

2.2 The Sower

ICE BREAKERS

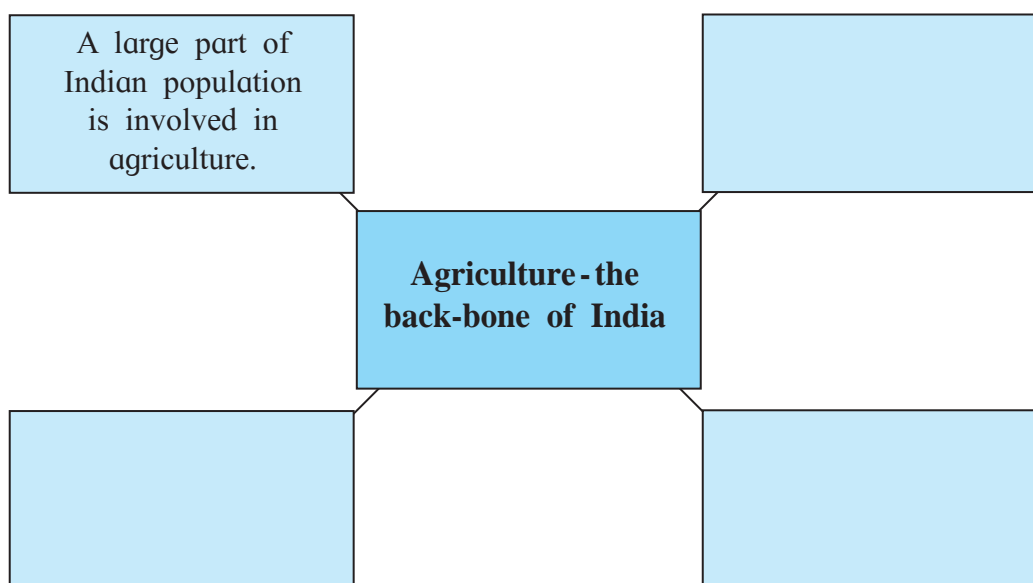
- (i) Make a list of words related to agriculture.
- (ii) Discuss the activities carried out by a farmer.

ploughing → → →

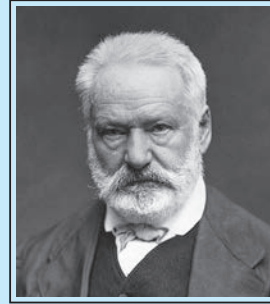
- (i) In our country engineering, teaching and medical fields are much sought after. Other professions, occupations, though they make a significant contribution to the society, do not get their due.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| (a) Farmer | highly unpredictable economic gains |
| (b) Conservancy workers | |
| (c) | |
| (d) | |
| (e) | |

- (ii) 'Agriculture is the backbone of the Indian economy'. Fill in the boxes supporting this statement. Complete the following web diagram.



Victor Hugo: Poet, novelist and dramatist of the 19th century was the most important of the French Romantic writers. Though regarded in France as one of the country's greatest poets, he is better known for novels as *Notre-Dame de Paris* (1831) and *Les Miserables* (1862).



Torulata Dutt: A Bengali poet, also known as Toru, wrote in English and French, was born on 4th March 1856 in Kolkata. She is considered to be the first Indian poetess to write verses in English and French. She translated dozens of poems and completed a novel before her death at the age of 21. Her poems such as 'Seeta', 'Lotus' and 'Our Casuarina Tree' are well-loved.



'The Sower' is a translation of Victor Hugo's poem, *Saison des Semailles: Le Soir*. It is translated by Toru Dutt from French to English. 'The Sower' is a poem about a farmer who is sowing seeds. He has seen many bad harvests in his life. However he is so optimistic of having a good harvest every time he tosses grain.

porchway - a veranda or a covered shelter in front of a building

Twilight hastens on to rule.

Explain in your own words.

well-nigh - almost but not completely or exactly, just about

sower - the person who plants the seeds

lingers - hangs around, remains

silhouette - shape, outline of someone against a brighter background

furrows - line, trench, channel

The word 'Marches' suggests...

muse - rest in thought, reflect

stride - walk with long steps

august - noble, dignified, impressive

The Sower

Sitting in a **porchway** cool,
Sunlight, I see, dying fast,
Twilight **hastens** on to rule.

Working hours have **well-nigh** past.

Shadows run across the lands:

But a **sower** **lingers** still,
Old, in rags, he patient stands.

Looking on, I feel a thrill.
Black and high, his **silhouette**
Dominates the **furrows** deep!

Now to sow the task is set.
Soon shall come a time to reap.
Marches he along the plain
To and fro, and scatters wide
From his hands the precious grain;

Muse I, as I see him **stride**.
Darkness deepens. Fades the light.
Now his gestures to mine eyes
Are **august**; and strange; his height
Seems to touch the starry skies.

- Toru Dutt

BRAINSTORMING

- (A1) There are a number of challenges a farmer in India faces. Discuss with your friend, how it is possible to improve the condition of farmers.

Sr.No.	Challenges	Solutions
1.	Water Scarcity	Rainwater harvesting
2.	Credit and Indebtedness	
3.	Land Issues	
4.	Climatic changes	
5.	Social groups	
6.	Lack of advanced technology	
7.	Diversification	
8.	Market risks	

- (A2) The poet has observed the sower closely. Express in your own words the reverence the poet has for the sower.

- (A3) The poet is prompted to call the sower an 'august personality', which means one who has reached the highest position in his workplace.

Explain this using the following points.

- Hard work
- Perseverance
- Dedication

- (A4) (i) Pick out the examples of alliteration from the poem and write them down.

- (ii) 'Seems to touch the starry skies'. The poet has used word imagery. Describe the idea and pick out other similar examples from the poem.

- (A5) (i) Write an appreciation of the poem considering the following points:

- About the poem/poet/title
- Theme
- Poetic devices, language, style
- Special features/novelties/focussing elements
- Values, message
- Your opinion about the poem

- (ii) Write a summary of the poem using the following points:

- Title
- Introductory paragraph (about the poem, type, nature, tone)

- Main body (the central idea, gist of the poem)
- Conclusion (opinion, views, appeal)

(iii) Compose a poem on a farmer in 4 to 6 lines in continuation of the following.

He sweats
 He does not fret
 He sows
 To the soil he bows

(A6) Imagine that you are a farmer from a drought-prone area. Write a letter to a newspaper editor, discuss the problems and suggest possible solutions.

(A7) Agriculture is the principal occupation in Maharashtra and it has many career opportunities.

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|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| (a) Agriculture Correspondent | (b) Marketing Communications Manager |
| (c) Agricultural Policy Analyst | (d) Farm Management |
| (e) Soil Conservationist | (f) Scientist- Krishi Vigyan Kendra |
| (g) Machine Design Engineer | (h) Zoologist |
| (i) Veterinarian | (j) Food Microbiologist |
| (k) Horticulturist | (l) Agricultural Economics |

Write in brief about the various career opportunities given above. You can collect the information from the following universities.

1. Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur
2. Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Pune
3. Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola

(A8) Project:

Visit your college library or use the web and collect information on ‘Green Revolution’ and ‘White Revolution’ in our country.
