

Chapter 4 – Agriculture

1. Answer the following questions.**(i) What is agriculture?**

Answer: Agriculture is a primary activity that includes growing crops, vegetables, fruits, flowers and rearing of livestock. Agriculture is a primary activity as it is connected with the extraction and production of natural resources.

(ii) Name the factors influencing agriculture?

Answer: the factors that influence agriculture include soil, climate, topography, population etc.

(iii) What is shifting cultivation? What are its disadvantages?

Answer: Shifting cultivation also known as Slash-and-burn cultivation is a type of farming activity which involves clearing of a land plot by cutting down trees and burning them. The ashes are then mixed with the soil and crops are grown. After the land has lost its fertility, it is abandoned. The farmers then move to a new place.

Disadvantages of shifting cultivation:

- Leads to deforestation
- Loss of fertility of a particular land
- Leads to Soil erosion
- Burning of trees causes air pollution
- Insufficient cultivation of crops for a large population.

(iv) What is plantation agriculture?

Answer: Plantations are a type of commercial farming where single crops of tea, coffee, sugarcane, cashew, rubber, banana or cotton are grown. Large amounts of capital and capital are required. The produce may be processed on the farm itself or in nearby factories. The development of a transport network is thus essential for such farming. Major plantations are found in the tropical regions of the world. Rubber in Malaysia, coffee in Brazil, tea in India and Sri Lanka are some examples.

(v) Name the fibre crops and name the climatic conditions required for their growth.

Answer: Jute and Cotton are fibre crops. The climatic conditions necessary for the growth of Jute are high temperature, Heavy rainfall and Humid climate. Similarly, for growth of cotton high temperature, light rainfall, bright sunshine are required.

2. Tick the correct answer.**(i) Horticulture means**

- (a) growing of fruits and vegetables
- (b) primitive farming
- (c) growing of wheat

Answer: A Growing of fruits and vegetables

(ii) Golden fibre refers to

- (a) tea
- (b) cotton
- (c) jute

Answer: C Jute

(iii) Leading producers of coffee

(a) Brazil

(b) India

(c) Russia

Answer A Brazil

3. Give reasons.

(i) In India agriculture is a primary activity.

Answer: Agriculture is primary activity because many regions in India have fertile land that is favourable for agriculture. Two-thirds of the Indian population still depends on agriculture. This is mainly because of lack of literacy among the people, they prefer agriculture. Hence, India being a densely populated country requires large scale production of food to fulfil the people needs.

(ii) Different crops are grown in different regions.

Answer Different crops are grown in different regions because growing of the crops depends on factors such as favourable topography of soil, Demand of produce, type of Climate, amount of rainfall, technology and labour.

4. Distinguish between the following.

(i) Primary activities and tertiary activities

Answer: Primary activities are related to production and extraction of natural resources such as fishing, agriculture, mining whereas Tertiary activities that provide support to primary and secondary sectors in carrying out their activities like transportation, banking etc.

(ii) Subsistence farming and intensive farming.

Answer: Subsistence farming is a type of farming that farmer practises to meet the needs of his family. The cultivation of crops is done for personal consumption. It involves the use of low levels of technology and household labour to produce on small output. While, In intensive subsistence agriculture the farmer cultivates a small plot of land using simple tools and more labour. Rice, wheat, maize, pulses and oilseeds are the crops grown in this type of farming. Intensive subsistence agriculture is prevalent in the thickly populated areas of the monsoon regions.