

AGRICULTURE IN INDIA





DEFINITION OF AGRICULTURE:

- Agriculture is the systematic raising of useful plants and livestock under the management of man.

- Rimando, T.J.

IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE IN INDIAN ECONOMY:

- Growth of Indian economy requires a high degree of agricultural development to sustain a desirable rate of economic growth.
- Economic growth means a higher rate of growth of GNP (Gross National product) and it is obviously impossible to attain a higher rate of growth in the economy unless there is rapid growth in both the agricultural and the non – agricultural sectors simultaneously.

1. Source of livelihood:

- Direct cultivation
- Indirect cultivation

2. Major component of National income:

- Nearly one –half of our total annual national income comes from agriculture.
- Even more than 50 years of economic planning ,which laid so much emphasis in industry.
- Agriculture production was as high as 40 % of the net home production of the Indian Union

3. Supplier of food:

- There is no doubt that during the last four decades, it failed to meet our food requirements fully and we have had to rely on heavy annual food imports to feed our teeming millions.
- Food grains production is very large.
- Imports constituting on an average only 2 % of the total food requirements of the country.

4. Supports industries:

- Manufacturing industries - Cotton and jute, textiles, sugar , vanaspati .
- plantation industries -tea ,coffee, rubber.
- Agro based industry.
- Nearly one- half of the total income generated in the manufacturing sector in the country.

5. Commercial importance:

- Agriculture raw material are India's Internal and external trade.
- Export products – jute ,tea ,oil cakes, tobacco, spices and coffee.
- Importing products- machinery and manufactured goods.

6 Sources of government revenue:

- Agriculture is one of the main sources of revenue for the Government , especially for the state Government.

7. Social and political importance:

- Apart from the above mentioned economic importance, agriculture has considerable social and political importance in India.

8. For growth with stability:

- Low rate of agricultural development - shortage of food and essential raw material leading to increasing cost.
- Agricultural development- essential to avoid the inflation and to ensure stability growth.

9. Employment potential :

- More employment opportunities- small irrigation works, drainage system, contour bunding and terracing.

10. Psychological conditions:

- There must be revolutionary changes in indian agriculture which set a stage for rapid economic development.

Types of farming in India

1. Subsistence farming:

- Characterised-small and scattered land holdings, use of primitive tools.
- Poor farmer, not use fertilizer and high yield varieties of seeds.
- Low production because of not available in electricity and irrigation.
- Important cash crops- sugarcane, oilseeds, cotton and jute are grown
- The subsistence agriculture has given way to commercial agriculture to some extent.
- Wet land and dry land farming

2. Shifting agriculture

- The forest land is cleared by felling trees and burning of trunks and branches
- Crops are grown for two to three years
- The farmers then move to new areas and the process is repeated.
- Growing crops- dry paddy, maize, millets, and vegetables
- Practices region in India- Assam, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa

3. Plantation agriculture

- Single crop farming- rubber, tea, coffee, cocoa, spices, coconut,
- Fruit crops- apple, grapes, orange.
- This type of agriculture has developed in hilly areas of north-eastern India, sub himalayan west Bengal and in nilgiris, Anamalai and cardamom hills in peninsular India.

4. Intensive farming

- Irrigations facilities, use large amount of fertilizers and pesticides on large scale
- Brought high yield variety of seeds.
- In some areas, this has led to the development of dairy farming.

5. Dry agriculture

Lacking of irrigation facilities

- Most of the area under dry cultivation entertain only one crop during the year.
- Practiced area- Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh.

6. Extensive agriculture

- Large size of farms with the help of machines
- Low labours
- It is highly capital-intensive and is practised in sparsely populated areas.
- India – lack of extensive land surface

7. Mixed and multiple agriculture

- Cultivation of crops and raising of animals simultaneously.
- The Practices of growing two or more crops together.
- This practice is followed in areas having good rainfall or facilities of irrigation.

8. Crop rotation

- This refers to growing of number of crops one after the other in a fixed rotation to maintain the fertility of the soil.
- Pulses or any leguminous crop is grown after the cereal crops.

- Highly fertilizers intensive crops like sugarcane or tobacco are rotated with cereal crops.

9. Sedentary cultivation

- In it farmers get settled at the place and practice continued use of land year after year with the variation of crops.
- It is the normal system of agriculture practice found in almost every part of India.

10. Terrace cultivation

- This types of cultivation is practice specially in hilly areas.
- Soil erosion is also checked due to terrace formation on hill slopes.

MAJOR CROPS IN INDIA

1. FOOD CROPS
2. CASH CROPS
3. PLANTATION CROPS

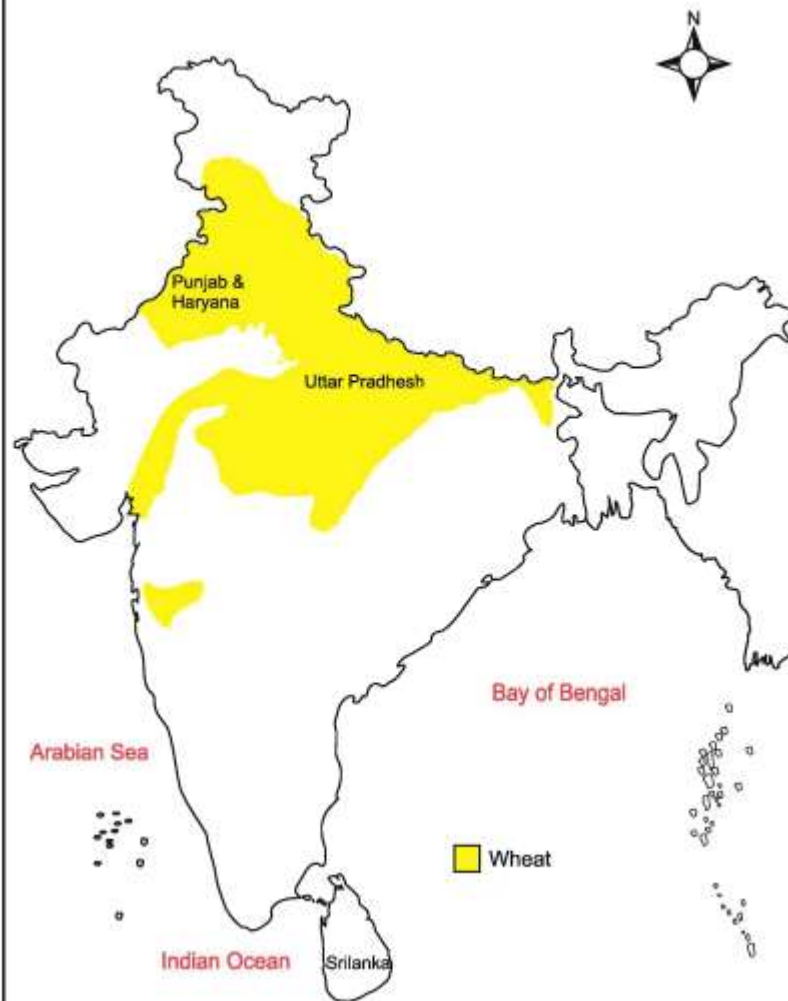
FOOD CROPS:

1. PADDY- Paddy is the most food crop of india. India stands in second place in the production of paddy. India and China together produce about 90% of the total world production of Paddy.

India - Paddy growing areas



India - Wheat growing areas



2. WHEAT

- Wheat is an important food crop. It is the staple food for the northern and northwestern part of India.
- Season- winter and spring
- Major producers- Uttar Pradesh and Haryana
- Other producing states-Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh.
- The production of wheat has been increased in Punjab and Haryana due to the impact of green revolution.

3. MILLETS

- Millets as cereal crops are intermediate between rice and wheat. It includes jowar, bajra and ragi.
- Millets are coarse grain and dry crops.
- They are cultivated in poor soils.
- They are rich in nutritional content higher than wheat or rice.

4. PULSES:

- Pulses crops include a large number of crops which are mostly leguminous and rich in proteins.
- Important pulses- black gram, green gram, horse gram, peas.
- important producers- madhya pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil nadu.
- Dry area with or without irrigation.

CASH CROPS:

1. SUGARCANE:

- Sugarcane is a tropical crop.
- Climate- hot humid climate.
- Birth place- India
- Important producers- Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh , Karnataka, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Bihar , Punjab and Haryana.

2. COTTON:

- Cotton is a major fibre crop of India. It provides a raw material for cotton textile industries.
- Climate- tropical and sub tropical
- Soil- black soil

- Main growing states- Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana.
- India has the 4th position in the world cotton production.

3. JUTE:

- Jute is also the most important fibre crop next to cotton. It is also called as Golden fibre crop.
- it is the cheapest and has the commercial demand because of its softness, strength, length and uniformity.
- Its cultivation- Ganga Brahmaputra delta in West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Assam and Meghalaya.
- Climate- hot and damp climate.
- Soil- well drained fertile soil in the flood plains where soils are renewed every year.

4. TOBACCO:

- Tobacco is said to have been brought to India by the Portugues in 1508. since then cultivation gradually spread to different parts of the country.
- India is the 3rd largest producer followed by China and U.S.A.
- Major producing states- Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka.

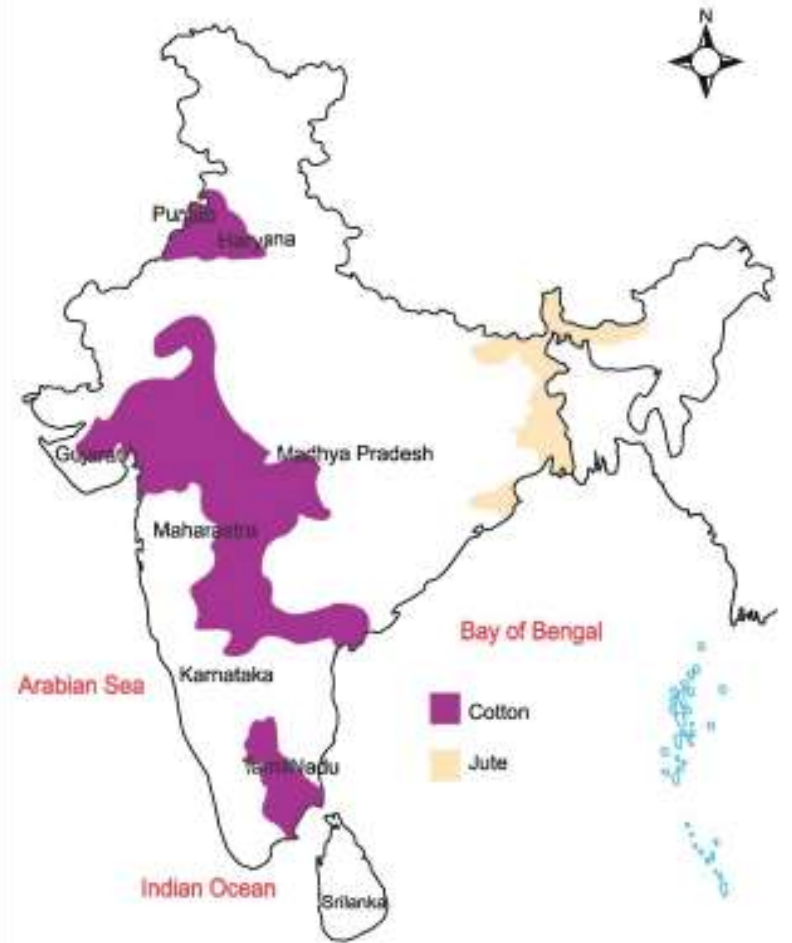
5. OIL SEEDS:

- India grows all types of oil seeds except olive and palm oil.
- Regions- tropical and sub tropical regions.
- Indian oil seeds- groundnut, sesame, rape seed, mustard, linseed, sunflower seed, castor seed, coconut, soyabean.
- Major producing states- Gujarat, Maharastra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Karnataka.

India - Sugar Cane Growing Areas



India - Cotton and Jute Growing Areas



3. PLANTATION CROPS

1. TEA:

- ❑ It is an important beverage crop.
- ❑ Climate- tropical and subtropical climates endowed with deep and fertile soil.
- ❑ Suitable cultivation place- well drained hill slopes between 3000-4000 feet height.
- ❑ Major producers- Assam, West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu.

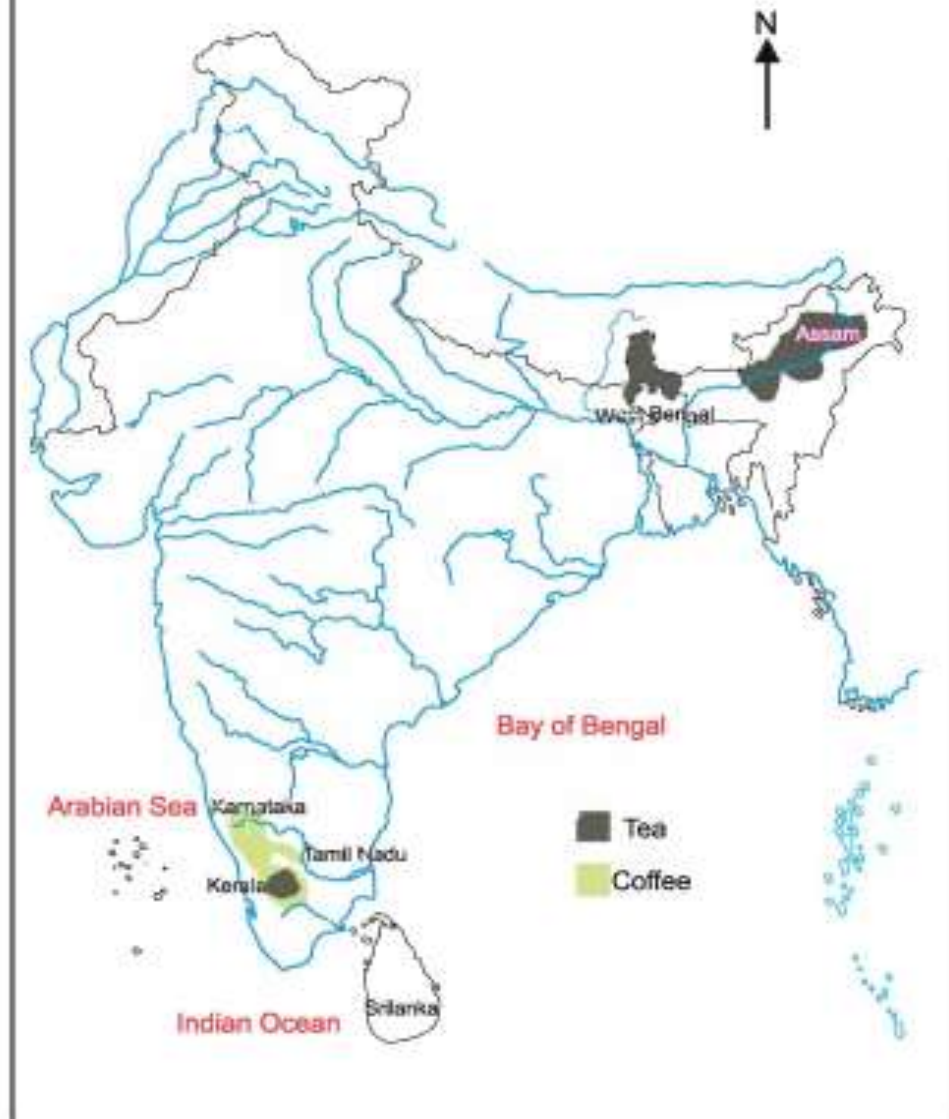
2. COFFEE:

- ❑ Coffee is the most important beverage crop.
- ❑ Major state- Karnataka 60%
- ❑ Other states- Kerala, Tamil Nadu

3. RUBBER:

- Rubber is obtained from latex of rubber tree.
- India stands 5th in the world.
- Rubber plantations cover large areas in southern part of India. About 95% of the areas is confined to the lower elevation of western ghats in Kerala and 5% is spread over Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andaman Nicobar islands.

India - Tea and Coffee growing areas



REFERENCES:

- J.K.Chopra- Geography of India