

CHAPTER 4:

AGRICULTURE

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INTRODUCTION

- Agriculture is the primary source of livelihood for the majority of people in India. Agriculture is the backbone of the Indian economy, and it employs around 50% of the total workforce. It is an important source of food, raw materials for industry, and foreign exchange earnings for the country.
- India is an agricultural country with a diverse climate and soil types, which support the cultivation of different crops. India has a vast land area with different soil types ranging from fertile alluvial soils to arid desert soils. The country also experiences diverse climatic conditions, which are ideal for the cultivation of different crops.
- In India, agriculture is influenced by monsoon rainfall, soil fertility, irrigation facilities, and availability of credit facilities and market access. Monsoon rainfall is crucial for agriculture in India, as more than 60% of the country's net sown area is rain-fed. Soil fertility and irrigation facilities also play a significant role in crop cultivation. The availability of credit facilities and market access is also important for farmers to invest in their crops and sell them at a reasonable price.
- Crops can be categorized as food crops, commercial crops, and plantation crops. Food crops are those that are consumed by people as food, such as rice, wheat, and pulses. Commercial crops are those that are grown for sale, such as cotton, jute, and sugarcane.

Plantation crops are those that are grown on large estates, such as tea, coffee, and rubber.

- The Green Revolution in India led to an increase in agricultural productivity and the adoption of modern techniques. The Green Revolution was a period of intensive agricultural research and development in India during the 1960s and 1970s, which resulted in the adoption of modern farming techniques, high-yielding crop varieties, and increased use of fertilizers and pesticides. It led to an increase in agricultural productivity and helped to reduce food shortages in the country.
- The government plays an important role in the agricultural sector by providing credit facilities, subsidies, and infrastructure development. The government provides credit facilities to farmers through various schemes, such as Kisan Credit Card, to enable them to invest in their crops. It also provides subsidies on seeds, fertilizers, and irrigation facilities. The government is also responsible for the development of infrastructure, such as irrigation facilities, rural roads, and storage facilities.
- The main problems faced by farmers in India are land degradation, water scarcity, low productivity, and lack of market access. Land degradation is a significant problem in India, and it leads to a decline in soil fertility and crop productivity. Water scarcity is also a major challenge, particularly in areas with low rainfall or inadequate irrigation facilities. Low productivity is a common problem due to the use of traditional farming techniques and low-quality seeds. Lack of market access is another significant issue, as farmers often struggle to find buyers for their produce.