

## AGRICULTURE IN NEW ENGLAND.

New England is collective name given to the six North Eastern united states.

- ✓ Maine
- ✓ New Hampshire
- ✓ Vermont
- ✓ Massachusetts
- ✓ Rhode island
- ✓ Connecticut

The region is bordered on the west by New York, on the north by Canada, on the East by the Atlantic ocean and on the south by long island.

## MAIN PHYSICAL FEATURES OF NEW ENGLAND.

The low land extends along the coast of Maine and consists mainly of gently sloping hills, numerous lakes, swamps and sand beaches.

✓ Drainage. There are numerous rivers and streams in New England, the largest is river Connecticut which rises in North Eastern New Hampshire and flows southwards

Other important rivers include Kennebec. The largest lake in the region is Lake Champlain.

✓ Climate. The northern New England States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont have a humid Continental climate with short cool summer and long cold winters. The southern New England States of Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island have a humid Continental climate with long hot Summers and cold winters. Precipitation throughout most of New England is moderate average of 1000–1500mm per annum snowfall in the Appalachian mountains exceeds 2500mm annually.

✓ Vegetation. Before the arrival of the European settlers about 90% of New England was covered by forests with hemlock species. These forests were rapidly cleared for timber and to create room for farm land. Today it's on the northern mountains regions is still heavily forested with spruce and fir tree species.

## MARKET GARDENING.

This refers to the growing of fruits and vegetables for the selling but near marketing centres.

Characteristics of market gardening

- ✓ it specializes in the growing of fruits and vegetables.
- ✓ there is use of fertilizers to maintain the soil fertility.
- ✓ some irrigation is carried out onto the crops.
- ✓ it requires highly skilled labor.
- ✓ application of mechanisation.
- ✓ the farms are near market centres.
- ✓ it requires advanced technology e.g green house system.
- ✓ it requires a lot of capital to purchase fertilizers.

## LIVESTOCK REARING/ FARMING IN NEW England.

Livestock farming in New England is carried out on ranches in areas like Boston, Massachusetts, New Port. However livestock is also frequently raised/kept on irrigated pasture. Cattle ranching and dairy farming is the is the important activity in some of the dry and sparsely populated areas. Livestock is kept for dairy and beef products.

## FACTORS OR CONDITIONS WHICH HAVE FAVOURED THE DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH OF AGRICULTURAL SECTOR/LIVESTOCK REARING/ARABLE FARMING/MARKET GARDENING IN NEW England.

### Physical factors.

\* Existence of water bodies around Californiae.g lake Champlain,river Connecticut which provide water for irrigation in the agricultural centres like Boston, Connecticut.

\* Cool temperature in New England which attract settlements that provide labour in agricultural sector.

\* Variety of valuable and commerical agriculture products in New England e.g animals and crops which has helped agriculture industry to compete on world market.

- \* Large extensive land in New England e.g in Boston which is used to set up farms in the agricultural sector.

- \* Reliable rainfall in New England which favours the growth of crops and pasture for animals to feed on.

- \* Gentle relief in agricultural areas in e.g in Connecticut which favour the setting up of agricultural farm structures.

- \* Fertile alluvial soils in agricultural areas in New England eg Connecticut which favour the growth of crops and pasture for animals to feed on.

### **Human factors.**

- \* Skilled labour in New England e.g farmers ,farm managers who have helped to do work in agricultural farms.

- \* Sufficient capital in New England e.g from government and investors which has been used to pay workers,taxes and buying machines used in agricultural sector.

- \* Efficient and reliable transport networks in New England e.g,roads which are used to connect agriculture centres to market areas.

- \* Favourable and supportive government policy in New England e.g provision of loans to Farmers, provision of farming land which has helped to attract investors and market to Agriculture industry.

- \* Presence of wide and ready market in New England e.g domestic and international levels eg Europe, Asia which has helped to buy agricultural products.

- \* Advanced and modern technology in New England e.g use of tractors which has simplified work and production in agricultural farms.

- \* Sufficient power supply in New England e.g HEP generated from rivers like r.sacramento which is used to run machines on agricultural farms.

- \* Intensive agricultural research in New England e.g on market control,pest and disease controlwhich has helped to improve on quality of agricultural production.

- \* Political stability in New England e.g police that keep law and order which has attracted investors and market to set up modern agricultural farms.

- \* Presence of many agro based industries in New England eg food processing industries which help to process agricultural priduces into quality products.

- \* Presence of agricultural cooperative in New England which help farmers to access loans and market

- \* Modern advertisements in New England e.g through internet which has helped to attract market and investors to the agricultural sector.

## **CONTRIBUTIONS/IMPORTANCE/BENEFITS OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW ENGLAND.**

- \* It has provided employment opportunities to the people of New England e.g farmers veterinary doctors, farm Managers, drivers which has earned them income.

- \* Agricultural sector has provided raw materials to industries e.g agro based industries which has been used to manufacture other products e.g juice,butter.

- \* It has generated revenue to the government of New England which has been used to development infrastructures like roads, schools and hospitals.

- \* Agriculture industry has promoted infrastructural developments in New England e.g school roads which have improved standards of living in New England.

- \* It promoted diversification of the economy in New England e.g setting up of agriculture centres national wide which has reduced on over depending on few sectors in New England.

- \*Agricultural sector has promoted urbanisation in New England e.g through infrastructural developments like roads this has led to development in the country.

- \* It has promoted foreign exchange and currency in New England e.g with Europe, Asia which has helped to settle international debts and infrastructural developments.

- \* Agricultural industry has promoted international relations through trade between New England with others like Europe Asia which has helped to promote peace and unity in the region.

- \* It has provided market to others sectors in New England e.g engineering industry which has helped others sectors earn income for development.

- \* Agricultural industry has promoted the development of others sectors within the economy in New England e.g tourism which has encouraged development in New England.

- \* It has promoted education and research e.g Universities and colleges in New England which has helped students to acquire knowledge and skills about agriculture Field.

\* Agricultural industry has provided food to the people of New England e.g fish which helped them to improve on their balanced diet in form of proteins.

## **PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES FACED BY AGRICULTURE IN NEW ENGLAND..**

\* Exhaustion of soil due to monoculture.

\* Unfavorable climatic conditions e.g winter which interrupts agricultural activities hence limiting production.

\* Competition from other countries dealing in agricultural products e.g Europe Asia which leads the sector to losses and limits production.

\* High costs of transport in New England due to perishable nature of agricultural products e.g in aeroplane to European market this has discouraged transportation of products.

\* Limited skilled labour in agricultural sector this has made work and production difficult in New England agricultural sector.

\* Unsupportive government policy e.g high taxation in New England which has discouraged investors and market to agricultural sector.

\* Occurrence of accidents while carrying out agricultural activities in New England which has caused injuries and death hence discouraging production.

\* Political instability especially strikes among farmers which has discouraged investors and market to agricultural sector.

\* Labour migration to other sectors e.g mining which has slowed and discouraged the agricultural activities.

\* Low levels of technology e.g duplicated fertilizers which make work and production difficult in agricultural sector.

\* Competition within the economy with other sectors e.g mining which leads to underfunding of agricultural sector by the government and labor migration hence limiting production.

\* Soil infertility caused by soil erosion this has also led to low production of agricultural products in New England.

\* Pest and diseases which attacks crops and animals leading to low yields and low production.

## **WAYS OF IMPROVING OR SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS FACED BY AGRICULTURE IN NEW England.**

\*Mechanisation such as use of machines should be used to solve the problem of shortage of skilled labour.

\*Application of fertilizers to improve soil fertility.

\*Use of protective equipments like helmets and gum Boots to minimize the occurrence of accidents on farms.

\*Practicing of mixed farming to over come soil exhaustion.

\*Construction of modern transport networks to easy the transportation of agriculture products to market centres.

\*Modern advertisements to compete on the world market with other countries.

\*Use of advanced technology to solve the problem of low levels of technology.

\*Intensive research on agricultural issues to improve on the quality of production and getting of market.

\* Improvement on workers conditions in agricultural farms to solve the problem of labor migration to other sectors.

\* Intensive modern advertisements through internet to access market for agricultural products.

## **PROBLEM RESULTING OR CAUSED BY THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR TO THE HUMAN AND PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT IN NEW England.**

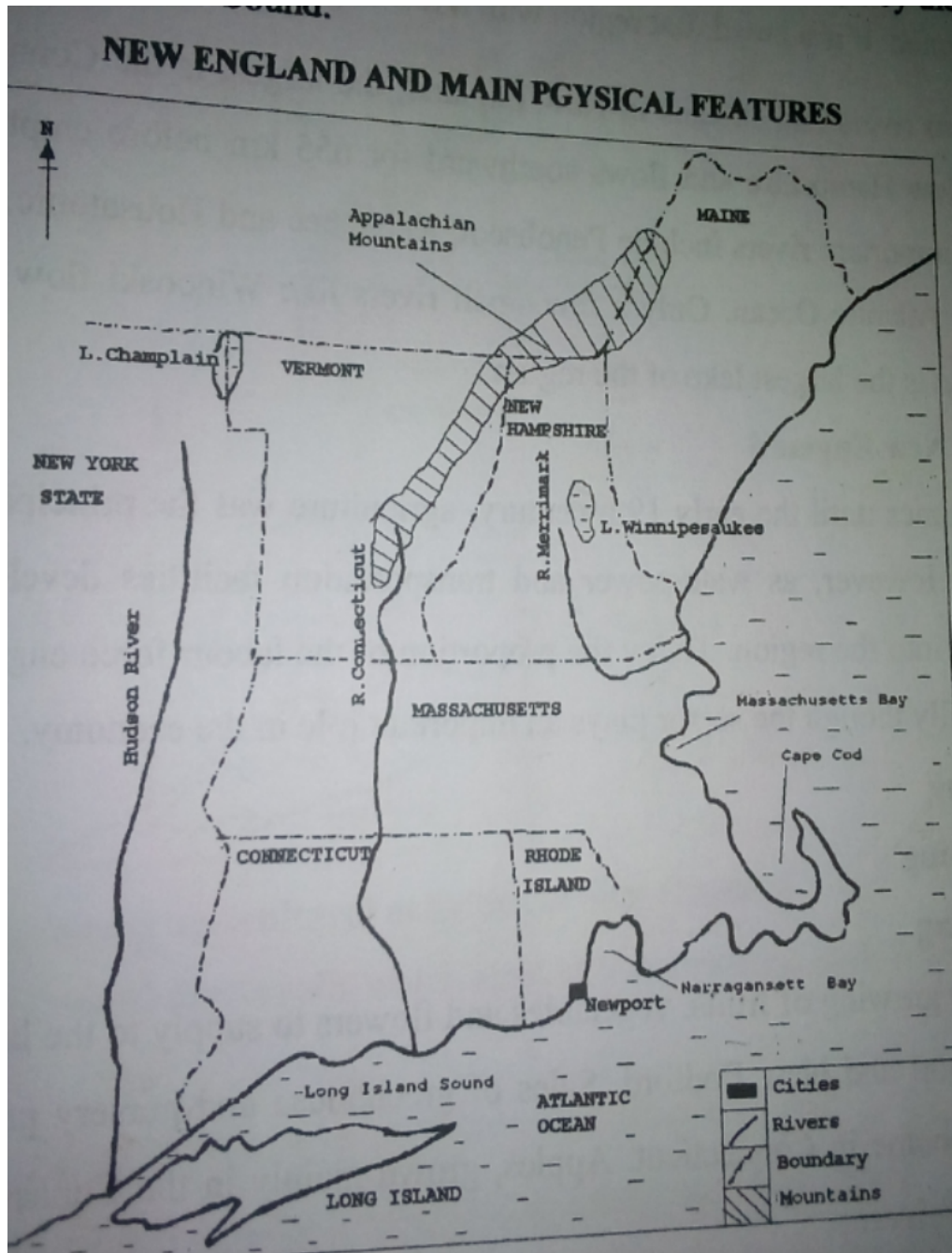
### **Problems on the Human environment.**

- ✓ Accidents occurrence during farming leading to injuries and loss of lives.
- ✓ Labour migration in other sectors leading to labor shortage in other sectors eg fishing.
- ✓ rural urban migration which leads to over population in the agricultural towns.
- ✓ Displacement of people leading to creation of unplanned settlements eg slums.
- ✓ Regional imbalance in the country which leaves agricultural towns more developed than other towns without agricultural activities.
- ✓ urban related problems like prostitution which increase high crime rates in agricultural towns.
- ✓ profit repatriation by foreigners since they own majority of the extensive farms which leaves the country underdeveloped.

### **Problems on the Physical environment.**

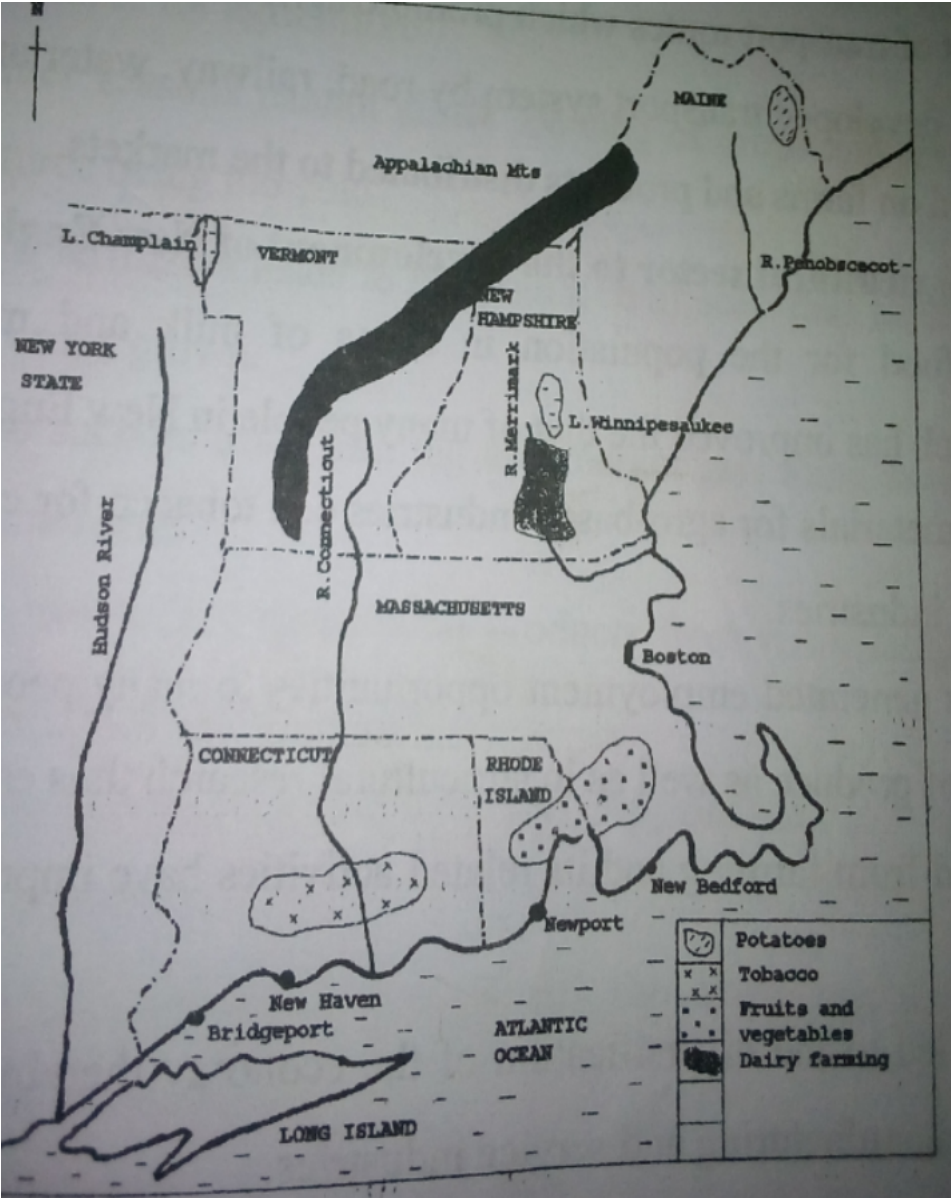
- ✓ Pollution by agricultural industries in form of air,water, sound and land pollution which cause diseases to the living organisms in the environment.
- ✓ Exhaustion of soil due to over production.eg monoculture.
- ✓ Destruction of natural vegetation to set up farms that leads to increased soil erosion, global warming.
- ✓ Application of pesticides and insecticides kills soil organisms which leads to soil infertility.

SKETCH MAP OF NEW ENGLAND.





A SKETCH MAP OF NEW ENGLAND SHOWING MAJOR AGRICULTURAL REGIONS.



# New England

