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# Agriculture

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# IMPORTANT TERMS

- **Agriculture:** Agriculture is the cultivation and breeding of animals, plants and fungi for food, fibre, biofuel, medicinal plants and other products used to sustain and enhance life.
- **Primitive Subsistence Farming:** Primitive Subsistence farming is the type of farming that is done on a small patch of land with the help of primitive tools such as hoe, dao and digging sticks and family or community labour.
- **Intensive Subsistence Farming:** Intensive subsistence farming is the type of farming that is done by using scientific methods and better agricultural inputs in order to increase in the agricultural production.
- **Commercial Farming:** Commercial farming is the type of farming in which the farmer grows the crops with the sole aim of selling the produce for commercial purpose.
- **Plantation Farming:** Plantation farming is a form of commercial farming where a single crop is grown over a large area.
- **Sericulture:** Sericulture, or silk farming, is the rearing of silk worms for the production of raw silk.
- **Horticulture:** Horticulture is the science and art of growing and caring for plants, especially, flowers, fruits, and vegetables.
- **Jhumming:** Jhumming or Jhum cultivation, also known as the “slash and burn agriculture”, is the type of farming wherein a patch of land is first prepared for cultivation by clearing the land of trees and vegetation and burning them thereafter.
- **Millets:** Millets are a group of highly variable small-seeded grasses, widely grown around the world as cereal crops or coarse grains. Jowar, bajra and ragi are called millets.
- **Crop Rotation:** Crop rotation is the planned cultivation of different types of crops on the same piece of land in a precise sequential order that matches the sequence of seasons.

- **Irrigation:** Irrigation means the action of applying water to land to supply crops and other plants with necessary water. Irrigation in India includes a network of major and minor canals from Indian rivers, groundwater well-based systems, tanks and other rainwater harvesting projects for agricultural activities.
- **ICAR:** The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is an autonomous body responsible for coordinating agricultural education and research in India.
- **Organic Farming:** Organic farming is the type of farming which avoids or largely excludes the use of synthetically compounded fertilisers, pesticides, growth regulators, genetically modified organisms and livestock food additives.
- **Minimum Support Price (MSP):** Minimum Support Price is the minimum guaranteed price of a crop, fixed and announced by the government before the start of a cropping season.
- **Kisan Credit Card (KCC):** A Kisan Credit Card (KCC) is a credit delivery mechanism that is aimed at enabling farmers to have quick and timely access to affordable credit.



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# Multiple Choice Questions

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**1. Which of the following are plantation crops?**

- (a) Rice and maize
- (b) Wheat and pulses
- (c) Tea, coffee, banana and sugarcane
- (d) None of the above

**2. The three major cropping seasons of India are:**

- (a) Aus, Aman and Boro
- (b) Rabi, Kharif and Zaid
- (c) Baisakh, Paus and Chait
- (d) None of the above

**3. Rabi crops are:**

- (a) sown in winter and harvested in summer
- (b) sown during rainy season and harvested in winter
- (c) sown in summer and harvested in winter
- (d) None of the above

**4. Kharif crops are grown:**

- (a) with the onset of monsoon and harvested in September-October
- (b) with the onset of winter and harvested in summer
- (c) with onset of Autumn and harvested in summer
- (d) None of the above

**5. The main food crop of Kharif season is:**

- (a) Mustard
- (b) Pulses
- (c) Rice
- (d) Wheat

**6. The main food crop of Rabi season is:**

- (a) Wheat
- (b) Rice
- (c) Maize
- (d) Jowar

**7. A short season between the rabi and kharif season is known as:**

- (a) Aus

- (b) Boro
- (c) Zaid
- (d) None of the above

**8. Important non-food crops of our country are:**

- (a) Tea and coffee
- (b) Millets and pulses
- (c) Cotton and jute
- (d) None of the above

**9. Which is the main food crop of the eastern and southern part of the country?**

- (a) Rice
- (b) Wheat
- (c) Maize
- (d) Sugarcane

**10. The two main wheat growing regions are:**

- (a) The Ganga-Sutlej plains and the Deccan Trap
- (b) North-eastern part and eastern-coastal plains
- (c) Deccan plateau and Konkan coast
- (d) None of the above

**11. Wheat requires annual rainfall between:**

- (a) 50 and 75 cm
- (b) about 200 cm
- (c) 200 and 300 cm
- (d) less than 20 cm

**12. The third most important food crop of our country is:**

- (a) Rice
- (b) Wheat
- (c) Jowar
- (d) Ragi

**13. Which State is the largest producer of bajra?**

- (a) Rajasthan
- (b) Maharashtra
- (c) Gujarat
- (d) Haryana

**14. Which is the right condition for the growth of maize?**

- (a) Temperature between 21 °C to 27°C and old alluvial soil
- (b) Temperature below 17°C and shallow black soil
- (c) Temperature of 25°C and 200 cm of rainfall
- (d) None of the above

**15. Which of the following crops is a major source of protein in a vegetarian diet?**

- (a) Wheat
- (b) Rice
- (c) Pulses
- (d) Oilseeds

**16. Which one of the following is not true for pulses?**

- (a) Pulses are grown in both rabi and kharif season
- (b) Pulses are leguminous crops
- (c) They are grown in rotation with other crops
- (d) Pulses require intensive irrigation facilities

**17. Which is the ideal condition for the growth of sugarcane?**

- (a) Temperature of 21°C to 27°C and an annual rainfall between 75 cm and 100 cm
- (b) Temperature below 17°C and 50 to 75 cm rainfall
- (c) Temperature of 25°C and 200 cm of rainfall
- (d) none of the above

**18. What percentage of our cropped area is covered by oilseeds?**

- (a) 21
- (b) 12
- (c) 2
- (d) 4

**19. Which of the following conditions can spoil tea crop?**

- (a) Frequent showers evenly distributed over the year
- (b) Frost free climate
- (c) Deep fertile well drained soil
- (d) Clayey soil which has high water holding capacity

**20. Coffee cultivation was first introduced in:**

- (a) Himalayas
- (b) Aravalli Hills
- (c) Garo Hills
- (d) Baba Budan Hills

## ANSWERS

- 1. d
- 2. b
- 3. a
- 4. a
- 5. c
- 6. a
- 7. c
- 8. c
- 9. a
- 10. a

- 11. a
- 12. c
- 13. a
- 14. a
- 15. c
- 16. d
- 17. a
- 18. b
- 19. d
- 20. d



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# MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS



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## **1. Define agriculture? Why has cultivation methods changed significantly over years?**

**Ans.** Agriculture is the process of producing food, feed, fiber and other goods by the systematic raising of plants and animals.

- Agriculture is an age old economic activity in our country. Over these years cultivation methods have changed significantly depending upon the characteristics of physical environment, technologically know how and socio-cultural practices.
- Farming varies from subsistence to commercial type.
- At present in different parts of India- primitive subsistence farming, Intensive Subsistence Farming and commercial Farming are practiced

## **2. What is plantation farming? What are its main characteristics?**

**Ans.** Plantation is a type of commercial farming. In This kind of farming a single crop is grown on a large area. This kind of farming is a legacy of colonialism, adapted to local conditions. Following are its characteristics:

- Plantation has an interface of agriculture and industry.
- Cultivation of cash for export purpose.
- All the produce is used as raw material in respective industries.
- Tea, coffee, rubber, sugarcane, banana etc are important plantation crops.

## **3. Write down the features of Intensive Subsistence agriculture.**

**Ans.** The features of Intensive Subsistence agriculture

- This type of farming is practiced in areas of high population pressure on land.

- It is labour intensive farming, where high doses of biochemical inputs and irrigation are used for obtaining higher production.
- The right of inheritance leading to division of land among successive generations has rendered land holding size uneconomical.
- The farmers continue to take maximum output from the limited land in the absence of alternative source of livelihood. Thus there is enormous pressure on agricultural land.

**4. What are millets and why are they called coarse grains? Give some examples of millet crops and areas they are grown in.**

**Ans.** Jowar, Bajra and ragi are the important millets grown in India. These are known as coarse grains but they have very high nutritional value.

- **Jowar:** Maharashtra is the largest producer of jowar followed by Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.
- **Bajra:** Rajasthan is the largest producer of bajra followed by Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Haryana.
- **Ragi:** Karnataka is the largest producer of ragi followed by Tamil Nadu.

**5. What is Horticulture? Name the fruits grown in India?**

**Ans.** “Horticulture:-It is an art of cultivating fruits and vegetables. India is the largest producer of fruits and vegetables in the world. India is the producer of tropical as well as temperate fruits.”

India is known for

- **Mangoes** - Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

- Mizoram, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu,
- Lichi and guava- Uttar Pradesh and Bihar,
- Pineapples - Meghalaya,
- Grapes - Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra
- Apples, pears, apricots, and walnuts - Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh are in great demand all over the world.

India produces about 13 per cent of the world vegetables. It is an important producer of pea, cauliflower, onion, cabbage, tomato, brinjal and potato

**6. What are the four important fiber crops of India? Describe any one of them.**

**Ans.** Four important fiber crops of India are:  
Cotton, Jute, Hemp and Natural silk.

**Cotton:-**

- India is known as the original home of the cotton plant.
- India is the third largest producer of cotton in the world.
- Cotton grows well in the drier parts of the black cotton soil of the Deccan plateau.
- It requires high temperature, light rainfall or irrigation, 210-frost-free days and bright sun-shine for its growth.
- It is Kharif crop and requires 6 to 8 months to mature.
- Major Cotton producing states are Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

**OR**

**Jute:-**

- Jute is known as the golden of fiber.
- It grows well on well-drained fertile soil in the flood plains where soils are renewed every year.
- High temperature is required during the time of growth.
- Major jute producing states are West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Orissa and Meghalaya.

- It is used in making gunny bags, mats, ropes, yarn, carpets and other artifacts.

**7.Explain the favourable temperature, rainfall and soil conditions required for the growth of tea. Name the leading tea producing states.**

**Ans. 1. Introduction:** Tea is the main beverage crop. India is the leading producer and exporter of tea in the world.

**2. Climate:** Tea plants grow well in tropical and subtropical climate. Tea thrives well in a hot and humid climate.

**3. Soil Type:** The soil requirement is deep fertile well drained soil which is rich in humus and organic matter.

**4. Temperature:** Ideal temperature for the growth is 200 to 300 C.

**5. Rainfall:** 150 to 300 cm annual rainfall is required. High humidity and frequent showers evenly distributed throughout the year are good for rapid development of tender leaves.

**8.Which is the second most important cereal crop? What are the Geographical conditions required for its growth. Name the major areas of its production.**

**Ans. Introduction:** Wheat is the second most important cereal crop. It is Rabi Crop. It is the main food crop, in north and north-western parts of the country.

- **Soil Type:** Alluvial soil and black soil
- **Temperature:** Cool growing season and bright sunshine at the time of ripening.
- **Rainfall:** 50 to 75 cm of annual rainfall evenly distributed over the growing season.



- **Areas of Cultivation:** There are two prominent wheat growing zones in the country-the Ganga-Sutlej plain in the north-west and black soil region of Deccan. Wheat producing states are Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and certain parts of Madhya Pradesh.

### **9.What are the basic features of Indian agriculture?**

**Ans.** Indian agriculture mainly depends on the arriving of monsoon. Though large areas in India, after independence, have been brought under irrigation, only one-third of the cropped area is actually irrigated in true sense.

- Maximum farmers are not aware about the modern farming techniques.
- Indian farmers use fertilizers. Use of these fertilizers and pesticides has increased and large areas have been brought under high yielding variety of seeds.
- Indian farmers, in certain parts still practice subsistence agriculture. Farmers actually own small pieces of land and grow crops primarily for their own purpose.
- In India animals also play a significantly role in various kinds of agricultural operations.

### **10.Which crop is known as golden fiber? What are the Geographical conditions required for its growth. Name the major areas of its production.**

**Ans. Introduction:** Jute is known as the golden fiber. It is used to make mats, ropes, carpets, yarns, gunny bags and many other ornamental things.

- **Soil Type:** Well drained fertile soil in the flood plains. The soil which renewed every year.
- **Temperature:** High temperature at the time of growth.
- **Areas of Cultivation:** West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Orissa and Meghalaya are the major Jute producing states.

**11.Name the crop which is used both as food and fodder? What are the Geographical conditions required for its growth. Name the major areas of its production?**

**Ans. Introduction:** Maize is a crop which is used both as food and fodder. It is Kharif crop.

- **Climate:** 140 frost free days
- **Soil Type:** It grows well in old alluvial soil.
- **Temperature:** It requires temperature between 210 C to 270C .
- **Rainfall:** annual rainfall between 60 to 120 cm
- **Areas of Cultivation:** In some states like Bihar maize is grown in Rabi season also. Use of modern inputs such as HYV seeds, fertilizers and irrigation have contributed to the increasing production of maize. Major maize producing states are Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar.

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# Case-Based Questions

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# 1. Read the source given below and answer the following questions:

Globalisation is not a new phenomenon. It was there at the time of colonisation. In the nineteenth century when European traders came to India, at that time too, Indian spices were exported to different countries of the world and farmers of south India were encouraged to grow these crops. Till today it is one of the important items of export from India. During the British period cotton belts of India attracted the British and ultimately cotton was exported to Britain as a raw material for their textile industries. Cotton textile industry in Manchester and Liverpool flourished due to the availability of good quality cotton from India. You have read about the Champaran movement which started in 1917 in Bihar. This was started because farmers of that region were forced to grow indigo on their land because it was necessary for the textile industries which were located in Britain. They were unable to grow foodgrains to sustain their families. Under globalisation, particularly after 1990, the farmers in India have been exposed to new challenges. Despite being an important producer of rice, cotton, rubber, tea, coffee, jute and spices, our agricultural products are not able to compete with the developed countries because of the highly subsidised agriculture in those countries. Today, Indian agriculture finds itself at the crossroads. To make agriculture successful and profitable, proper thrust should be given to the improvement of the condition of marginal and small farmers. The green revolution promised much. But today it's under controversies. It is being alleged that it has caused land degradation due to overuse of chemicals, drying aquifers and vanishing biodiversity. The keyword today is "gene revolution", which includes genetic engineering.

Answer the following MCQs by choosing the most appropriate option.

(i) What do you understand by 'gene revolution'?

- (a) white revolution
- (b) green revolution
- (c) genetic engineering
- (d) all the above

(ii) What was grown in Champaran?

- (a) Indigo
- (b) Cotton
- (c) Jute
- (d) all the above



(iii) In the 19th century which concept was not new?

- (a) liberalisation
- (b) Democracy
- (c) Globalisation
- (d) None of the above

(iv) Cotton textile industry in\_\_\_\_\_and Liverpool flourished due to the availability of good quality cotton from India.

- (a) Boston
- (b) Manchester
- (c) California
- (d) New York

## 2. Read the source given below and answer the questions that follows:

The main characteristic of this type of farming is the use of higher doses of modern inputs, eg high yielding variety (HYV) seeds, chemical fertilisers, insecticides and pesticides in order to obtain higher productivity. The degree of commercialisation of agriculture varies from one region to another For example, rice is a commercial crop in Haryana and Punjab, but in Odisha, it is a subsistence crop Plantation is also a type of commercial farming. In this type of farming, a single crop is grown on a large area. The plantation has an interface of agriculture and industry. Plantations cover large tracts of land. using capital intensive inputs, with the help of migrant labourers All the produce is used as raw material in respective industries. In India, tea, coffee, rubber, sugarcane, banana, etc., are important plantation crops: Tea in Assam and North Bengal coffee in Karnataka are some of the important plantation crops grown in these states. Since the production is mainly for market, a well developed network of transport and communication connecting the plantation areas, processing industries and markets plays an important role in the development of plantations

Answer the following MCQs by choosing the most appropriate option.



(i) Which one of the following is the example of plantation agriculture?

- (a) Jute
- (b) Wheat
- (c) Tea
- (d) Oilseeds

(ii) Which of the following describes a system of agriculture, where a single crop is grown on

- (a) Shifting agriculture
- (b) Plantation agriculture
- (c) Horticulture
- (d) Intensive agriculture

(iii) Which of the following crops is the main source of jaggery, khandsari and molasses?

- (a) Arhar
- (b) Coconut
- (c) Linseed
- (d) Sugarcane

(iv) Which one of the following crops is a beverage crop?

- (a) Tea
- (b) Cotton
- (c) Wheat
- (d) Bajra

## ANSWERS

- 1.)(i) c  
(ii) b  
(iii) a  
(iv) b

- 2)(i) c  
(ii) b  
(iii) d  
(iv) a



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# MAP based Questions

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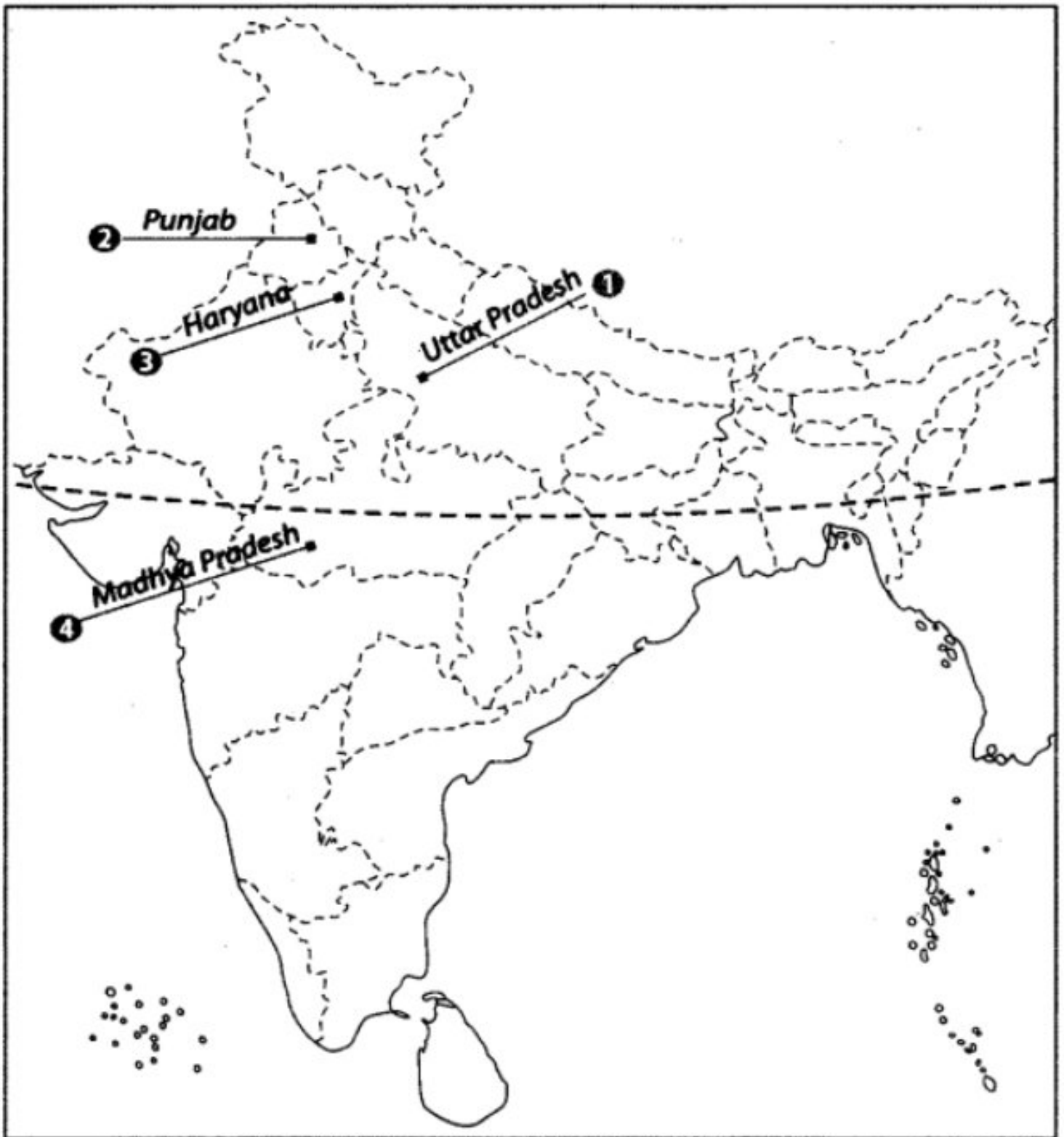


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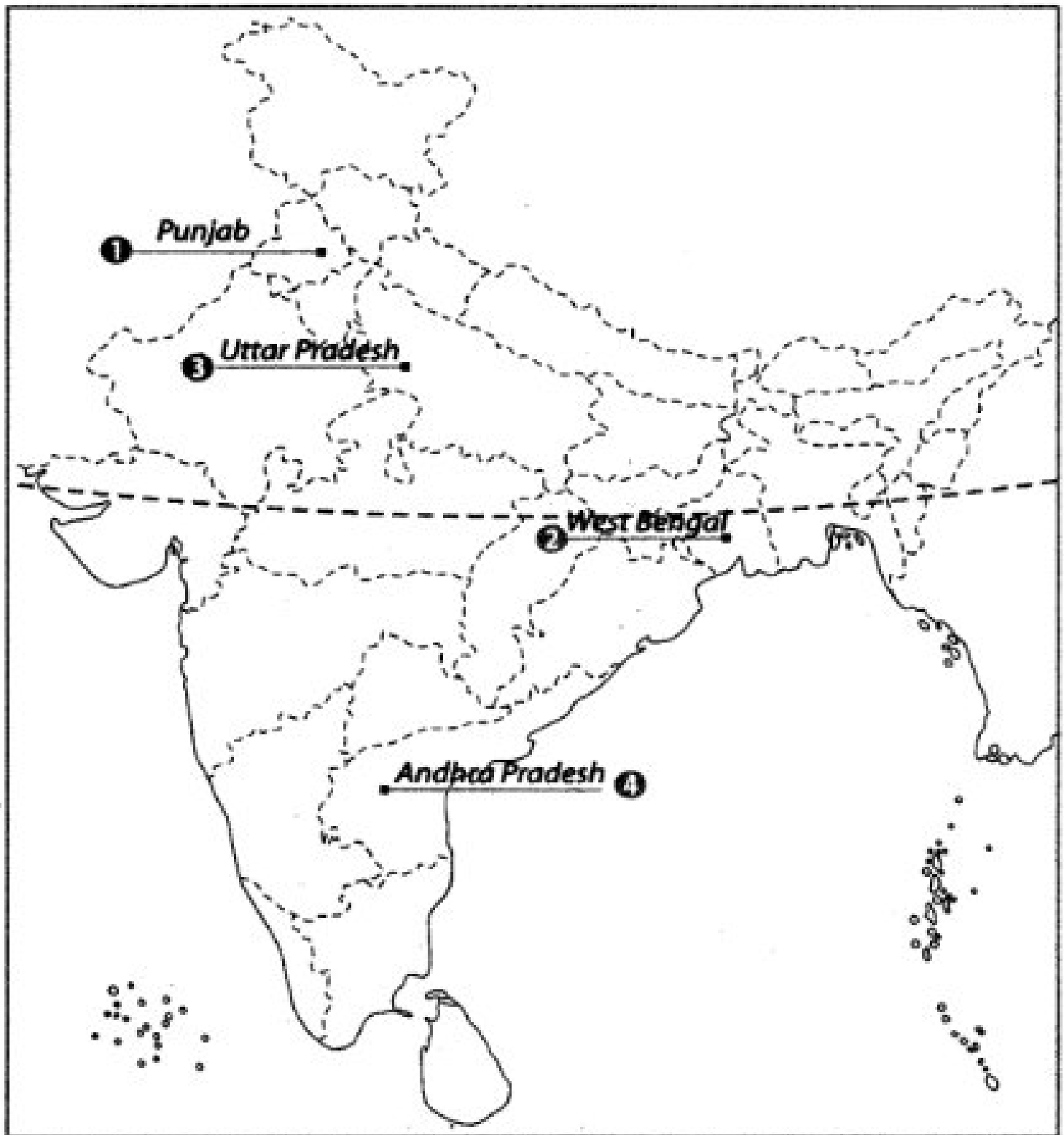
Question 1. On the given political map of India, four leading wheat-growing states of India are marked by 1, 2, 3 and 4. Identify these and write their correct names on the line drawn against each in the given map.

Answer



Question 2. On the given political map of India, four leading rice-growing states of India are marked by 1, 2, 3 and 4 Identify these and write their correct names on the line drawn against each in the given map.

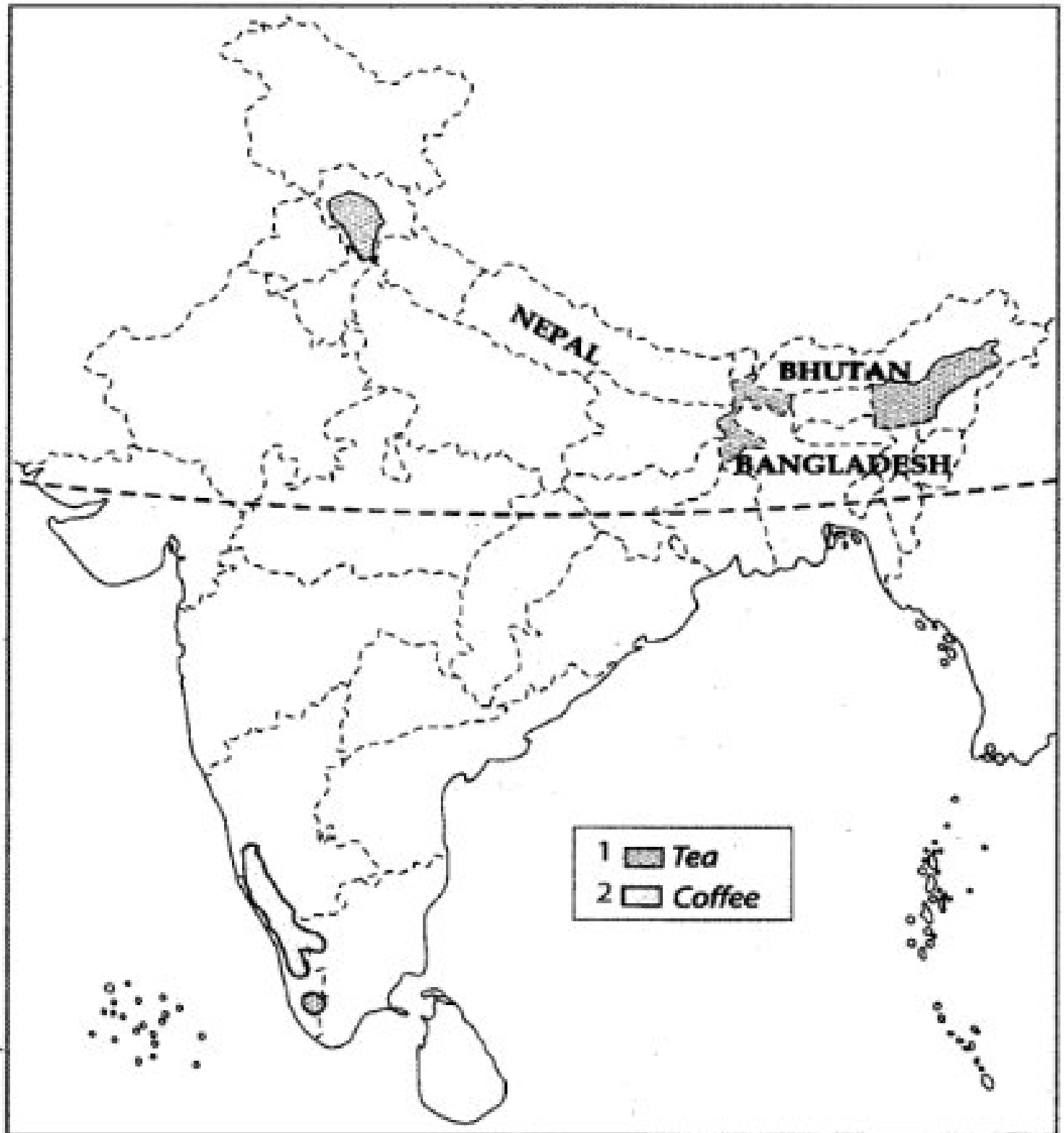
Answer



Question 3. Locate and label the following items on the given map with appropriate symbols

1. Tea producing regions
2. Coffee producing regions

Answer

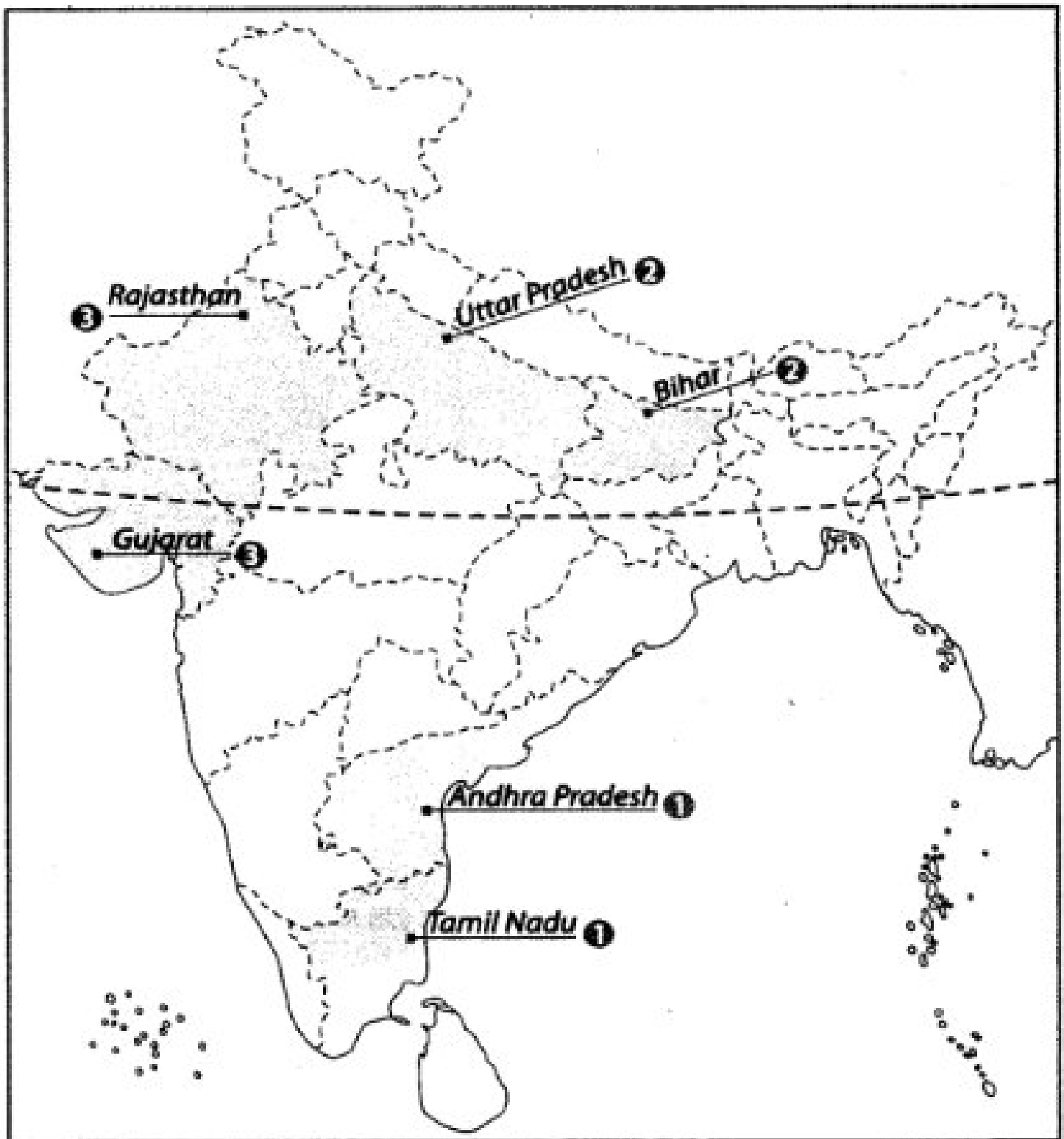




Question 4. Locate and label the following items on the given map with appropriate symbols.

1. Any two jowar producing states of India
2. Any two maize producing states of India
3. Any two bajra producing states of India

Answer



Question 5. Features are marked by a number in the given political map of India. Identify these features with the help of the following information and write their correct names on the lines marked in the map.

1. A beverage crop-producing state [CBSE 2011]
2. The leading jute or Golden Fibre producing state [CBSE 2011,10]
3. Leading coffee producing state [CBSE 2011, 10]
4. Major sugarcane producing state [CBSE 2010]

Answer

