

Land Use and Agriculture

Lesson No.	Title	Activity
22	Land Use and Agriculture	Observe your neighborhood and prepare a list of types of farming practiced in your area.

Meaning

For agriculture, land is a very important resource. For its large area size, and physical and socio-cultural diversities, India has different types of land uses. Agriculture is predominant economic activity in India, engaging nearly three-fifths of its working population. Though the share of agricultural sector in gross domestic product has considerably declined to about one-fourth yet the importance of agriculture as employment provider to workforce especially in the countryside is very high.

General Land Use

Net Sown Area (NSA)

- The total land area on which crops are grown in a region is called **net sown area**.
- The net sown area and the area sown more than once together are called **gross cultivated area**.
- In India, about 47 per cent of total **reporting area** is under the net sown area.

Forest

- The area under forest cover is about 68 million hectares or 22 per cent of the total area in the country.
- For the ecological balance the forest cover should be at least 33 per cent.

Land Not Available for Cultivation

- The land under the settlements, roads, mines and quarries along with barren lands are included in this category.
- About 13 per cent of the total reported area is recorded under this category.

Fallow Lands

- Lands left unused to regain their lost fertility in a natural way is called fallow land.
- Current fallow is the land in which no crop is raised during the current year.
- Old fallow land remains unused for a period of one or more years but not exceeding 5 years.

Cultivable Waste

- It is the land in which crops were raised for some period of time but has not been cultivated for the last five years due to certain deficiencies such as alkalinity and salinity in the soils.
- Such cultivable waste are locally known as *reh*, *bhur*, *usar*, and *khola* in some parts of North India.

Permanent Pastures and Grazing Lands

- India has only less than 4 per cent of the country under pastures and grazing lands.

Agricultural Land Use

- The agricultural land in India is little more than 50 per cent of the total geographical area in the country.
- The agricultural land in India is more than 50 per cent of the total geographical area.
- Per capita arable land is available only 0.17 hectares, which is lower than the world average (0.24 hec).

Types of Farming

Dry Farming

- Practised in the areas with annual rainfall is generally less than 80 cms
- Farming dependent upon rainfall. Hence, only one crop can be grown in a year.
- Millets like jawar, bajra, ragi, pulsees etc. are important crops.

Wet Farming

- Practised in the areas of alluvial soils where annual average rainfall is more than 200cm.
- More than one crop is grown in a year because of moisture available in the soil.
- Rice and jute are the main crops of this type of farming.

Irrigated Farming

- Practised in the areas where average rainfall is between 80 to 200 cms and land is leveled.
- Practised only in those areas where availability of water from underground or surface water bodies like rivers, tanks, and lakes is sufficient throughout the year.

Subsistence Farming

- Practised primarily to fulfill self requirements of the people of the area.
- Size of holdings is small, use of manual labour and simple farm implements are common features of this type of farming.

Shifting Cultivation

- Land is cleared by cutting and burning of forests for raising crops for few years (2-3 years).
- As fertility of land declines, farmers move to new areas, clear the forests and grow crops there for next few years.
- In northeast, such type of cultivation is known as "Jhuming".

Terrace Cultivation

- Practised in hilly areas on carved out terraces on the hill slopes.
- Practised on the slopes of the Himalayas and the hills of the peninsular region

Plantation Agriculture

- Well organized and managed cultivation of crops particularly a single one on a large scale is called plantation agriculture.
- It requires large investment on the latest technology and proper management.
- Tea, coffee and rubber are examples of plantation agriculture.

Commercial Farming

Under this farming, the farmers raise crops mainly for the market as raw material.

Contract Farming

- In this system, companies engaged in processing/ marketing of agriculture products enter into contract with the farmers.
- They provide the farm- ers necessary facilities and buy back the products with a rate specified in advance.

Cattle Rearing

- Cattle rearing is an important economic activity in India. Milk and milk products (Butter, Ghee etc) meat, eggs, leather, and silk are raw materials for industries.
- Animals provide a large proportion of energy required in the farm sector. The bullocks, buffaloes, horses, ponnies, camel etc. are used as draught animals.
- Sheep, goats and camels provide wool.
- India is leading producer of milk in the world due to initiative 'Operation Flood'.
- Under this program good breeds of cows and buffaloes, which yield more milk, have been introduced through Co-operative societies.
- The modern dairy farms produced milk powder, butter,

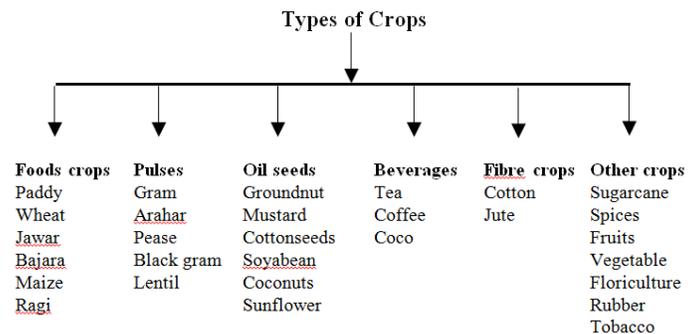
and cheese; condense milk, cream, and ghee along with milk.

- The largest number of livestock is found in Uttar Pradesh followed by the states of Rajasthan, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh.

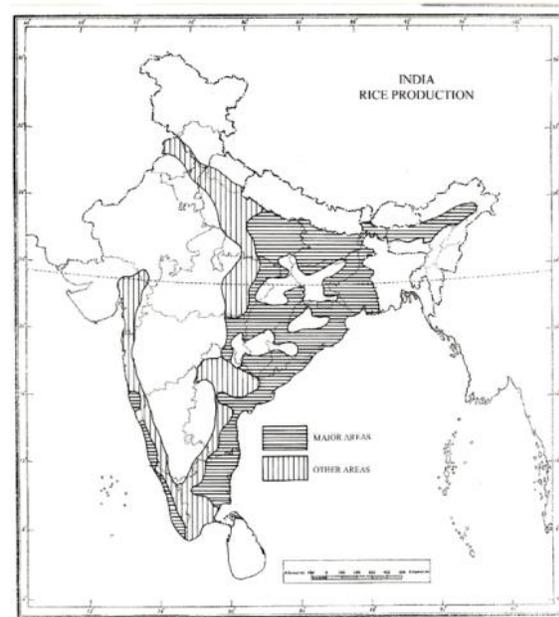
Fishing

- Inland fish production is accounted for two fifths or 40 percent.
- Open sea fishing or marine fishing, done in sea water, is caught in shallow water in our country. More than two-thirds of marine fish is landed on western coast of India.
- The Government has taken a number of steps including (i) financial assistance to fishermen (ii) introduction of large vessels, (iii) better harbours and breathing facilities (iv) provision of refrigerated wagons and road transport facility (v) introduction of accident insurance scheme and (vi) marketing of fish on co-operative basis to increase production.
- The rapid increase in the production of fish in the country is called **Blue Revolution**. This is synonymous with **shrimp farming** or **Aquaplosion**.

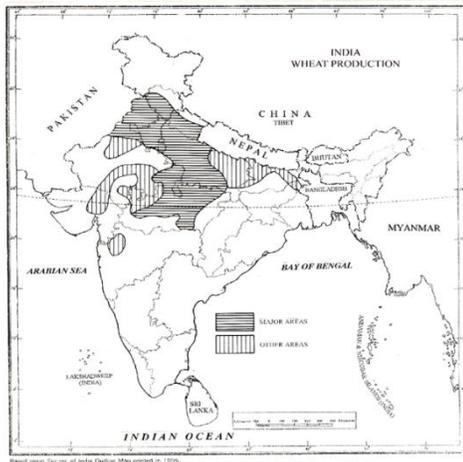
Major Crops of India



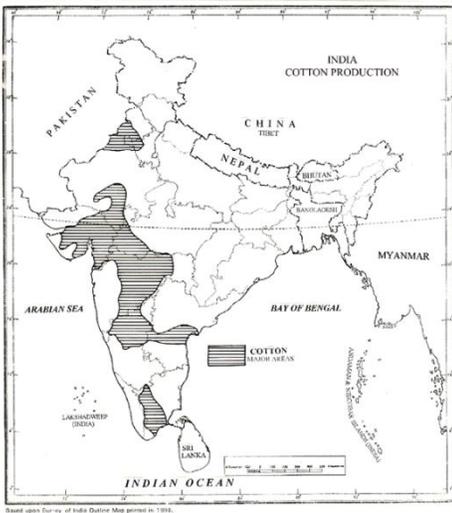
Paddy – Distribution



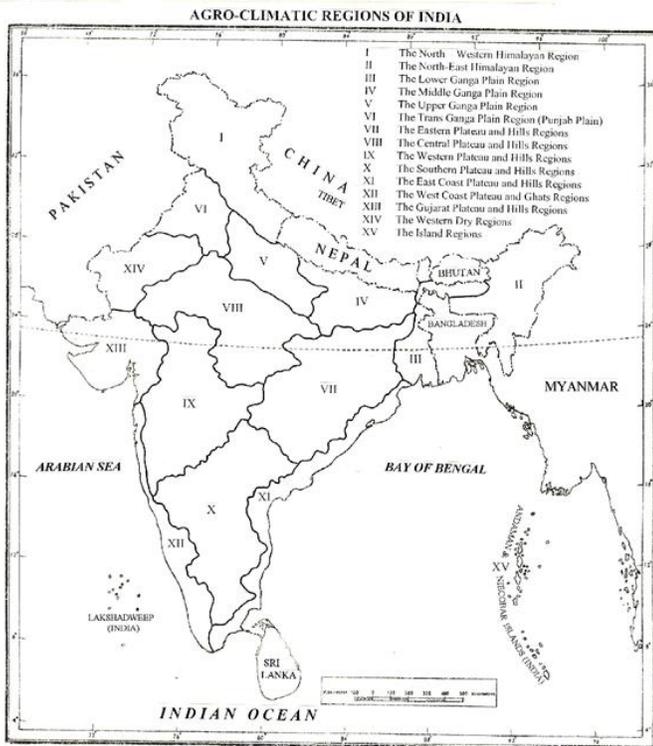
Wheat – Distribution



Cotton – Distribution



Agro-Climatic Region of India



Cropping Pattern

The agricultural land devoted to different crops in a region or state or country at a particular point of time is called the cropping pattern.

Features of changing crop-pattern

- Dominance of food crops over non-food crops
- Variety of crops grown
- Dominance of cereals among food crops:
- Decline in coarse cereals
- Declining importance of Kharif crops

Issues in Agricultural Development

- The Use of Farm Inputs
- Small Size of Land holdings
- Farm Mechanization
- Consolidation of Holdings
- Diversification of Agriculture
- Agriculture and Industry Interface
- Infrastructural Development
- Agricultural Credit
- Globalization and Indian Agriculture
- Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs)

The New Agricultural Policy-2000

The main features of this policy are:-

- Privatisation of agriculture and price protection of produce,
- Land leasing and contract farming by private companies,
- Raising the ceiling of land holdings,
- Involving national livestock breeding strategy to meet requirement of milk, meat, egg and livestock products.
- Protection of plant varieties and improvement of horticultural crops, live- stock species and agriculture.
- Liberalization of domestic market by dismantling of restriction on movement of commodities in the country.
- Improving the domestic and international marketing system.
- Facilitating the flow of credit to farmers against pledging of their products and providing them most other facilities available to manufacturing sector.
- Keeping agriculture outside the regulatory and tax collection system.
- Encouraging consolidation of land holdings and speeding up tenancy re- forms to recognize the right of the tenants and sharecroppers

Evaluate Yourself

1. Explain any four types of farming in India.
2. On the outline map of India mark and locate the agro-climatic regions.
3. Analyse the main features of New Agricultural Policy.