

## 10 Geography: Agriculture- Notes

### Importance of agriculture to Indian economy:

- **Provides livelihood:** Agriculture is the most important primary activity of India. Nearly two thirds of its population is engaged in agriculture.
- **Ensures food security:** It provides food security to our country. It produces most of the food that we consume.
- **Source of raw material:** It also produces raw material for various industries- such as cotton textile industry, sugar industry etc.
- **Helps in Trade:** Some agricultural products like tea , coffee, spices are exported and helps to earn foreign exchange.
- **Contributes to GDP:** Agriculture also contributes to GDP i.e. Gross Domestic Product.

### Farming methods have changed over a period of time depending on:

- Characteristics of physical environment
- Technological know-how
- Socio-cultural practices

### TYPES OF FARMING

Primitive subsistence farming (e.g. shifting agriculture)	Intensive subsistence farming	Commercial farming	Plantation farming
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### FEATURES OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF FARMING

- **PRIMITIVE SUBSISTENCE FARMING**
  - Practiced in few pockets of India
  - Practiced over small patches of land
  - Use of primitive tools such as hoe, dao, digging sticks
  - Family and community labour work in the fields

- Farmer depends on monsoon for irrigation
- No fertilizers used, Farmer depends on the natural fertility of soil and suitability of other environmental conditions
- Yield per hectare is low.

### **Shifting agriculture**

- Also called 'slash and burn' agriculture
- Farmer clears a patch of forest land by felling trees and burning of trunks and branches.
- Produces cereals and other food crops
- When the soil fertility decreases, the farmer shifts and clears a fresh patch of land for cultivation.
- This type of shifting allows nature to replenish the soil through natural processes.
- No fertilizers or modern inputs are used.
- Disadvantages of shifting cultivation –i) deforestation  
ii) air pollution  
iii) soil erosion  
iv) yield/hectare low
- It is known by different names in different parts of the country such as Jhumming in North east India.
- 'Khil' in Himalayan belt. 'Kuruwa' in Jharkhand.
- 'Milpa' in Mexico. 'Roca' in Brazil.

### **INTENSIVE SUBSISTENCE FARMING**

- Practiced in the areas of high population pressure on land.
- Labour intensive
- High doses of modern biochemical inputs used
- Irrigation facilities available
- Size of land holding is small due to the 'law of inheritance'

- Farmer works to obtain 'Maximum output from the limited land'
- Enormous pressure on agricultural land
- Yield per hectare is high

### **COMMERCIAL FARMING**

- Use of modern biochemical inputs such as fertilizers, insecticides etc.
- High yielding varieties of seeds are used
- Production of crops is mainly for profit after selling in the market
- Yield per hectare is high
- Degree of commercialization varies from one region to another.
- For eg. rice is a commercial crop in Haryana and Punjab but subsistence crop in Odisha.

### **PLANTATION AGRICULTURE**

- It is a type of commercial farming
- A single crop is grown on a large area.(eg.tea,coffee,banana etc.)
- It has an interface of agriculture and industry.
- Covers large tracts of land
- Capital intensive methods are used
- Migrant labour works in the field
- All the produce is used as raw material in respective industries.
- Production is mainly for the sale in the market.
- A well-developed network of transport and communication is very important for the development of the plantations.