

SOCIAL STUDIES

CLASS- VIII

AGRICULTURE

Q1.What is agriculture?

Ans- Agriculture refers to the tilling of fields for growing crops. It also include the rearing of livestock such as cattle ,sheep, goat, chickens , even fish and silk worms.



Q2 What are the two main types of agriculture on the basis of availability of land?

Ans- The two main types of agriculture on the basis of availability of land are :

***EXTENSIVE AGRICULTURE:**

- It is practised on a large plot of land.
- It is generally practised in sparsely populated areas where population pressure on land is low.
- The forms are heavily mechanised to compensate the human labour.
- Lots of capital is invested in farming equipments and package approach.
- Single crops are grown annually.
- Example : USA ,Eastern Europe, Canada.

***INTENSIVE AGRICULTURE:**

- It is practised on a small plot of land.

- It is generally common in densely populated areas where population pressure on land is very high.
- The farms do not use machinery instead make use of the cheap human labour available.
- There is limited investment of capital and use of package approach.
- Two or more than two crops are grown annually.
- Example : India ,China, Japan.

Q3. What is mixed farming?

Ans: The practice of crop cultivation and animal husbandry on the same plot of land simultaneously is known as mixed farming.



Q4. What is ranching ?

Ans - The raising of animals primarily for sale ,on large farm is known as ranching. The large farms are known as ranches and are scientifically managed.



Q5.Name the two main agriculture seasons in India.

Ans- The two main agriculture seasons in India are:

- *Kharif

- *Rabi

Q6.What are food crops? Give two examples of food crops.

Ans- Those crops which form the basic food of people are called food crops.

They include cereals and pulses like Rice , Wheat, Maize, and Millets.

Q7. Name major rice- producing countries.

Ans- The major rice producing countries are:

*China.

* India

*Indonesia.

*Bangladesh.

*Vietnam.

Q8. What is organic farming?

Ans - Farming in which only natural method of manuring and pest control are used and the plant and animal raised are not genetically modified to improve yields are called organic farming.

The crops turn out to be pure by expensive.



Q9. Mention the factors that influence crop cultivation.

Ans- The factors that influence crop cultivation can be divided into two broad categories:

(i) PHYSICAL FACTORS:

- The climatic conditions of a place directly influence the crop cultivation. Different crops require different amount of rainfall and ranges of temperature.
- For example - wheat grows well in cool season whereas rice requires wet and humid climate.
- Crop cultivation is also affected by the kind of landform available. Plains are suitable for growing crops whereas plateaus don't support crop cultivation well.
- Different crops grow well on different type of soil. For example- Cotton grows well on black soil whereas wheat requires loamy soil.

(ii) SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTOR :

- Crops cultivation is also affected by the amount of capital invested in the process.

Greater the investment better is the output, thus settling in a virtuous cycle.

- The use of package approach also ensures that the yield gives us sufficient profit.
- Mechanization on farms also play an important part in crop cultivation.
- Lastly the government policies like announcement of MSP giving subsidies on seed, fertilizers, pesticides and electricity and loan waivers at times also help the farmers in crop cultivation.

Q10. Distinguish between subsistence agriculture and commercial agriculture.

Ans - SUBSISTENCE AGRICULTURE:

- It is practiced for self sustenance.
- The plots are small and there is no use of package approach.

- Primitive methods of farming are used.
- The labourers on the farms are generally the family members.
- The farming is not organised and depends upon the availability of capital.
- Example: Shifting Cultivation Nomadic herding.

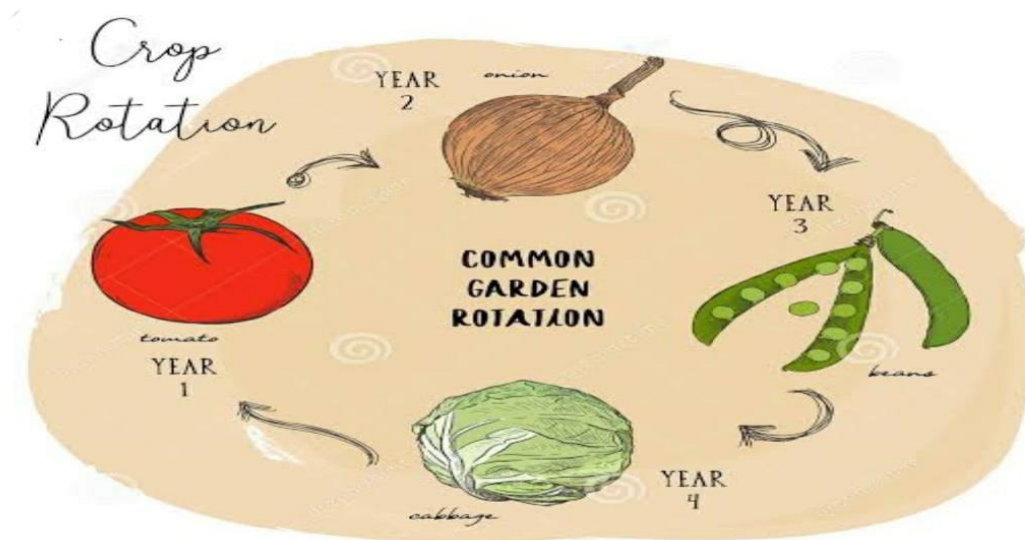
COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE:

- It is practiced for sale in the market.
- The plots are generally very huge and there is extensive use of package approach.
- Modern method of farming is used.
- Labourers are employed.
- The farming is highly organized and specialised.
- Example: Commercial grain farming, Ranching.

Q11. Write briefly about agriculture in western Europe.

Ans- Western Europe:

- The western Europe is densely populated so agriculture is mainly of intensive type.
- Crop rotation, mixed farming are also practiced here.



- Dairy farming is commonly done to meet the needs of dairy products like milk, butter, cheese, etc.

Q12. Name two important beverage crops .
Also name the countries which are the largest producers of these crops .

Ans - The two important beverage crop are:

(i) Tea.



CLIMATIC CONDITION :

- It requires high temperature and humid climate with heavy rainfall which is well distributed throughout the year.

- A sloping terrain with fertile well-drained soil is suitable for this crop.
- China, India, Srilanka and Kenya are the leading tea producing countries.

(ii) Coffee.



CLIMATIC CONDITIONS:

- It grows well in tropical hill slopes with well drained loamy soil.

- It needs moderate rainfall and high temperature.
- Brazil is the largest producer of coffee and is called the "coffee pot" of the world.
- Other coffee producing countries are Vietnam, Indonesia, Colombia, Mexico, India and Ethiopia.

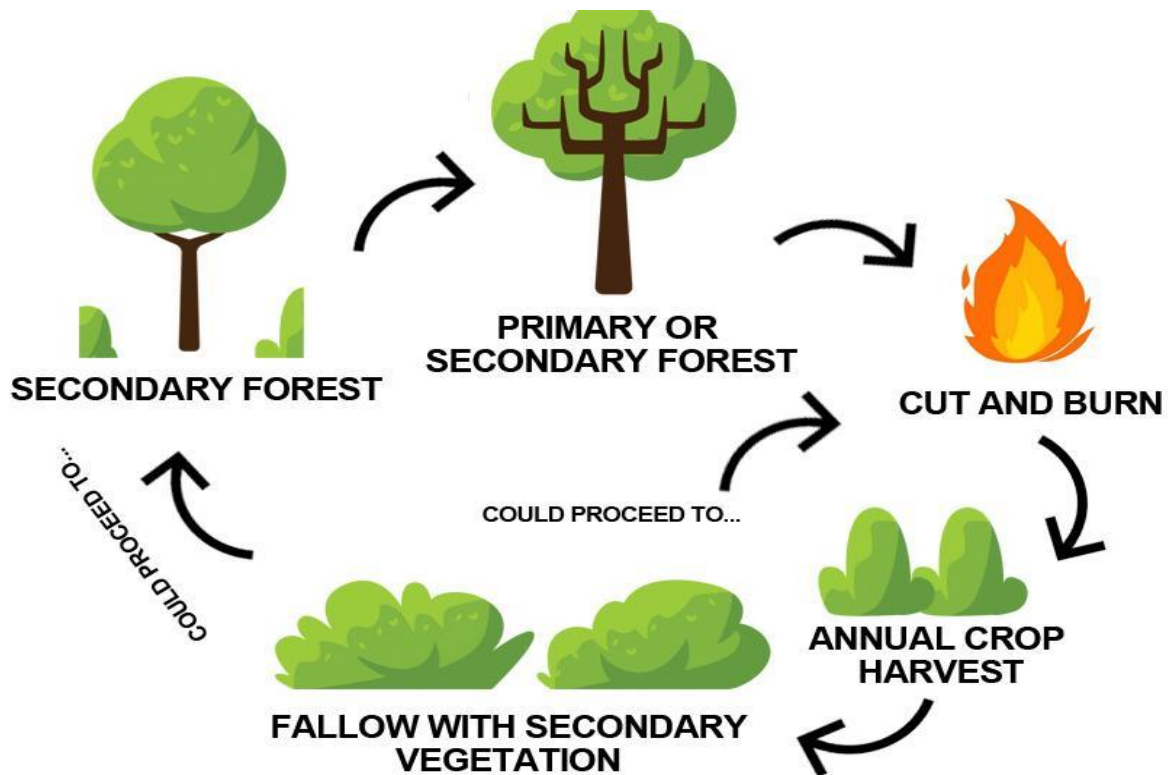
Q13. What is shifting agriculture? Mention one area where it is practised. What is it called in this area?

Ans- (i) It is the "slash and burn" method of Crop cultivation in which a plot of land is cleared by cutting down or burning the standing vegetation to clear the land for crop cultivation.

(ii) The cultivator cultivates the land for a period of 3 to 4 years and when the fertility of

soil is lost, he abandons the land to move to a new plot.

(iii) Shifting cultivation is called jhum in North Eastern India, Milpa in Mexico, ladang in Malaysia and roca in Brazil.



Q14. What do you know about plantation agriculture?

Ans - Plantation Agriculture :

- Cash crops such as tea, coffee, rubber, oil, palm are grown on huge estates which are known as plantations.
- This type of agriculture involves huge amount of labour and capital.
- Plantations are spread over large areas and have housing and other facilities for the workers.
- A single crop is grown.

- Work on a plantation is organised as in a factory as the crop is processed almost wholly on the plantation itself.



Q15. Compare the conditions required for growing rice and wheat.

Ans- Rice :



CONDITIONS REQUIRED(Kharif crop)

- It needs uniformly high temperature of about 25 degree Celsius with heavy rainfall of around 100cms.
- Clayey alluvial soils which holds water are good for this crop because young plants need standing water.
- In the areas of inadequate rainfall irrigation is essential.

- Flat terrains are suitable for rice cultivation.
- The leading rice producing state of India are West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Odisha, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

Wheat:



CONDITIONS REQUIRED (Rabi crop)

- It requires moderate temperature and rainfall frost free weather for about 100 days and sunny weather during harvest.

- Level to rolling land with loamy soil is ideal for wheat cultivation.
- Punjab, Haryana and western U.P are the major wheat growing state in India.

Q16. Compare the agriculture of India and the USA with reference to (a) type of farming; (b) mechanisation; and (c) use of improved seeds, fertilizers etc.

Ans: INDIA:

- Farms are generally small due to repeated land fragmentation.
- Intensive subsistence agriculture is practised.
- In India farm there is limited mechanisation, manual labour is widely used which leads to disguised unemployment.
- No or limited use of package approach.
- Very less development in mixed farming.

- The farmers here lack awareness and are generally illiterate.

USA:

- Farms are generally very large.
- Extensive commercial agriculture is practised.
- Farms are heavily mechanised as human labour is expensive.
- Heavy use of package approach.
- Mixed farming, ranching is widely practiced.
- Farmers are literate and have high level of awareness about the scientific method of agriculture.