



Question-61

Why is food Security is a big concern for the small farmers?

Solution:

- (1) Free power to a certain section of farmers has encourage them to pump ground water and grow water intensive crops in low rain fall areas also (like rice in Punjab and sugarcane in Maharashtra). As a result water storage has reduced in aquifers tube wells and many wells has run dry, which has pushed small and marginal farmers out of cultivation.
- (2) Inadequate storage and marketing facilities also discourage the small farmers. Thus they are badly affected by uncertainties of production and market.
- (3) They pay high prices for inputs like H.Y.V seeds; fertilizers etc., but the bargaining power to fix prices in their favour, is very less
- (4) All the production reaches the market simultaneously. The higher the supply, the lower the demand. Due to all the above given reason the food scarcity of small farmers is a big concern.

Question-62

Give four measures to increase agricultural production.

Solution:

- (1) Each district and block can be made self sufficient in food grain production if government provides proper agricultural infrastructure that is availability of electricity, irrigation facilities, good roads, building etc.
- (2) Providing loan facilities on lower interest to cultivator.
- (3) Encouraging latest techniques in agricultural and instead of concentrating on rice or wheat, the food crop with a better growth potential in that particular area must be encouraged.
- (4) Attract foreign investment in agriculture and also free trade in grains which will not only increase agricultural production but will also create massive employment and reduce poverty in rural areas.

Question-63

Mention the government of India's efforts to modernize agriculture.

Solution:

- (1) Establishment of Indian council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), agricultural universities veterinary services and animal breeding centers.
- (2) Horticulture development research and development in the field of metrology and weather forecast etc - have been given priority for improving India's agriculture.
- (3) Improvement in the rural infrastructure, the basic system the country needs in order to work properly (i.e) transport, communication and banking system.
- (4) Encouragement to the care of machines and chemical fertilizers, development of high yielding varieties of seeds.
- (5) The government has launched various schemes to protect and save plants from pests and diseases.
- (6) Development of various kinds of tools and implements like factors, harvesters, thrashers etc. have led to increased population and time, minimize chances of wastage, fire and rain destroying the grains lying in the few fields.

Question-64

Give the main objectives of food security policy of government of

India. What is the role of FCI?

Solution:

- (1) The primary objective of India's food security policy is to ensure availability of food grains to the common people at affordable price.
- (2) The focus of the Policy is on growth in agricultural production and on fixing the support price of wheat and rice.
- (3) To maintain the stocks of wheat, rice and other food grains Organizations the FCI that is food Corporation of India is responsible for procuring and stocking food grain whereas the distribution is ensured by public distribution.

Question-65

What factors have hindered the pace of agricultural development in India?

Solution:

- (1) In spite of development of source of irrigation, most of the farmers still depend upon monsoons.
- (2) Farmers still depend on natural fertilizer and manures and therefore the land does not gain fertility.
- (3) Indian farmers are still using outdated tools and implements and have not implemented the use of modern farming machinery.
- (4) They are still using traditional methods of farming and have not made use of new technique of farming, technical and institutional reforms.
- (5) Division of land after every generation has led to fragments, small holdings of the land and smallholdings which have become uneconomic.

Question-66

Which crop is known as golden fibre? Describe the geographical requirements for its growth, and name the major states producing it.

Solution:

- (1) Jute is known as the golden fibre.
- (2) Geographical requirements: -
 - (a) Well drained fertile soils in the flood plains where soils are renewed every year.
 - (b) High temperature during the time of growth.

Question-67

Why is the production of pulses and oil seeds still lagging behind?

Solution:

- (1) Though the production of oil seeds and pulses is rising but the population is growing at a greater pace.
- (2) The production of pulses and oil seeds is subject to fluctuation and market speculations.
- (3) They need HYV seeds for high productivity, assured irrigation and chemical fertilizers, which are costly, and India farmers cannot afford them.
- (4) Their support price is not attractive.

Question-68

Name the major challenges faced by the Indian farmers today?

Solution:

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Question-69

What are the implications of growing population on Indian

farming?

Solution:

Following are the implications of growing population on farming:

- (1) Almost every step has been taken to increase food production and now there is very little scope for increasing it further.
- (2) India's population is increasing at an alarming rate. Whatever has been advised so far in food production would soon be neutralized by this ever growing population.

Question-70

How has agriculture contributed to the national Income and employment?

Solution:

- (1) Agriculture has been the backbone of Indian economy. It provides employment and livelihood to nearly 63% of India's population (In 2001).
- (2) Two thirds of India's population is engaged in agricultural activities.
- (3) Agriculture is a primary activity which produces most of the food that we consume. Besides food grains, it also produces raw materials for many industries. Some agricultural products like tea, coffee, spices etc are exported and they bring in foreign exchange for the country.

Question-71

What are the 3 main problems faced by Indian farmers today?

Solution:

The problems faced by the Indian farmers are :-

- (1) There is lack of availability of water for irrigation.
- (2) Most of the farmers have small holdings which are uneconomical.
- (3) The high yielding variety of seeds, chemical fertilizers, insecticides, pesticides etc are expensive and our farmers find it difficult to purchase these.
- (4) The soil is losing its fertility; due to soil erosion, absence of good forests.
- (5) Our farmers have to take heavy loans. Therefore, to payback these, they are compelled to sell their produce at cheap rates.

Question-72

Who introduced tea in India? Why do we say that tea is a labour intensive industry? Where is it mostly produced? Name the major tea producing states.

Solution:

- (1) The British introduced tea to India.
- (2) Tea is labour intensive industry because it requires abundant, cheap and skilled labour.
- (3) Tea is generally processed within the tea gardens to restore its freshness.
- (4) Major tea producing states are - Assam, hills of Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala. Besides, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Meghalaya, Andhra Pradesh and Tripura are also tea producing states.

Question-73

Mention the important millets grown in India. Which of them is the 3rd most important crop with respect to area and production? What is the importance of millets? Give examples.

Solution:

- (1) Jowar, bajra and ragi are the most important millets of India.
- (2) Jowar is the 3rd most important crop with respect to area and production.
- (3) Importance - Millets have high nutritional value. For example, Ragi is very rich in iron, calcium, other micro-nutrients and roughage.

Question-74

Give the second most important cereal crop of India? When is it grown? What is the temperature, soil, rainfall, and irrigation required for its production?

Solution:

- (1) Wheat is the second most important cereal crop of India.
- (2) This is a rabi crop, its sown in winter from October to December.
- (3) It requires a cool growing season and a bright sunshine at the time of ripening.
- (4) Requires 50 to 75 cms of annual rainfall, evenly distributed over growing seasons or irrigation facilities.

Question-75

Why has Indian agriculture been transformed from subsistence to commercial farming.

Solution:

Before independence Indian agriculture was mainly that of subsistence farming, but now it has changed to commercial farming. The reasons are -

- (1) The small and scattered land holdings have been consolidated and converted to large holding and ploughed on cooperative basis.
 - (2) The farmers have started using modern techniques of farming and scientific methods; also they have started use of fertilizers and high yielding varieties of seeds and farm machinery.
 - (3) Irrigation methods have improved, resulting in increased soil fertility.
 - (4) New methods of agriculture like rotation of crops, inter cropping, strip cropping, multiple cropping, have been adopted for better results.
 - (5) As a result of production of wheat, rice, sugarcane, millets etc spices, cotton, jute, tea etc has increased many times.
- Due to all these reasons Indian agriculture is shifting from subsistence to commercial farming.

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