

AGRICULTURE

“Agriculture is the science or art of cultivating the soil, growing and harvesting crops and raising livestock.” Agriculture is a primary activity. The transformation from a plant to a finished products involves three types of economic activities.

1.Primary Activity : These includes all those connected with extraction and production of natural resources. Example –Agriculture & Fishing etc.

2. Secondary Activity: These are concerned with the processing of natural resources .Example : weaving of cloth ,baking of bread etc.

3.Tertiary Activity: They provide support to the primary and secondary sectors through services. Example-Teaching,Transport Banking &Trade etc.

Importance of Agriculture

- 1. Basic Needs:** Agriculture is the most basic form of human activity to provide food vegetables etc. It also produces animal products. Example: wool ,milk .
- 2. Provide raw materials:** cotton textiles industry ,Sugar industry , Jute industry i.e. agro based Industry based upon agriculture .
- 3. Contribution to GDP:** It contributes more than 26% of gross domestic products(GDP)
- 4. Generates large scale Employment:** Two third of the population is dependent on agriculture. It generates large scale employment.
- 5. Export of Agricultural products:**Export of agricultural products like tea ,coffee and spices earns Valuable foreign exchange.

Types of Farming:Farming is practiced in various ways in the world .It can be divided into two types.

- 1. Subsistence Farming :** A type of agriculture in which the crops grown are consumed by the farmers and his family. The main motive of the farmers is to satisfy the needs of the family.

It can be divided into two parts.

(a) Intensive subsistence farming:Under the intensive agriculture high yield is obtained by applying higher and modern inputs like HYV seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, etc. Per hectare production is more but total production is less.

(b) Primitive farming : Primitive farming also divided into two parts

(i) Nomadic Herding : Nomadic herding is practiced in the semi-arid and arid regions of Sahara ,Central Asia and some parts of India(Rajasthan, J&K).Sheep, goats, camel etc. are most commonly reared.

(ii) Shifting cultivation: A small piece of forest is cleared by felling the trees , cutting the bushes and grasses and the cleared land is then used for cultivation.

The crops are grown for a few years and then the cultivator shifts to a new place.

Shifting cultivation is known by different names in different areas. Ex: Jhum cultivation, slash and burn agriculture. Shifting cultivation is practiced in Africa Amazon basin, S.E.Asia and N.E. India.

- 2. Commercial Farming :**Farmers grow crops to sell in the market. Main motive is profit. They grow cash crops and food crops both. This type of cultivation provides raw materials to agro-based industries.
- 3. Extensive Agriculture:** Mid- latitude grassland is famous for such type of agriculture. It is done on large scale and the most of the activities are carried out with the help of machine. It is practiced in areas of low density of population where vast stretches of land are available for agriculture.

- 4. Intensive Agriculture :** Under the intensive agriculture high yield is obtained by applying Higher and modern inputs .For example –HYV seeds, pesticides fertilizers etc. This type of agriculture is common in India, Bangladesh Malaysia and China .
- 5. Plantation Agriculture:** Plantation agriculture was introduced by Europeans to meet the demand of coffee, tea, pineapple, etc. Example: Tea—Assam/India , coffee—Brazil . Plantation agriculture is a labour intensive work.
- 6. Mixed Farming:** It is a type of agriculture in which equal importance is given to livestock as well as cultivation of crops .food and fodder crops are given equal importance. Important areas are U.S.A., Russia N.W. Punjab.

Thanks.

-----drs n----- 03/08/2020-----

