



UNIT VI
AGRICULTURE

NOTES

1. **Agriculture** - India is essentially an agricultural country. Two third of its population is engaged in agricultural activities and about 57% of its land is devoted to crop cultivation. Fertile soil, wide climatic variations and a large area under cultivation, India is in a unique position to grow almost every crop.
2. **Types of farming** –
 - Irrigated farming
 - Rainfed farming -
 - Dry land farming and
 - Wetland farming
3. **Primitive subsistence farming** - Primitive subsistence farming is the type in which crops grown are consumed by the grower and his family.
4. **Shifting cultivation** - Piece of forest land is cleared by cutting and burning and crops are grown. When the soil gets exhausted, the farmer moves to a new site for cultivation.
5. **Commercial farming** - Commercial farming is a type of farming in which crops are raised for the market.
6. **Plantation farming** - Plantation is a type of commercial farming practised in the tropical areas to grow cash crops e.g. tea, coffee, rubber, banana etc.
7. **Cropping Pattern** - Three distinct cropping seasons –
 - **Kharif** - Kharif crops are grown with the onset of South-West Monsoon in June and continue until September. **e.g.** rice, maize
 - **Rabi** - Rabi crops are grown during the period from October to March. **e.g.** wheat, mustard, gram
 - **Zaid** - Zaid crops are grown during the short summer months from April to June. **e.g.** watermelon, cucumber.



8. **Major crops** - A wide variety of crops are grown in different parts of the country and grouped into different types such as cereals, pulses, oil seeds, fibre crops, cash crops and beverage crops.
9. **Cereals** - India produces about 11 per cent cereals of the world and rank third in production after China and USA. The cereals are classified as fine grains like rice and wheat and coarse grains like maize and jowar.
10. **Pulses** - Pulses include arhar, urad, mung, masur, peas, and gram. These are rich sources of protein in a vegetarian diet.
11. **Oilseeds** - India is the largest producer of oilseeds in the world. Most of the oilseeds are produced for extracting edible oils. Some are used for making soap, varnish, cosmetics and medicines.
12. **Fibre crops** - The crops which give us fibre for preparing cloths, bags, sacks and other items. Cotton, Jute, hemp and natural silk are the four major fibre crops of India.
13. **Cash crops** - An agricultural crop which is grown to sell for profit **e.g.** sugarcane, rubber, etc.
14. **Beverage crops** - Beverage crops are the crops that are used as drinks. **e.g.** Tea, coffee
15. **Technological reforms of agriculture**
 - Improved Tools and Mechanisation
 - New Techniques of Irrigation
 - Transport and Communication
 - Quality Seeds
 - Agricultural Inputs
 - Green and white Revolution



16. Institutional reforms of agriculture

- Land Reforms
- Radio and Television Programmes
- Crop Insurance
- Credit facilities
- Minimum Support Price
- Kissan Credit Card and Personal Accident Insurance Scheme

17. Contribution of agriculture - Agriculture is the mainstay of the Indian economy though its share in the Gross Domestic Product has declined due to overall industrialisation of the country.

18. Food security - Food security means availability, accessibility and affordability of food to all people at all times.

19. Impact of Globalisation on Agriculture - Globalization is the process of integration of national economy with the economies of the world. Indian farmers have been aware of globalisation since the time of colonisation by Europeans .The main impacts include – Green Revolution, Gene Revolution, Organic Farming, diversification of crops and liberalisation.