

Class 8
Geography Chapter 4
Agriculture

Q.1 Answer the following questions.

(i) What is agriculture ?

Ans. Agriculture refers to the cultivation of soil for growing crops and rearing of livestock.

(ii) Name the factors influencing agriculture.

Ans. the factors which influence agriculture are:

- (a) relief
- (b) soil conditions
- (c) temperature
- (d) rainfall

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

Ans. Shifting cultivation is practised in the thickly forested areas. In this cultivation, a plot of land is cleared by felling trees and burning them. The ashes of these trees are mixed with the soil and crops are grown. When the soil loses its fertility, the land is abandoned and the cultivator moves to a new plot. This cultivation is also known as 'Slash and burn' cultivation.

Disadvantages:

- (a) It's not eco-friendly.
- (b) It is very destructive.
- (c) It causes deforestation.
- (d) It can be cause of soil erosion.

(iv) What is plantation agriculture ?

Ans. It is a special type of commercial farming which requires large amount of labour, technical efficiency, very large estates and capital. In this type of agriculture, a simple crop of tea, rubber, coffee, sugarcane, Cashew, banana or cotton is grown. The produce may be processed on the farm itself or in nearby factories. A well-developed transport network is also required. Tropical regions of the world are major plantation areas. 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.

Ans. Jute and cotton are the major fibre crops.

Cotton requires high temperature, light rainfall, two hundred and ten frost free days and bright sunshine for its growth. Black and alluvial soils are best for its cultivation. Jute is also known as

the 'Golden Fibre'. High temperature, heavy rainfall and humid climate is required for its growth.

Q.2 Tick the correct answer :

(1) Horticulture means-

Ans. Growing of fruits and vegetables.

(2) Golden fibre refers to

Ans. Jute

(3) Leading producers of coffee

Ans. Brazil

Q.3 Give reasons.

1. In India agriculture is a primary activity.

Ans. Agriculture is a primary activity in India. More than 75% of India's population is living in villages and two-third of India's population is still dependent on agriculture. Agriculture provides raw material to many industries. It is the base of Indian economy. It has an important role in GDP.

2. Different crops are grown in different regions.

Ans. Different crops require different types of soil and climatic conditions for growth. These requirements cannot be met at one place for all types of crops. For example: cotton is grown in black soil while alluvial soil is good for rice. Different regions have black and alluvial soil. Some crops like tea and jute require heavy rainfall, while cotton requires light rainfall. These climatic conditions are not possible in same area. So different crops are grown in different regions.

Q.4 Distinguish between the following :

1. Primary and Tertiary activities

Ans. **Primary activities** -

- (a) Primary activities are connected with extraction and production on natural resources.
- (b) Agriculture, fishing, gathering are good examples of primary activities.

Tertiary activities -

- (a) Tertiary activities provide support to the primary and secondary sectors through services.
- (b) Transport, trade, banking and insurance are examples of tertiary activities.

2. Subsistence and Intensive farming

Ans. **Subsistence farming** .

- (a) The farming in which the crops are grown for home consumption by the farmer.
- (b) It is practised on small farms with simple tools and old technology.

(c) For example, the production of wheat in some parts of the country.

Intensive farming.

(a) Production is increased by using higher inputs and better agricultural techniques.

(b) This is practised in areas which are thickly populated.

(c) This is done in areas where there is less land available.
