

Chapter 4: Agriculture – CBSE Notes

◆ 1. Importance of Agriculture

✓ **CBSE Focus:** *Why is agriculture important in India?*

- **Two-thirds** of India's population is engaged in agriculture.
- Provides **food, raw material** for industries (cotton, sugar, etc.).
- Some crops are also **exported** (tea, coffee, spices).

◆ 2. Types of Farming

✓ **Frequently Asked:** *Describe types of farming with examples.*

a. Primitive Subsistence Farming:

- Uses **basic tools** (hoe, dao), depends on **monsoon & soil fertility**.
- Called '**slash and burn**' or **shifting cultivation**.
- Low productivity; no use of fertilizers.
- Known as:
 - *Jhumming* – NE India,
 - *Podu* – Andhra Pradesh,
 - *Khil* – Himalayan region,
 - *Kuruwa* – Jharkhand, etc.

b. Intensive Subsistence Farming:

- **Labour-intensive**, small landholdings, uses **irrigation & inputs**.
- Found in **densely populated areas** (UP, Bihar, West Bengal).

c. Commercial Farming:

- **HYV seeds, chemical fertilizers, pesticides** used.
- Example: **Punjab** – Rice (commercial), **Odisha** – Rice (subsistence).

d. Plantation Farming:

- Large-scale, **single crop**, e.g. tea, coffee, banana.
- Capital-intensive, uses **migrant labour**.
- Requires **transport, processing units, market linkages**.

◆ 3. Cropping Seasons in India

✓ **Repeated Board Question:** *Explain Rabi, Kharif, and Zaid seasons.*

Season	Time	Major Crops	States
Rabi	Oct–Dec (sow) to Apr–Jun (harvest)	Wheat, barley, mustard, gram	Punjab, Haryana, UP, HP
Kharif	June (monsoon) to Oct	Rice, jowar, bajra, maize, cotton	WB, Assam, Odisha, AP, TN
Zaid	Summer between Rabi & Kharif	Watermelon, cucumber, fodder	All India (small patches)

◆ 4. Major Food Crops

a. Rice:

✓ **Frequently Asked:** *Geographical conditions for rice*

- Kharif crop; needs **25°C+**, high humidity, **>100 cm rainfall**.
- Grown in: WB, Assam, Odisha, coastal TN, Bihar, and with irrigation in Punjab & Haryana.

b. Wheat:

- Rabi crop; needs **cool growing** period, **bright sunshine** for ripening.
- Rainfall: 50–75 cm.
- Grown in: Punjab, Haryana, UP, MP, Bihar.

c. Millets:

- **Jowar:** Rain-fed, grown in MH, Karnataka, MP.
- **Bajra:** Grows in sandy soil; Rajasthan, Gujarat, UP.
- **Ragi:** Very nutritious; grown in Karnataka, TN, HP.

d. Maize:

- Kharif crop; temp 21–27°C; alluvial soil.
- Now also grown in Rabi (Bihar).
- Grown in: Karnataka, MP, UP, AP, Bihar.

e. Pulses:

- India: largest **producer & consumer**.
- Crops: Arhar, moong, urad, gram, lentil.
- Needs less moisture; **fixes nitrogen**.
- Grown in MP, Rajasthan, Maharashtra.

◆ 5. Non-Grain Food Crops

a. Sugarcane:

- Tropical crop; requires **hot, humid climate**, 21–27°C, 75–100 cm rainfall.
- Long growing season (~1 year).
- Grown in UP, MH, Karnataka, AP, TN.

b. Oilseeds:

- Groundnut (kharif), mustard (rabi), sunflower, sesame.
- Used for cooking and industries.
- Gujarat, Rajasthan, TN – Groundnut leaders.

◆ 6. Beverage Crops

a. Tea:

✓ **Common CBSE Question:** *Conditions for tea growth*

- Warm, humid, rainfall throughout year, **well-drained soil**.
- Labour-intensive; processed on site.
- Assam, Darjeeling (WB), TN, Kerala – top producers.

b. Coffee:

- **Arabica** variety – high quality.
- First grown in Baba Budan Hills.
- Karnataka, Kerala, TN – major areas.

◆ 7. Horticulture & Fibre Crops

a. Fruits & Vegetables:

- India: 2nd largest producer after China.
- Mango: MH, UP, WB; Banana: TN, MH; Grapes: MH, AP; Apple: HP, J&K.

b. Cotton:

✓ **Repeated:** *Geographical conditions for cotton*

- Grows in **black soil**, dry area; needs **sunshine**, temp above 21°C.
- Kharif crop.
- MH, Gujarat, MP, Telangana.

c. Jute:

- Needs **hot, humid, floodplain**.
- Called "golden fibre".
- WB, Bihar, Assam, Odisha.

d. **Rubber:**

- Needs **200+ cm rainfall**, 25°C+ temp.
- Kerala, TN, Karnataka, Andaman.

◆ **8. Technological & Institutional Reforms**

✓ **Very Common CBSE Long Answer**

Institutional Reforms (Post-Independence):

- Abolition of **Zamindari**, land reforms, consolidation.
- Green Revolution, White Revolution (milk).
- **Grameen banks, Kisan Credit Card**, crop insurance.
- Govt. announces **MSP** (Minimum Support Price), **procurement prices**.

◆ **9. Bhoodan–Gramdan Movement**

- Started by **Vinoba Bhave** after Gandhiji's death.
- **Land donation (Bhoodan)** for poor landless farmers.
- Some landlords donated **entire villages (Gramdan)**.
- Called a **bloodless revolution**.

✓ **CBSE Repeated Topics – Quick Recap**

Topic	Type of Question
Types of Farming	Differentiate or explain
Rabi, Kharif, Zaid	MCQ or short answer
Conditions for rice, wheat, cotton, tea	Very common
Institutional Reforms	5-mark or long answer
Tea or pulses – climate & areas	3-mark questions