

DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL, MANDLA ROAD, JABALPUR
CLASS NOTES ON GEOGRAPHY

CHAPTER 18 - AGRICULTURE

BASIC CONCEPTS



I. CHOOSE THE CORRECT OPTION.

1. a. apiculture
2. c. sericulture
3. a. Bangladesh
4. c. Tamil Nadu
5. a. milk

II. FILL IN THE BLANKS.

1. Pisciculture

2. viticulture
3. Jowar, bajra, ragi
4. horticulture
5. crop rotation

III. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN ONE OR TWO SENTENCES.

1. What are the physical factors affecting agriculture?
Landform, climate and soil are the physical factors that affect agriculture.
2. State the negative impacts of shifting cultivation?
Shifting cultivation leads to soil erosion due to excessive leaching as water drains away the useful salts and minerals of the soil. It also causes loss of biodiversity and deforestation.
3. Define plantation agriculture?
Plantation agriculture is a type of commercial farming where a single crop is grown in a large area with a large capital investment.
4. Which crop is called a golden crop?
Jute is also known as the golden fibre because of the colour of its fibre. A correction shall be made in the subsequent edition.
5. What are the two main varieties of coffee?
The two main varieties of coffee are Arabica and Robusta.

IV. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN BRIEF.

1. Agriculture or farming can be looked at as a system. Explain this in your own words.
Agriculture or farming can be looked at as a system in which a number of inputs go in which can be natural, physical or human. The natural or physical inputs on which agriculture depends are latitude, climate, relief or height above the sea level, soil, etc. The human inputs include farming technology and machinery such as tractors and harvesters, fertilisers and pesticides, seeds, livestock, labour, good transport and communication. The output is what a farm produces. Some of the processes or operations, which are carried out

on the farm are, ploughing, sowing, harvesting, weeding and irrigation.

2. Write a short note on intensive agriculture mentioning only the main characteristics.

Intensive agriculture is common in densely populated regions where the pressure on land is very high. In this type of agriculture, yield per person is low but yield per hectare is high. Usually, the farms are small in size with low investment of capital. However, in some of the developed parts of the world, such as Western Europe, intensive agriculture is practised with high capital investment. The yield per hectare is high due to the intensive use of seeds, fertilisers and a well developed irrigation system. The fertility of soil is also improved by using manure, night soil, etc. Crop rotation methods are employed to maintain the fertility of soil.

3. What is primitive subsistence agriculture? What are its drawbacks?

Primitive subsistence agriculture or shifting cultivation is a type of agriculture in which the vegetation is mainly cleared by slash and burn method. The farmers cultivate for a few years and shift to another area when the soil becomes infertile.

The disadvantages of primitive subsistence agriculture are:

- The cultivated lands are very small and the cultivators use primitive tools such as sickle and axes.
- It leads to soil erosion due to excessive leaching as water drains away the useful salts and minerals of the soil. It also causes loss of biodiversity and deforestation.

4. What are the various types of commercial agriculture? Explain mixed farming.

Plantation agriculture, extensive commercial grain farming, mixed farming, dairy farming, Mediterranean agriculture, market gardening and horticulture are types of commercial agriculture.

Mixed farming is practised in developed regions of the world. Crop cultivation and animal husbandry are practised simultaneously. Rotation of crops and intercropping are done to maintain soil fertility. There is high capital investment in farm tools and

machineries. Farmers are very skilled, and they use chemical fertilisers and manures on a large scale to increase productivity.

5. Discuss truck farming in brief.

Truck farming refers to the system of supplying fresh vegetables and fruits to urban centres with large population. The truck farms are set up at a distance that a truck can cover overnight. These farms also have refrigeration and cold storage facilities.

6. What are the main differences between intensive subsistence agriculture and shifting cultivation?

Intensive subsistence agriculture is mostly practised in Asia in areas with a large density of population, whereas shifting cultivation is usually practised in the tropics mostly by the tribal population—especially in Africa, South and Central America and South-East Asia.

7. Describe the conditions that help in rice production. In which regions does rice grow well?

Rice is grown in tropical and sub-tropical regions of the world where it forms the staple diet of the people. It requires an average temperature of 25°C and average rainfall of over 150 cm for a good crop. It grows best in clayey loam and alluvial soil. Major rice-producing countries of the world are China, Bangladesh, India, Thailand, Indonesia and some countries of South-East Asia.

8. Explain the conditions in which coffee grows well.

Coffee is an important beverage crop of the world, which grows in tropical highlands. It needs warm climate with temperature ranging from 15°C to 28°C. Coffee plants are grown under tree shades as direct sunrays are harmful for the crop. The amount of rainfall needed is between 125 cm and 200 cm.

9. What is organic farming? Explain in brief.

Organic farming is a production system that involves cultivation of plants and rearing of animals using biological materials. Synthetic substances are avoided to maintain ecological balance and to

minimise pollution and wastage. Organic farming combines tradition, innovation and science to promote good quality of life without damaging the environment. It is a system in which green manure, crop rotation, strip farming, biological pest control, etc., are used to improve soil health and water retention.

10. Write in brief the basic differences between an average farm in India and an average farm in the USA.
- i. Average farm holdings in India are comparatively smaller than the average farm holdings in the US.
 - ii. Indian farming is labour intensive and a huge population is involved, whereas, in the USA farming is done using heavy and advance machines and involves a very small proportion of the population.
 - iii. In the USA, mainly, extensive agriculture is practiced, whereas, in India, one can find intensive subsistence agriculture as well as primitive subsistence agriculture being practiced in some regions.

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To be done by the students as homework and thereafter it will be discussed during the online classes.