Major crops of the world :

It can be divided into three parts.

i) Food crops
ii) Fibre crops
iii) Beverage crops

1 Food crops- Rice, wheat, maize are important food crops:

(a) Rice-It is the staple food of nearly 50% of the population.

Favourable Geographical factors:

i) Temperature – It is a crop of tropical climate. Rice needs warm temperature, ranging between 16 degree Celsius to 20degree Celsius.

ii) Rainfall- Requires more rainfall. It grows well in areas having 100 cm to 200 cms. Where irrigation facility is available, there also we can grow rice.

iii) Soil- Loamy or clayey soils are favourable because these have the ability to retain water.

Distribution /Production: India and China are the leading producers of rice . In India- West Bengal is the largest producer of rice.

(B) Wheat: On the basis of season of sowing wheat is classified into winter wheat and spring wheat . It is the main food crop of the mid-latitudes countries.

Favourable Geographical factors:

Temperature: It requires 10 degree Celsius to 15 degree Celsius during the growing time and about 28 degree Celsius at the time of harvesting.

Rainfall : It grows well in areas which have annual rain between 40 to 80 cms.

Soil: Heavy clayey or loamy soils are favourable: because these are rich in humus content.

Production: U.S.A. Russia, Canada, France, Argentina, Australia, India and China are the main producers.

(C)Maize : Maize is also an important cereal crop. Both the ways we can use as food as well as fodder. China, Argentina, USA, Russia are the *main producing countries.

(II) Fibre crops: Cotton and Jute are the two important fibre crops.

> **(a)Cotton:** It is a universal fibre and the most important fibre crop of the world. It is a labour intensive work. It provides raw material, employment etc. Cotton has two types-long staple and short staple cotton.

Geographical Factors:

Temperature: Cotton is a tropical crop. It requires frost free days. Temperature 20 degree Celsius and sun shine for the growth of the crop.

Rainfall: Rainfall between 60 to 100 cms, Well distributed throughout the year.

Soil: Black clayey and loamy soils are favourable for the production.

World Distribution: India, Pakistan, China, USA are important/major producers of cotton. In India Maharastra, Tamilnadu, Gujrat etc. are important states produced cotton.

(b) **Jute:** It is used for carpets, ropes, bags etc. Jute is the "Golden Fibre" of India.

Temperature: Plants needs high temperature between 25 degree Celsius to 35 degree Celsius (approximately). High relative humidity is also required.

Rainfall: About 170 to 200 cms. Rainfall should be well distributed throughout the year.

Soil: Alluvial soil is favourable for it.

Production/Distribution: India and Bangladesh are the leading producers of Jute. Ganga Brahmputra Delta is very –very important.

Beverage crops:

(a)Tea: Important beverage of the world. Tea plantation is labour intensive work.

Favourable Geographical Factors:

Temperature : Range of temperature between 10 degree Celsius to 35 degree Celsius .

Rainfall: Heavy rain requires-150 to 200 cms. The roots cannot tolerate stagnant water. Well distributed rainfall –the whole year.

Soil: Loamy soil is important for it. Hill slopes are good for tea production.

Production: India, Bangladesh, China, Sri Lanka, Japan, Indonesia are important countries. In India-Assam, West Bengal etc. are important.

(b) Coffee: It grows in tropical highlands, which have cool winter and hot summer.

Geographical Requirements:

Temperature: Range of temperature between 15 degree Celsius to 28 degree Celsius. Frost free days.

Rain: 150-250 cms. Well distributed throughout the year.

Soil: Grows well in deep, porous and water retentive soils with high humus.

Distribution: Mexico, Braqzil, Columbia, Indonesia etc. In India-Kerala, Karnataka and Tamilnadu are the important states.

CASE STUDY:

(1) Small land holding.
(2) Traditional methods of agriculture.
(3) Agriculture work done by the family members.
(4) Yield is very low.
(5) Lack of irrigation mainly depend on monsoon.
(6) Intensive cultivation is practiced.

A FARM IN USA:

(1) Large land holding.
(2) Farmers use modern technology for the production.

(3) Extensive cultivation is practiced.

(4) Production is high.

(5) Farmers raise livestock on commercial scale.

(6) Production is exported to others nations.