**Chapter- 4 Agriculture(Part-1)**

**Introduction**: The term ‘agriculture’ has been derived from two Latin words, ‘Ager’ means land or field and ‘cultura’ means cultivation. Agriculture is a primary activity, which produces most of the food that we consume. Besides food grains it also produces raw materials for various industries. Some agricultural products like tea, coffee, spices, etc. are also exported. India is an agriculturally important country. Two-third (66%) of its population is engaged in agricultural activities.

**Types of farming**: Agriculture is an age-old activity in our country. Over these years, cultivation method has changed significantly depending upon the following factors:

1. the characteristics of physical environment,
2. technological know–how and
3. socio – cultural practices.

Farming in India varies from subsistence to commercial type. Subsistence agriculture is one in which the farming areas consume all of the products locally grown. There is little or no surplus.

**The different types of farming practised in different parts of India are**

1. **Primitive Subsistence Farming:**
   a) This type of farming is practised on small patches of land help of primitive tools like hoe, dao and digging sticks and family /community labour.
   b) Farmers clear a patch of land and produce cereals and other food crops to sustain their family. It is ‘slash and burn’ agriculture.
   c) This type of farming depends upon monsoon, natural fertility of the soil.
   d) When the soil looses its fertility farmer shifts to another parts and clears other patch of forest for cultivation. Therefore, this method of farming is also called shifting cultivation.
   e) The land productivity is low because farmers do not use fertilisers and other modern inputs.
   f) This type of farming is still practiced in few pockets of India and is known by different names.

   **Note:** Refer Geography textbook page no. 35(column 2) for different names of shifting cultivation in different states and countries.

2. **Intensive Subsistence Farming:**
   1. This type of farming is practised in areas of high population pressure on land.
   2. It is labour intensive farming.
   3. In this type of farming farmers use high doses of biochemical inputs (fertiliser, insecticides and pesticides) and irrigation for obtaining higher production.
   4. Land holdings are smaller in size and uneconomical.
   5. The farmers continue to take maximum output from the limited land in the absence of alternative source of livelihood.

3. **Commercial Farming:**
   1. This type of farming is practised in areas with low density of population. There is surplus land and scarcity of labour.
   2. The size of the farm is very large.
   3. It is capital intensive farming. It requires a lot of expenditure.
   4. Farmers use high doses of modern inputs(high yielding varieties of seeds, fertilisers, insecticides and pesticides) in order to obtain higher productivity.
   5. The crops are grown for sale.
   6. The entire operations of cultivation from ploughing to harvesting are mechnised.
   7. The degree of commercialisation of agriculture various from one region to another. Plantation is an example of commercial farming.
**Features of Plantation Agriculture:**

1. single crop specialisation
2. large estates or plantations
3. large capital investment, managerial and technical support
4. practised with the help of migrant labourers
5. scientific methods of cultivation
6. good system of transportation
7. produce is used as raw material in respective industries

Examples: Tea, coffee, rubber, sugarcane, banana etc.

**Cropping Pattern:**

1. The physical diversities and plurality of cultures of India are reflected in agricultural practices and cropping pattern in the country.
2. Various types of food and fibre crops, vegetables and fruits, spices are grown in India.
3. India has three cropping seasons – Rabi, Kharif and Zaid.

1. **Rabi season:**
   a) This season starts with the beginning of winter and ends in summer.
   b) Crops are sown in the months of October to December and harvested in April, May and June.
   c) Wheat, barley, peas, gram and mustard are some important rabi crops.
   d) Rabi crops are mostly grown in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

2. **Kharif season:**
   a) This season starts with the onset of monsoon and ends with the beginning of winter.
   b) Crops are sown in June and July and harvested in September and October.
   c) Paddy (rice), maize, jowar, bajra, tur, moong, urad, cotton, jute, groundnut and soyabean are some important crops grown during this season.
   d) Kharif crops are mostly grown in Assam, West Bengal, Odisha, Asndhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

3. **Zaid Season:**
   a) It is a short duration summercropping season.
   b) Crops are sown in the month of April and harvested in June.
   c) The crops produced during this season are watermelon, muskmelon, cucumber, vegetables and fodder crops.

The **three varieties of paddy grown in Assam, West Bengal and Odisha** in a year are:

1) Aus
2) Aman
3) Boro

**Major Crops:** a variety of food and non food crops are grown indifferent parts of India depending upon variations in

i) Soil
ii) Climate
iii) Cultivation practices

The major food crops grown in India are

1) **Cereals:** rice, wheat, maize millets (jowar, bajra and ragi).
2) **Pulses** (leguminous crops): tur(arhar), urad, moong(kharif crops), Masur, peas and gram(rabi crops).
3) **Oil seeds:** groundnut, mustard, coconut, sesnum(til), soyabean, castor seeds, cotton seeds, linseed and sunflower.
4) **Beverage crops:** tea and coffee
5) **Fruits:** mangoes, oranges, bananas, lichi, guava, garpe, pineapple apples (**tropical fruits**), apples, pears, apricots, walnuts (**temperate fruits**)
6) **Vegetables:** cauliflower, onion, cabbage, tomato, potato, brinjal etc. India produces about **13%** of the world’s vegetables.
7) **Fibre crops:** cotton and jute.
8) **Other crops:** sugarcane, rubber, spices etc.
**Geography Assignment: 5**

1. Which one of the following describes a system of agriculture where a single crop is grown on a large area?  
   a) Shifting cultivation  b) Intensive agriculture  c) Horticulture  d) Plantation

2. Which one of the following is a rabi crop?  
   a) Rice  b) Gram  c) Millets  d) Cotton

3. Which one of the following is a leguminous crop?  
   a) Millets  b) Oil seeds  c) Pulses  d) Beverages

4. Which one of the following is a kharif crop?  
   a) Rice  b) Peas  c) Gram  d) None of these

5. Which one of the following crops are grown with the onset of monsoons and harvested in the month of September and October?  
   a) Rabi crop  b) Kharif crop  c) Zaid crop  d) none of these

6. 'Slash and burn' agriculture is a  
   a) Commercial agriculture  b) Intensive subsistence agriculture  c) Primitive subsistence agriculture  d) Plantation agriculture

7. Why is India called an agricultural country?

8. Name two beverage crops grown in India.

9. On what factors does primitive subsistence agriculture depend?

10. Name any two states where three types of paddy are grown in an agricultural year.

11. Distinguish between rabi and kharif cropping seasons in three points.

12. Examine any five characteristic features of intensive subsistence agriculture.