

Very Short Answer Questions

Q. 1. Why is India called an 'agrarian' country?

Ans. India is an agrarian country as two thirds of its populations are engaged in agricultural activities. Agriculture is a primary activity, which produces most of the foods that we consume.

Q. 2. On what factors does primitive subsistence farming depend?

Ans. Primitive subsistence type of farming depends upon monsoon, natural fertility of the soil and suitability of other environmental conditions to the crops grown.

Q. 3. What is 'Jhumming'?

Ans. 'Jhumming' is slash and burn agriculture, practised in north eastern states like Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland, etc. This type of shifting allows nature to replenish the fertility of the soil through natural processes only.

Q. 4. Why there is excessive pressure on agricultural land?

Ans. Though the 'right of inheritance' has rendered land holding sizes uneconomical, the farmers continue to take maximum output from the limited land in the absence of alternative service of livelihood.

Q. 5. What is 'plantation farming'?

Ans. In this type of farming, a single crop is grown on a large area. Along with production, processing is also done in the nearby areas. So, the plantation has an interface of agriculture and industry.

Q. 6. Name the important plantation crops grown in India.

Ans. In India, tea, coffee, rubber, sugarcane, banana are important plantation crops.

Q. 7. Which factors are playing an important role in development of plantation?

Ans. A well-developed network of transport and communication connecting the plantation areas, processing industries and markets play an important role in the development of plantations.

Q. 8. Which main cropping patterns are followed in India?

Ans. India has three cropping seasons—rabi, kharif and zaid.

Q. 9. When are rabi crops grown?

Ans. Rabi crops are grown in winter from October to December and harvested in summer from April to June.

Q. 10. Which crops are grown in rabi season?

Ans. Wheat, barley, peas, gram and mustard, etc. are grown in rabi season.

Q. 11. In which regions are rabi crops mostly grown?

Ans. These crops are grown in the states of north and north western parts such as Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttrakhand and Uttar Pradesh.

Q. 12. Which factors help in the production of rabi crops in North and North western regions of India?

Ans. Availability of precipitation during winter months due to the western temperate cyclones as well as green revolution helps in the production of rabi crops.

Q. 13. When are kharif crops grown?

Ans. Kharif crops are grown with the onset of monsoon in different parts of the country and these are harvested in September or October.

Q. 14. Which are the important kharif crops?

Ans. The important kharif crops grown during this season are paddy (rice), maize, jowar, bajara, tur, moong, urad, cotton, jute, groundnut and soyabean.

Q. 15. In which states of India are three crops of paddy grown?

Ans. In states like Assam, West Bengal and Odisha, three crops of paddy are grown in a year. These are Aus, Aman and Boro.

Q. 16. What is Zaid Season?

Ans. In between the rabi and kharif seasons, there is a short season during the summer month known as 'zaid' season.

Q. 17. Which crops are grown during Zaid season?

Ans. Some of the crops produced during zaid season are watermelon, muskmelon, cucumber, vegetables and fodder crops.

Q. 18. What are the climatic requirements for wheat?

Ans. Wheat requires cool growing season and a bright sunshine at the time of ripening. It requires 50 to 75 cms of annual rainfall evenly distributed over the growing season.

Q. 19. Which are the two important wheat growing zones of India?

Ans. These are two important wheat growing zones in the country—the Ganga-Satluj plains in North West and black soil region of the Deccan.

Q. 20. Which are the major wheat producing states of India?

Ans. The major wheat producing states are Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and parts of Madhya Pradesh.

Q. 21. Which important millets are grown in India?

Ans. Jowar, bajra and ragi are the important millets grown in India.

Q. 22. What do you know about the millet, jowar?

Ans. Jowar is the third most important food crop. It is a rain-fed crop, mostly grown in the moist areas which hardly needs irrigation.

Q. 23. In which states is jowar grown?

Ans. Maharashtra is the largest producer of jowar followed by Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

Q. 24. What do you know about the ragi crop?

Ans. Ragi is very rich in iron, calcium, other micronutrients and roughage. It is a crop of dry regions and grows well on red, black, sandy, loamy and shallow black soils.

Q. 25. Which regions are known for ragi production?

Ans. Karnataka is the largest producer of ragi followed by Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Jharkhand and Arunachal Pradesh.

Q. 26. In which states is crop bajra grown?

Ans. Rajasthan is the largest producer of bajra followed by Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Haryana.

Q. 27. What temperature is needed for maize?

Ans. Maize is a kharif crop which requires temperature between 21°C to 27°C and grows well in alluvial soils.

Q. 28. Which factors contribute for increasing production of maize?

Ans. Use of modern inputs such as HYV seeds, fertilisers and irrigation have contributed to the increasing production of maize.

Q. 29. Name the major maize producing states of India.

Ans. Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

Q. 30. Name the major pulses grown in India.

Ans. The major pulses that are grown in India are tur (arhar), urad, moong, masur, peas and gram.

Q. 31. Why are pulses grown in rotation with other crops?

Ans. Being leguminous crops, all these crops except arhar help in restoring soil fertility by fixing nitrogen from the air. Therefore, these are mostly grown in rotation with other crops.

Q. 32. What are the climatic conditions required for sugarcane production?

Ans. Sugarcane grows well in hot and humid climate with a temperature of 21°C to 27°C and an annual rainfall between 75 to 100 cms.

Q. 33. Name the major sugarcane producing states of India.

Ans. Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab and Haryana.

Q. 34. Name the states producing groundnut.

Ans. Andhra Pradesh is the largest producer of groundnut followed by Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Q. 35. Who introduced tea cultivation in India?

Ans. Tea is an important beverage crop introduced in India, initially by the British. Today most of the tea plantations are owned by Indians.

Q. 36. In which states are mangoes and bananas grown?

Ans. Mangoes are grown in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Bananas are produced in Kerala, Mizoram, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

Q. 37. What are the climatic conditions required for rubber production?

Ans. It is an equatorial crop, but under special conditions, it is also grown in tropical and subtropical areas. It requires moist and humid climate with rainfall of more than 200 cms and temperature above 25°C.

Q. 38. In which regions of India is rubber grown?

Ans. Rubber is mainly grown in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Garo hills of Meghalaya.

Q. 39. Which are the major fibre crops of India?

Ans. Cotton, Jute, hemp and natural silk are the four major fibre crops grown in India.

Q. 40. How is silk fibre produced?

Ans. Silk is obtained from cocoons of silkworms fed on green leaves especially mulberry. Rearing of silk worms for the production of silk fibre is known as sericulture.

Q. 41. How is cotton associated with India?

Ans. India is believed to be the original home of the cotton plant. India is a third largest producer of cotton in the world.

Q. 42. What are the climatic conditions for the growth of cotton plant?

Ans. It requires high temperature, light rainfall or irrigation, 210 frost-free days and bright sunshine for its growth.

Q. 43. Which are the major cotton producing states of India?

Ans. The major cotton producing states are—Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

Q. 44. Which fibre is known golden fibre?

Ans. Jute is known as golden fibre.

Q. 45. In which regions is Jute grown?

Ans. West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Odisha and Meghalaya are the major jute producing states of India.

Q. 46. What are the uses of Jute?

Ans. Jute is used in making gunny bags, mats, ropes, yarn, carpets and other artefacts.

Q. 47. Why is jute losing its importance?

Ans. Due to its high cost, it is losing market to synthetic fibres and packing materials, particularly the nylon.

Q. 48. Why do we need technical and institutional reforms in agriculture?

Ans. In spite of development of sources of irrigation, most of the farmers in large parts of the country still depend upon monsoon and natural fertility in order to carry on their agriculture. For a growing population, this poses a serious challenge. Agriculture needs some serious technical and institutional reforms.

Q. 49. Which institutional reforms were introduced for farmers?

Ans. Collectivisation, consolidation of land holdings, cooperation and abolition of zamindari, etc. were given priority to bring about institutional reforms in India.

Q. 50. Which two revolutions, revolutionized Indian agriculture?

Ans. The Green Revolution based on the use of package technology and the White Revolution were some of the strategies initiated to improve the Indian agriculture.

Q. 51. Which steps were taken by the Indian government for a comprehensive land development programme?

Ans. Provision for crop insurance against drought, flood, cyclones, fire and disease, establishment of Grameen banks, Cooperative societies and banks for providing loan facilities to the farmers at lower rates of interest were some important steps in this direction.

Q. 52. Which schemes were introduced by government for the benefit of farmers?

Ans. Kissan Credit Card (KCC), Personal Accident Insurance Scheme (PAIS) are some schemes introduced by government of India for the benefit of the farmers.

Q. 53. What role is played by government to check the implantation of farmers by speculators and middlemen?

Ans. The government announces minimum support price, remunerative and procurement prices for important crops to check the exploitation of farmers by speculators and middlemen.

Short Answer Questions

Q. 1. What is primitive subsistence farming?

Ans. (i) It is practised on small patches of land with the help of primitive tools.

(ii) This type of farming depends upon the monsoons and natural fertility of the soil.

(iii) It is also called 'slash and burn' agriculture.

Q. 2. What is 'slash and burn' agriculture?

Ans. (i) In this agriculture, farmers clear a patch of land and produce cereals and other crops to sustain their families.

(ii) When the soil fertility decreases, the farmers shift and clear a fresh patch of land for cultivation.

(iii) This type of shifting allows nature to replenish the fertility of the soil through natural processes.

Land productivity in this type of agriculture is low, as the farmers do not use fertilisers or any modern inputs.

Q. 3. Describe the three cropping seasons of India.

Ans. (i) Rabi season:

- a. Crops sown in winters and harvested in summers.
- b. Some of the important rabi crops are wheat, barley, peas, gram and mustard.
- c. States growing rabi crops are: Punjab, Haryana, Himachal, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.

(ii) Kharif season:

- a. Crops grown with the onset of monsoons and harvested in September or October.
- b. Important Kharif growing states are: Assam, West Bengal, coastal regions of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Maharashtra.
- c. Crops grown during this season are: rice, maize, jowar, bajra, tur, moong, urad, cotton, jute, groundnut and soyabean.

(iii) Zaid season:

- a. It falls in between the rabi and kharif seasons.
- b. It's a short season during the summer months.
- c. Major crops grown are: watermelon, muskmelon, cucumbers, vegetables and fodder crops.

Q. 4. Which important millets are grown in India? Give a brief description about them.

Ans. Jowar, Bajra and Ragi are three important millets.

(i) Ragi: Ragi is very rich in iron, calcium, and other micro nutrients and roughage. It is a crop of dry regions and grows well on red, black, sandy, loamy and shallow black soils. Karnataka is the largest producer followed by Tamil Nadu.

(ii) Jowar: It is a rain fed crop mostly grown in the moist areas which hardly needs irrigation. Maharashtra is the largest producer followed by Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

(iii) Bajra: It grows well on sandy soils and shallow black soil. Rajasthan is the largest producer of bajra followed by Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Haryana.

Q. 5. What do you know about rubber plantation in India?

Ans. (i) Rubber is an equatorial crop but is also grown in tropical and sub-tropical areas.

(ii) It requires moist and humid climate with rainfall of more than 200 cm and temperature above 25°C.

(iii) It is grown in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Garo hills of Meghalaya.

India ranks fifth among the world's largest natural rubber producers.

Q. 6. What climatic conditions are required for growing cotton?

Ans. (i) Cotton grows well in drier parts of the black cotton soil of the Deccan Plateau.

(ii) It requires high temperature, light rainfall or irrigation.

(iii) It also requires 210 frost free days and bright sunshine for its growth.

It's a Kharif crop and requires 6 to 8 months to mature.

Q. 7. Write any three changes in Indian agriculture after the Green Revolution.

Ans. (i) HYV seeds are used for better output of some major crops like wheat and rice.

(ii) For irrigation, canals are laid to provide water to all water scarce states.

(iii) Use of fertilisers, insecticides and pesticides has enhanced the production of various crops.

Q. 8. Differentiate between commercial farming and plantation farming.

Ans.

Commercial farming	Plantation farming
(i) In this type of farming, crops are grown only for commercial purposes.	(i) In this type of farming, a single crop is grown on a large area.
(ii) Farmers make use of higher doses of modern inputs, HYV seeds, chemical fertilisers, insecticides, etc.	(ii) Labour is employed to work in large tracts of land, using capital intensive devices.
(iii) E.g.: Rice is a commercial crop in Haryana and Punjab.	(iii) E.g.: Tea Gardens produce tea, and coffee plantations produce coffee.

Q. 9. How is commercial farming practised in India?

OR

What is the main characteristic of commercial farming?

Ans. The main characteristic of this type of farming is the production of a commercial crop. In this type of farming, High Yielding Variety (HYV) seeds, chemical fertilisers, insecticides, pesticides, etc. are used to obtain higher productivity. The degree of commercialisation varies from one region to another.

Q. 10. Which oilseeds are grown in India and what are the uses?

Ans. India is the largest producer of oilseeds in the world. Different types of oilseeds are grown in India. Main oilseeds produced in India are groundnut, mustard, coconut, sesame, soyabean, castor seeds, cotton seeds, linseed and sunflower. Most of these are edible and used as cooking medium. However some of these are also used as raw material in the production of soap, cosmetics and ointments.

Q. 11. What do you understand by 'Bhoodan' and 'Gramdan'?

Ans. Some poor landless villagers demanded some land for their economic well-being. Vinoba Bhave could not assure but promised to talk to the government regarding that. Suddenly Shri Ram Chandra Reddy, stood up and offered 80 acres of land to be distributed among 80 landless villagers. This act was known as 'Bhoodan'. Similarly, some zamindars, owners of many villages, offered to distribute some villages among the landless. It was known as 'Gramdan'.

This Gramdan & Bhoodan movement was initiated by Vinoba Bhave. It is also known as the 'Bloodless Revolution'.

Q. 12. Is India an agrarian country?

Ans. Yes, India is an agrarian country

Two-thirds of its population is engaged in agricultural activities.

Agriculture is a primary activity, which produces most of the food that we consume. Besides food grains, it also produces raw material for various industries. Moreover, some agricultural products like tea, coffee, spices, etc. are also exported.

Long Answer Questions

Q. 1. Distinguish between primitive subsistence farming and intensive subsistence farming.

Ans.

Primitive Subsistence	Intensive Subsistence
1. It is practised on small patches of land.	1. It is practised on bigger land holdings.
2. Primitive tools like hoe, dao and digging sticks, and family community labour are used.	2. Modern inputs like HYV seeds, chemical fertilisers, insecticides, etc., to obtain higher productivity are used.
3. In this type of farming, farmers depend on the monsoons and natural fertility of the soil.	3. In intensive subsistence, irrigation facilities like tubewells and canal irrigation is used.
4. Land productivity in this type of agriculture is low.	4. Land productivity is high as it is meant for commercial purposes.

Q. 2. What type of climate is required for the production of sugarcane? What are the by-products of sugarcane?

Ans. It is a tropical as well as a sub-tropical crop.

It grows well in hot and humid climate.

It requires a temperature between 21°C to 27°C and an annual rainfall between 75 and 100 cm.

Irrigation is required in regions receiving low rainfall.

By-products:

It is the main source of sugar, gur (jaggery), khandsari and molasses.

Q. 3. Give the characteristics of a crop used both as food and fodder.

Ans. It is maize, which is a Kharif crop.

It requires a temperature between 21°C to 27°C and grows well in old alluvial soil.

Use of modern inputs such as HYV seeds, fertilisers and irrigation have contributed to the increasing production of maize.

Major maize producing states are: Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

Q. 4. Give main characteristics of intensive subsistence farming.

Ans. This type of farming is practised in areas of high population pressure on land.

It is labour-intensive farming where high doses of biochemical inputs and irrigation are used for obtaining higher production.

This type of farming is practised in the states of U.P., Haryana, Bihar, etc.

Though the 'right of inheritance' leading to the division of land among successive generations has rendered landholding size uneconomical, the farmers continue to take maximum output from the limited land in the absence of alternative source of livelihood.

Q. 5. What type of farming is called plantation farming? Which factors are needed to promote them in India?

Ans. Plantation is a type of commercial farming. In this type of farming, a single crop is grown on a large area. The plantation also includes the processing of that crop in the nearby industries. Plantations cover large tracts of land using capital intensive inputs, with the help of migrant labourers. All the produce is used as raw material in respective industries. In India, tea, coffee, rubber, sugarcane, banana, etc. are important plantation crops. Since the production is mainly for market, a well-developed network of transport and communication connecting the plantation areas, processing industries and markets play an important role in the development of plantations.

Q. 6. What geographical conditions are needed for the second most important cereal crop of India? Name some regions where it is grown.

Ans. Wheat is the second most important cereal crop of India. It is the main food crop in north and north-western parts of the country. This rabi crop requires a cool growing season and a bright sunshine at the time of ripening. It requires 50 to 75 cms of annual rainfall evenly distributed over the growing season. There are two important wheat-growing zones in the country:

(i) The Ganga-Satluj plains in the north-west.

(ii) The black soil region of the Deccan.

The major wheat producing states are Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and parts of Madhya Pradesh.

Q. 7. How can you say that 'India is the largest producer as well as the consumer of pulses in the world'?

Ans. India is the largest producer as well as consumer of pulses in world. Since pulses are the major source of protein in a vegetarian diet, these are used by most of the Indian population. They need less moisture and survive even in dry conditions. Being

leguminous crop, all these crops except arhar, help in restoring soil fertility. Therefore, these are mostly grown in rotation with other crops.

Major pulses grown in India are—tuvar, urad, moong, masur, peas and gram.

Q. 8. Give some main characteristics of coffee crop.

Ans. India produces about 4 per cent of the world's coffee production.

Indian coffee is known in the world for its good quality.

The Arabica variety, initially brought from Yemen, is produced in the country.

Initially, its cultivation was introduced on the Baba Budan Hills in Karnataka and even today its cultivation is confined to Nilgiri in Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

Indian coffee variety is in great demand all over the world.

Q. 9. What does 'Horticulture' mean? Which crops are grown under horticulture in India?

Ans. Horticulture is the practice of production of both fruit and vegetable crops. India is a producer of tropical as well as temperate fruits. Some of the major crops are:

(i) Mangoes: Many varieties of mangoes like Safeda, Dussehri, Langda, Sindoori, etc. are grown in Maharashtra, U.P., Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal.

(ii) Oranges: Nagpur and Cherrapunjee are famous for orange varieties of India.

(iii) Bananas of various qualities are grown in Kerala, Mizoram, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

(iv) Lichi and **Guava** are famous in parts of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Bihar.

(v) Pineapple in Meghalaya and **Grapes** are grown in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.

(vi) Apples, pears, apricots and **walnuts** are mainly temperate fruits and are grown in J&K and Himachal Pradesh and are in great demand all over the world.

(vii) Vegetables: India produces about 13 per cent of the world's vegetables. It is an important producer of peas, cauliflower, onion, cabbage, tomato, brinjal and potatoes. There is a potato institute in Shimla where study is made on various qualities of potatoes grown in India.

Q. 10. How did partition of the country in 1947 affect the jute industry?

Ans. India is the largest producer of raw jute and jute goods and stands at second place as an exporter after Bangladesh.

The first jute mill was set up near Kolkata in 1859 at Rishra.

After partition in 1947, the jute mills remained in India but three-fourth of the jute producing areas went to Bangladesh.

So due to partition, India had to start the production of jute and Bangladesh had set up industries for the jute goods.

Hots (Higher Order Thinking Skills)

Q. 1. Explain any three features of Indian agriculture.

Ans. Two-thirds of India's population is engaged in agricultural activities.

Agriculture is a primary activity, which produces most of the food that is consumed.

It also produces raw material for various industries.

Some agricultural products like tea, coffee, spices, etc., are also exported to earn foreign exchange.

Q. 2. Why is there enormous pressure on land in intensive subsistence farming?

Ans. (i) Right of inheritance leading to the division of land among successive generations has rendered land holding size uneconomical.

(ii) The farmers continue to take maximum output from the limited land, in the absence of alternative sources of livelihood.

Thus, there is an enormous pressure on agricultural land.

Q. 3. Which crop is known as a 'golden fibre'? Explain any two geographical conditions essential for the cultivations of this crop. Mention its four uses.

Ans. Jute is known as 'golden fibre'. It grows well on well-drained fertile soils in the flood plains where soils are renewed every year. West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Odisha, Meghalaya are the major jute producing states of India. It is used in making gunny bags, mats, ropes, yarn, carpets and other artefacts. Due to its high cost, it is losing market to synthetic fibres and packing material, particularly nylon.

Q. 4. "Agriculture is the mainstay of Indian economy." Explain this statement.

Ans. Agriculture has been the backbone of the Indian economy.

Agricultural share in providing employment and livelihood to the population continues to be as high as 63 per cent (2001).

Government is providing facilities like irrigation, power, rural roads, market and mechanisation subsidy on fertilisers.

Reduction of import duties on agricultural products have proved detrimental to agriculture in the country.

Q. 5. Explain four technological reform initiatives taken by the government to ensure the increase in agricultural production.

Ans. Technological reforms:

(i) Green Revolution in agriculture and White Revolution in milk were introduced.

(ii) Tractors, harvesters, threshers and tube wells, etc., and technological devices were introduced.

(iii) For better production, fertilisers, insecticides and pesticides were also produced.

(iv) The government also announced the minimum support price, which checks the exploitation of farmers by speculators and middlemen.

Q. 6. Why do we need to have technical and institutional reforms in India?

Ans. Agriculture has been practised in India for thousands of years.

Sustained uses of land without compatible techno-institutional changes have hindered the pace of agricultural development.

In spite of development of sources of irrigation, most of the farmers in large parts of the country still depend upon monsoon and natural fertility in order to carry on their agriculture.

For a growing population, this poses a serious challenge.

Agriculture which provides livelihood for more than 60 per cent of its population, needs some serious technical and institutional reforms.

Q. 7. Suggest the initiatives taken by the government to ensure the increase in agricultural production.

Ans. (i) The right of inheritance has led to fragmentation of landholdings. Therefore, collectivisation, consolidation of landholdings, cooperation and abolition of zamindari, etc. were given priority to bring about institutional reforms in the country after independence.

(ii) The Green Revolution based on the use of package technology and White Revolution were initiated to improve the Indian agriculture.

(iii) Land development programme was initiated, which included provision for crop insurance against famine, flood, cyclone, fire and disease, establishment of Grameen banks, cooperative societies, etc.

(iv) Kissan credit cards, Personal Accident Insurance scheme were introduced for the benefit of farmers.

(v) Special weather bulletins and agricultural programmes for farmers are run on the radio and television.

(vi) To check the exploitation of farmers by speculators and middlemen, the government announces minimum support price, remunerative and procurement prices for important crops.