

CHAPTER -4 AGRICULTURE

GEOGRAPHY

Chapter 4 AGRICULTURE

Q1. Name one important beverage crop and specify the geographical conditions required for its growth.

Ans. Tea is an important beverage crop.

Following are the geographical conditions required for its growth:

- a) The tea plant grows well in tropical and subtropical climates.
- b) The soil should be deep fertile, well-drained, rich in humus and organic matter.
- c) Tea bushes require warm and moist Frost free climate all through the year
- d) Frequent showers evenly distributed over the year ensure continuous growth of tender leaves.

Q2. Name one staple crop of India and the regions where it is produced.

Ans. Rice is a staple food crop of India consumed by majority of people. India is the second largest producer of rice in the world after China.

In India rice is grown in the following regions:

- a) The plains of North and North eastern India coastal plains and delta regions.
- b) Development of irrigation facilities have made it possible to grow rice in areas of less rainfall such as Punjab, Haryana, Western Uttar Pradesh and parts of Rajasthan.

CHAPTER -4 AGRICULTURE

Q3. Enlist the various institutional reform programmes introduced by the government in the interest of farmers.

Ans.

The various institutional reform programmes introduced by the government for the benefit of farmers are :-

- a) Minimum Support Price policy.
- b) Consolidation of land holdings.
- c) Abolition of Zamindari System.
- d) Provision for crop insurance.
- e) Subsidy on agricultural inputs and resources such as power and fertilisers,
- f) Remunerative and procurement prices for important crops to check exploitation of farmers, .
- g) Establishment of Grameen banks, cooperative societies and banks to provide low interest loans.
- h) Kissan Credit Card(KCC) and Personal Accident Insurance Scheme(PAIS)

Q4. The land under cultivation has got reduced day by day. Can you imagine its consequences?

Ans. *A declining area of land under cultivation has many consequences such as :*

- a) Food shortage for the increasing population
- b) Rise in prices of food grains
- c) Increase in the unemployment
- d) Shortage of supply of raw material for agriculture based industries.
- e) Increase in the import of foodgrains from other countries and reduction in export of foodgrains.

Q5. What is 'slash and burn' agriculture? Explain its salient features.

Ans.

'Slash and burn' agriculture is the other name for shifting Agriculture. It is the most primitive farming type practised in few regions in India(esp. Tribal areas) .

CHAPTER -4 AGRICULTURE

Salient features of this agriculture are :

- (i) Forests are cleared and trees are burnt to make the land available for cultivation.
- (ii) When soil fertility decreases, the farmers move to the next patch of land .
- (iii) This method allows nature to replenish the fertility of the soil through natural processes.
- (v) Productivity is very low as there is less use of natural fertilisers or other modern inputs.
- (vi) It is known as jhumming in North- Eastern states(Assam , Meghalya, Mizoram and Nagaland).

Q6. Describe the impact of globalisation on Indian agriculture.

Ans.

Following is the impact of globalisation on Indian Agriculture:

- 1) Globalisation was there during colonial times too. Indian spices were exported to different countries of the world.
- 2) After 1992, Indian farmers have been exposed to new challenges.
- 3) Indian agricultural products are not able to compete with the developed countries because of the highly subsidised agriculture in those countries.
- 4) To make agriculture successful and profitable, government should improve the condition of small and marginal farmers.
- 5) There is a need to remove the negative effects of Green revolution such as overuse of chemical fertilisers .
- 6) India should focus on developing and promoting organic farming and diversifying cropping pattern from cereals to high value crops.

Q7. Compare primitive and commercial farming.

Ans.

Primitive farming	Commercial farming
1) Small patches of land cultivated.	Large tracts of land are brought under cultivation.
2) Old tools and implements are	Modern machinery used for

CHAPTER -4 AGRICULTURE

used by the farmers such as hoe, digging sticks.	farming such as tractors, harvester.
3) Depends on monsoon and natural fertility of soil.	Use of irrigation facilities and fertilisers to increase productivity.
4) There is greater use of manpower.	Less of manpower is used.
5) Mainly food crops are cultivated such as rice and wheat.	Mostly cash crops are cultivated. Such as cotton, sugar-cane, jute.

Q8. What are the 3 cropping seasons of India? Explain in brief.

Ans.

India has following 3 cropping seasons:

- a) **Rabi Season** - Crops sown in winter from October to December. Harvested in summer from April to June. Main crop-wheat, barely, peas, gram, mustard.
- b) **Kharif Season**- Crops grown with the onset of monsoon in different parts of the country. Harvested in September-October. Main crops- Maize, Jowar, bajra, cotton, soyabean.
- c) **Zaid Season**- Crops sown between rabi and kharif season. Main crops: watermelon, muskmelon, cucumber, fodder etc.

Q9. What are millets? Why are millets very important crops of India?

Ans. Millets are coarse grains like ragi, bajra and jowar.

Millets are very important crops of India because of the following reasons:-

1. They are highly nutritious. Ragi is rich in iron, calcium and roughage.
2. They can be grown in rain-fed areas and hardly needs irrigation.

Q10. What is the importance of pulses in our economy? Why are pulses grown as a rotation crop?

Ans. Importance of Pulses: Pulses are the major source of protein and vegetarian's diet.

Pulses are grown in rotation because:-

CHAPTER -4 AGRICULTURE

- a) Being leguminous crops, they help in restoring soil fertility by utilizing
- b) nitrogen from the air (nitrogen fixation). Therefore, pulses are mostly grown in rotation with other crops.
- c) They need less moisture and survive even in dry conditions.
- d) India is the largest producer as well as consumer of pulses in the world.

Major pulses producing states are - Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Karnataka.

Pulses of Rabi season: Tur (arhar), urad, moong.

Pulses of Kharif season: Masur, peas, gram.

CHAPTER -4 AGRICULTURE