

## **Mediterranean Agriculture**

It is a form of agriculture found in Mediterranean type of climate. The four main aspects are orchard farming, viticulture, cereal and vegetable cultivation.

Products grown include: olives, pomegranates, oranges, fig, pears, grapes, etc.

It is that type of agriculture found in the areas surrounding Mediterranean Sea which have mild, wet winters and hot, dry summers and also in those areas with similar climate- central and southern California, central Chile, the south west of Cape Province, the south west of Western Australia. This region is an important supplier of citrus fruits.

Best quality wines in the world with distinctive flavours are produced from high quality grapes. The inferior grapes are dried into raisins and currants. The advantage of Mediterranean agriculture is that more valuable crops such as fruits and vegetables are grown in winters when there is great demand in European and North American markets.

## **Market gardening and Horticulture**

A market garden is relatively small-scale production of fruits, vegetables and flowers as cash crops, frequently sold directly to consumers and restaurants. Commercial gardening or horticulture is growing flowers and non-edible plants on a large scale.

1. Market gardening and horticulture specialize in the cultivation of high value crops such as vegetables, fruits and flowers, for urban markets.
2. Farms are small and are located where there are good transportation links with the urban center where high income groups of consumers is located.
3. It is both labour and capital intensive and lays emphasis on the use of irrigation, HYV seeds, fertilizers, insecticides, greenhouses and artificial heating in colder regions.

4. This type of agriculture is well developed in densely populated industrial districts of northwest Europe, north eastern United States of America and the Mediterranean regions.

5. Netherlands specializes in growing flowers and horticultural crops especially tulips, which are flown to all major cities of Europe.

### What is **truck farming**?

The regions where farmers specialize in vegetables only, the farming is known as truck farming. The distance of truck farms from the market is governed by the distance that a truck can cover overnight, hence the name truck farming.

The major truck farming areas are in California, Texas, Florida, along the Atlantic Coastal Plain, and in the great Lakes area. Among the most important truck crops are tomatoes, lettuce, melons, beets, broccoli, radish, onions, cabbage and strawberries. This type of farming requires comparatively high capitalization as well as a large amount of labour.

### What is **factory farming**?

Intensive animal farming or industrial livestock production is known as factory farming. It is a type of intensive agriculture, specially an approach to animal husbandry designed to maximize production, while minimizing cost.

A modern development in the industrial regions of Western Europe and North America is factory farming. Livestock, particularly poultry and cattle rearing are fed on manufactured feedstuff and carefully supervised against diseases.

1. This requires heavy capital investment in terms of building machinery for various operations, veterinary services and heating and lighting.

2. Breed selection and scientific breeding.

## **Co-operative Farming**

An agricultural cooperative, also known as a farmer's cooperative where farmers pool their resources voluntarily for more efficient and profitable farming.

A farm that is run in cooperation with others in the purchasing and using of machinery, stock, etc and in the marketing of produce through its own institutions (farmers' cooperative) a farm that is owned by a cooperative society.

Cooperative farming can help farmers by lowering their costs of inputs or hiring services for example storage and transport. It sells the products at the most favorable terms and help in processing of quality products at cheaper rates.

Co-operative farming has been successful in many western European countries like Denmark, Netherlands, Belgium, Sweden, Italy etc.

## **Collective Farming**

Collective farming is when a group of farmers pool their land, domestic animals, and agricultural implements, retaining as private property enough only for the members own requirements. The profits of the farm are divided among its members.

1. Social ownership of the means of production and collective labour
2. Collective farming or **KOLKHOZ** was introduced in former Soviet Union to improve upon the inefficiency of the previous methods of agriculture and to boost agricultural production for self –sufficiency
3. Yearly targets were set by the government and the produce was also sold to the state at fixed prices
4. Produce in excess of the fixed amount was distributed among the members or sold in the market
5. The farmers had to pay taxes on the farm produces, hired machinery, etc
6. Members were paid according to the nature of the work allotted to them by the farm management. Exceptional work was rewarded in cash or kind.

## **MINING**

### **Factors Affecting Mining Activity**

- (i) Physical factors include the size of deposit, grade of the ore and mode of occurrence of the deposits

(ii) Economic factors such as the demand for the mineral, technology available and used, capital to develop infrastructure and the labour and transport costs

### **Methods of Mining**

Depending on the mode of occurrence and the nature of the ore, mining is of two types:

a. Surface mining /open –cast mining

b. Underground mining

a. **Surface Mining** – The surface mining is also known as open-cast mining.

It is the easiest and cheapest way of mining minerals that occur close to the surface.

Overhead costs such as safety precautions and equipment is relatively low in this method.

The output is both large and rapid.

b. **Underground Mining** – Underground mining is also known as shaft method.

Here the ore lies below the surface. The entry from the surface to an underground mine may be through a horizontal or vertical tunnel, known as a shaft or decline.

It requires specially designed lifts, drills, haulage vehicles, ventilation system for safety and efficient movement of people and material

The method is risky

Poisonous gases, fires, floods, roof collapse, rock burst, gas explosions and caving in lead to fatal accidents