

---

### Lesson at a Glance

- We divide economic activities into three categories: **primary**, **secondary** and **tertiary**. Agriculture, an activity that is related directly to the extraction and production of natural resources, is a primary activity. Manufacturing of steel and baking of bread are secondary activities since they are not directly related to the extraction or production of natural resources, but their utilisation. Transport and trade are tertiary activities since they do not come in either category.
- Two-thirds of India's population depends on agriculture.
- Some of the important inputs required in agriculture are seeds, fertilisers, machinery and labour. Operations involved are ploughing, sowing, irrigation, weeding and harvesting. Outputs include crops, wool, dairy and poultry products.
- Two main types of farming practised are **subsistence farming** and **commercial farming**.
- **Subsistence farming** is practised solely to meet the needs of the farmer's family. Therefore, the practices involved are usually old-fashioned. Use of modern technology is minimum and most work is done by household labour.
- In **intensive subsistence agriculture**, simple tools and huge labour are used by a farmer to cultivate a small plot of land. More than one crop is grown annually in favourable conditions. Rice is the major crop. This form of agriculture is seen in the thickly populated areas of the monsoon regions of south, south-east and east Asia.
- **Shifting cultivation** is a class of **primitive subsistence agriculture**. In this, a plot of land is cleared by felling the trees and burning them. The ashes are then mixed with soil and crops are grown. After some time, the land is abandoned and the farmers move to a different place. This type of farming is common in the thickly forested areas of the Amazon basin, tropical Africa, parts of South-east Asia and north-east India. It is also called "slash and burn" agriculture.

- **Nomadic herding** refers to the practice in which herdsmen move from place to place with their animals for fodder and water. Animals usually reared are the yak, sheep, camel and goats.
- **Commercial farming** is the practice in which crops are grown exclusively for commercial purpose, *i.e.* for sale in the market. A large area is cultivated and huge capital is involved unlike subsistence farming. Machines are used to a large extent.
- **Commercial grain farming** is a class of commercial farming. Crops like wheat and maize are grown for commercial purpose. The temperate grasslands of North America, Europe and Asia are some common areas where it is seen.
- **Mixed farming** is another type of commercial farming. The land is used for growing food and fodder crops and rearing livestock. Some areas where it is followed are Europe, eastern USA, Argentina, south-east Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.
- **Plantations** are a type of commercial farming where only a single crop (like tea, coffee, sugarcane, cashew, rubber, banana or cotton) is grown. Large amount of labour and capital are required. The produce is processed in the farm itself or nearby factories.
- **Rice** is the major food crop of the world. It is the staple diet in tropical and sub-tropical parts. Its cultivation needs high temperature, humidity and rainfall. China and India are the largest producers of rice in the world.
- **Wheat** thrives best in well-drained loamy soil. In addition, it needs moderate temperature and rainfall during growing season and bright sunshine at harvesting. USA is a major producer.
- **Millets** are coarse grains. Jowar, bajra and ragi are major millets grown in India.
- **Maize** requires moderate temperature, rainfall, good sunshine and well-drained fertile soils.
- **Cotton** grows best on black and alluvial soils. It needs high temperature, light rainfall, 210 frost free days and bright sunshine.
- **Jute** (called the Golden Fibre) is grown in tropical areas. India and Bangladesh are leading producers.
- **Coffee** grows well on hill slopes. Brazil is the leading producer.
- **Tea** is a beverage crop grow on plantations. It needs well-drained loamy soils ad gentle slopes. Large labour is required.
- **Agricultural development** refers to the effort to increase farm production so as to meet growing demand of increasing population. **Mechanisation**, a part of agricultural development, means using more machines than human labour.

- A typical Indian farm is about 1.5 hectares in area, whereas a typical USA farm is about 250 hectares.
- In the USA, farmers use very modern methods for agriculture. In India, however, obsolete methods are used in most parts. Mechanisation is not seen much in India as compared to USA.
- A farmer in India generally works as a "peasant" whereas in the USA, he works as a complete businessman.

### ■ TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED ■

9. 1. Answer the following questions.

- What is agriculture?
- Name the factors influencing agriculture.
- What is shifting cultivation? What are its disadvantages?
- What is plantation agriculture?
- Name the fibre crops and name the climatic conditions required for their growth.

- Ans.**
- Agriculture is the primary activity that involves cultivation of crops, fruits, vegetables, flowers and rearing of livestock.
  - Factors influencing agriculture include topography of soil and climate.
  - Shifting cultivation is the form of agriculture in which a plot of land is cleared by felling the trees and burning them. The ashes are then mixed with soil and crops are grown. After some time, the land is abandoned and the farmers move to a different place. It is disadvantageous because it involves deforestation and burning of trees. Thus it is not good for environment.
  - Plantation agriculture is a type of commercial farming where only a single crop (like tea, coffee, sugarcane, cashew, rubber, banana or cotton) is grown. Large amount of labour and capital are required. The produce is processed in the farm itself or nearby factories.
  - Two major fibre crops are jute and cotton. Jute grows well on alluvial soil and requires high temperature, heavy rainfall and humid climate for its growth. Cotton needs high temperature, light rainfall and bright sunshine for its proper growth.

**Q. 2.** Tick the correct answer.

(i) Horticulture means

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

(ii) Golden fibre refers to

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

(iii) Leading producers of coffee

- (a) Brazil
- (b) India
- (c) Russia

**Ans.** (i) (a), (ii) (c), (iii) (a).**Q. 3.** Give reasons.

(i) In India agriculture is a primary activity.

(ii) Different crops are grown in different regions.

**Ans.** (i) Agriculture is an activity of growing crops, fruits, vegetables, flowers and rearing of livestock. It is a primary activity since it directly involves in natural resources. In India, a huge number of people derive the activity from their ancestors. Due to lack of literacy in general, farmers prefer agriculture since they acquire the required skills from their ancestors, and so feel comfortable with it.

(ii) The growing of crops depends on a lot of factors. Climate, rainfall, humidity, etc are important factors. In absence of certain conditions, it may not be possible to grow a certain crop. So, different crops are grown in different regions.

**Q. 4.** Distinguish between the followings.

(i) Primary activities and secondary activities.

(ii) Subsistence farming and intensive farming.

**Ans.** (i)

Primary Activities	Secondary Activities
1. Activities which involve direct extraction and production of natural resources are called primary activities.	1. Activities which are concerned with the processing of natural resources are called secondary activities.
2. Examples: agriculture, fishing and gathering.	2. Examples: manufacturing activities in industry, baking bread.

(ii)

Subsistence Farming	Intensive Farming
1. Subsistence farming uses low levels of technology and household labour. The output produced is small.	1. In intensive farming a farmer uses simple tools and more labour to cultivate a small plot of land.

**Q. 5.** Activity

(i) Collect seeds of wheat, rice, jowar, bajra, ragi, maize, oilseeds and pulses available in the market. Bring them to the class and find out in which type of soil they grow.

(ii) Find out the difference between the life style of farmers in the USA and India on the basis of pictures collected from magazines, books, newspapers and the internet.

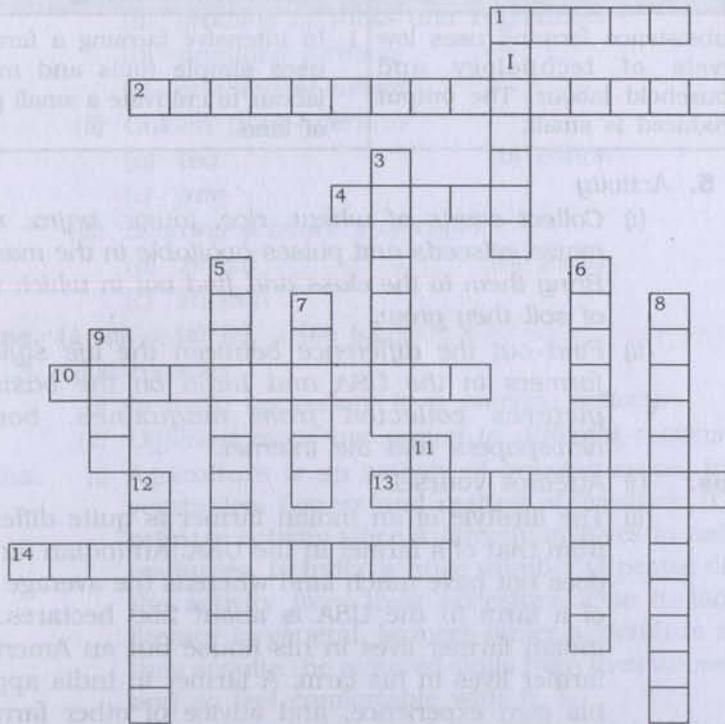
**Ans.** (i) Attempt yourself.

(ii) The lifestyle of an Indian farmer is quite different from that of a farmer in the USA. An Indian farmer does not have much land whereas the average size of a farm in the USA is about 250 hectares. An Indian farmer lives in his house but an American farmer lives in his farm. A farmer in India applies his own experience, and advice of other farmers and elders regarding farming practices. But a farmer in the USA gets his soil tested in laboratories to assess the nutrients of the soil. An Indian farmer does not know of any technical advancements whereas a farmer in the USA has a computer which is linked to the satellite. In comparison to an Indian farmer, an American farmer is much more advanced in every aspect.

**Fig.** A farmer in India ploughing his field.**Fig.** A scene of mechanised farming in USA.

9. 6. For fun

Solve the crossword puzzle with the help of given clues.



Across	Down
1. Crop that needs well drained fertile soils, moderate temperatures and lots of sunshine (5)	1. Coarse grains are also called (7)
2. Increasing production through use of HYV seeds, chemical fertilisers and pesticides (5,10)	3. Cultivation involving slash and burn (8)
4. USA, Canada, Russia, Australia are major producers of this crop (5)	5. Growing of crops, fruits and vegetables (11)
10. Type of farming to meet family needs (11)	6. Tea, coffee, sugarcane and rubber are grown in (11)
13. Rearing of animals for sale (9)	7. Requires 210 frost-free days for growth (6)
14. Growing grapes for wines (11)	8. Growing of flowers (12)
	9. Also called 'Golden Fibre' (4)
	11. Also known as paddy (4)
	12. Activity concerned with extraction of natural resources (7)

Ans.

