
Chapter – 04 Geography

Agriculture

- Economic activities are of three types: (i) Primary Activities, (ii) Secondary Activities, (iii) Tertiary Activities.
 - Primary activities are those activities which are connected with extraction and production of natural resources, for example, agriculture, fishing, etc.
 - Secondary activities are concerned with the processing of natural resources to manufacturing products like baking of bread, weaving of cloth, etc.
 - Tertiary activities provide services like transport, trade banking, insurance, advertising, etc.
 - Agriculture is a primary activity which include growing crops, fruits, vegetables, flowers and rearing of livestock.
 - 50% of persons in the world are engaged in agricultural activity.
 - 2/3 of India's population is still dependent on agriculture.
 - Favourable topography of soil and climate are vital for agricultural activity. The land on which the crops are grown is known as arable land.
 - **Farm System:**
 - (i) Agriculture or farming is a system in which seeds, fertilizers, machinery and labour are important inputs.
 - (ii) Ploughing, sowing, irrigation, weeding, and harvesting are some of the operations.
 - (iii) The outputs from the system include crops, dairy, wool and poultry products.
 - **Type of Farming:**
 - (i) Farming depends upon the geographical conditions, demand of produce, labour and level of technology.
 - (ii) Subsistence farming and commercial farming are the two types of farming.
 - **Subsistence Farming:** Subsistence farming is practices to meet the needs of the farmer's family.
 - **Intensive Subsistence Agriculture:** In this farming, the farmer cultivates a small pot of land using simple tools and more labour. Rice is the main crop. Other crops include wheat, maize, pulses and oil seeds.
 - **Primitive Subsistence Agriculture:** Primitive subsistence agriculture includes shifting cultivation and nomadic herding.
 - **Shifting Cultivation:** In shifting cultivation, after cultivation the soil is abandoned and the cultivator moves to a new plot. Shifting cultivation is also known as 'slash and burn' agriculture.
 - **Nomadic Herding:** In nomadic herding, herdsmen move from place to place with their animals for fodder and water along defined routes. Sheep, yak and goats are the herding animals.
 - **Commercial Farming:** In commercial farming crops are grown and animals are reared grown and animals are reared for sale in market.
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- **Commercial Grain Farming:** In commercial grain farming crops like wheat and maize are grown for commercial purpose. This farming practiced in temperate grasslands of North America, Europe and Asia.
 - **Mixed Farming:** In mixed farming, the land is used for growing food and fodder crops and rearing livestock.
 - **Plantation:** Plantations are a type of commercial farming where single crop of tea, coffee, sugarcane, cashew, rubber, banana or cotton are grown.
 - **Major Crops:** A variety of crops or many crops are grown to meet the requirement of the growing population. Major crops of India are: Rice, Wheat, Millets, Maize, cotton, jute, coffee, tea.
 - **Agriculture Development:** Agriculture Development refers to efforts made to increase farm production in order to meet the growing demand of increasing population.
 - **A Farm in India:** A typical Indian, Munna Lal has a farmland of about 1.5 hectares. He purchases high yielding varieties of seeds from the market every alternate year.
 - **A Farm in the USA:** The average size of a farm in the USA is about 250 hectares. The farmers grow corn, soyabean, wheat, cotton and sugarbeet.
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