a short-term price, living on **400kg** of rice, sacrificing for the sake of sowing more generously.*

The Prosperity Farmer

Year Two



- Still owns 10 Acres of potential sowing and reaping.
- Now has **100Kg** of **prime seed** to sow, held over from last year's sacrificial decisions.
- Can now **sow 4 acres** – **double last year**

The Prosperity Farmer

Year Two



- ***Reaps 1000kg.***
- His family ***can*** eat up to ***800kg*** of rice, and live well, but ***choose to live on 500*** (still more than the other farmers' current provision) and have ***500kg*** left to sow.

The Prosperity Farmer

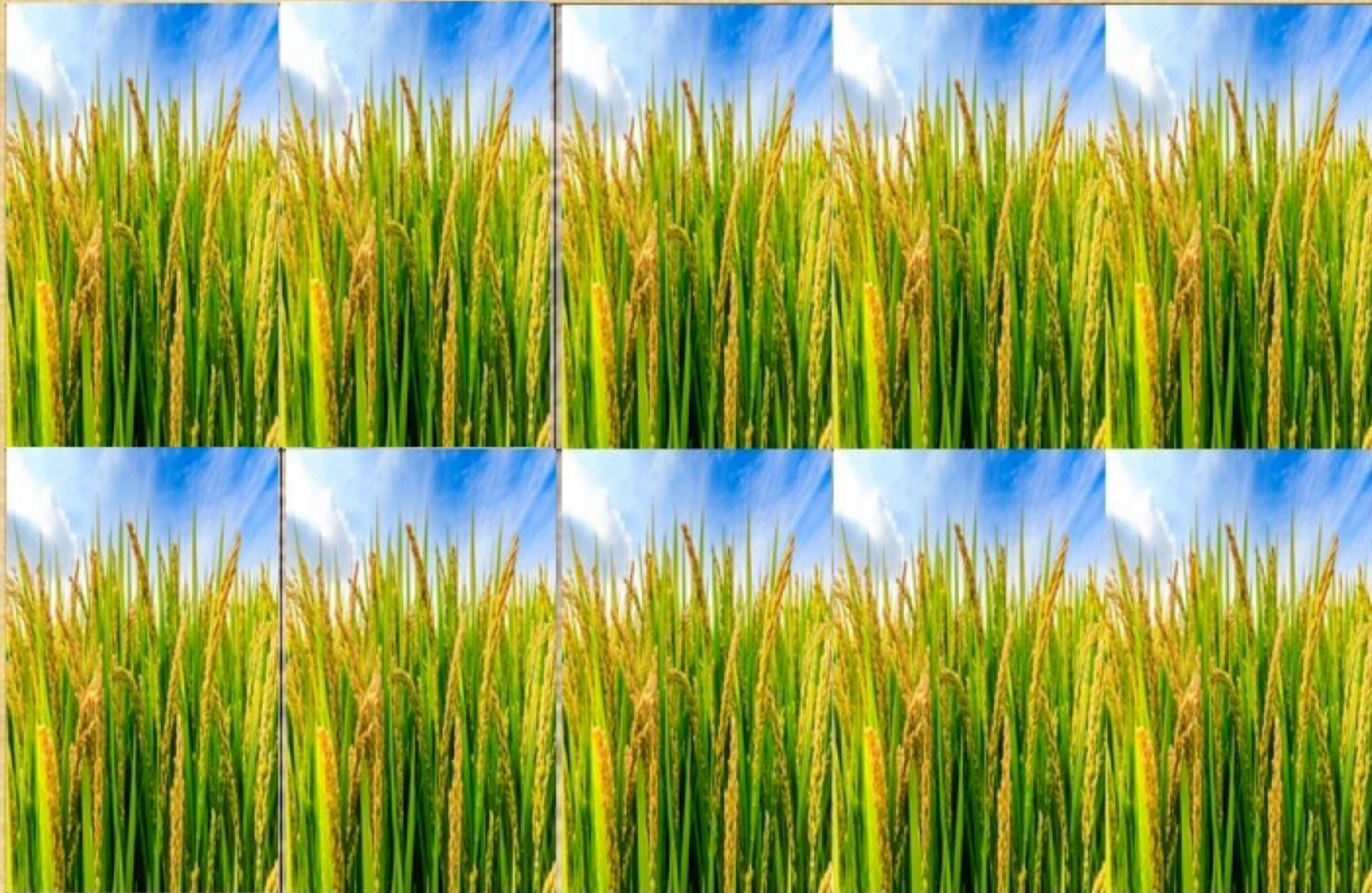
Year Three



- Still Owns 10 Acres, but now ***has enough seed to sow his full potential.***
- Sows **500Kgs** of ***prime seed.***
(***enough for all 10 acres***)

The Prosperity Farmer

Year Four and beyond...



- Reaps **5000kgs** of rice (***in year 4 alone***).
- Has *more than enough* to feed his family well.
- Is now selling seed to his neighbors.
- Is buying land to sow even more.

The Maintenance Farmer

by year 10



- Still living on **500kg** of rice to feed his family (*more than enough*)
- Reaps **millions of kg** of rice and can feed the poor generously.
- **Can sow nearly 9M acres.**
- *Has more than he knows what to do with.*

Putting the first and
best of our treasure
where our heart is
the entry to Heaven's
economy.

21 and *I return to my father's house in safety, then the LORD will be my God.*

30 'Thus *all the tithe of the land*, of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S; *it is holy to the LORD.*

Leviticus 27:30

10 ***Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this,"*** says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows."