

Chapter 4: Agriculture

NCERT · Class 10 · Social Science · Geography

Textbook exercises

Question 1

Multiple Choice Questions.

(i) Which one of the following describes a system of agriculture where a single crop is grown in a large area?

1. Shifting Agriculture
2. Plantation Agriculture
3. Horticulture
4. Intensive Agriculture

Solution

Ans: (b) Plantation Agriculture

(ii) Which one of the following is a rabi crop?

1. Rice
2. Gram
3. Millets
4. Cotton

Ans: (b) Gram

(iii) Which one of the following is a leguminous crop?

1. Pulses
2. Jawar
3. Millets
4. Sesamum

Ans: (a) Pulses

Question 2

Answer the following questions in 30 words.

- (i) Name one important beverage crop and specify the geographical conditions required for its growth.
- (ii) Name one staple crop of India and the regions where it is produced.
- (iii) Enlist the various institutional reform programmes introduced by the government in the interest of farmers.

Solution

Ans:

- (i) One of the important beverage crops is tea.

The tea plant grows in warm, tropical, and sub-tropical climates with deep, fertile soil that drains well and is rich in organic material. Tea bushes need a warm, moist, and frost-free environment throughout the year. Regular rainfall spread evenly over the year helps the leaves grow continuously. Tea farming needs a lot of workers who are skilled but not too costly. To keep the tea fresh, it is processed right in the tea garden.

- (ii) One staple crop of India is rice. It is primarily produced in regions like West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu. These areas have favourable conditions for rice cultivation, such as abundant water supply and fertile soil.

- (iii) Here are various institutional reform programs introduced by the Indian government in the interest of farmers:

1. Minimum Support Price (MSP)
2. Kisan Credit Card (KCC)
3. Personal Accident Insurance Scheme (PAIS)
4. Green Revolution

Question 3

Answer the following questions in about 120 words.

- (i) Suggest the initiative taken by the government to ensure the increase in agricultural production.
- (ii) Describe the geographical conditions required for the growth of rice.

Solution

Ans:

(i) In the 1960s and 1970s, the Indian government began reforms to improve agriculture. Key strategies included the Green Revolution, which used advanced technology, and the White Revolution, which boosted milk production. However, these efforts mainly benefited a few areas. To address this, in the 1980s and 1990s, a broader land development program was launched, including both institutional and technical reforms. Important steps included crop insurance against natural disasters, setting up Grameen banks and cooperative societies for low-interest loans, and introducing schemes like the Kissan Credit Card (KCC) and Personal Accident Insurance Scheme (PAIS) for farmers' benefit. The government also provided special weather bulletins and agricultural programs on radio and TV. Additionally, minimum support prices and procurement prices for key crops were announced to protect farmers from being exploited by speculators and middlemen.

(ii) Globalisation is not a new concept; it existed during the colonisation period. In the 19th century, European traders exported Indian spices worldwide, and farmers in South India were encouraged to grow these crops. Even today, spices remain a key export from India. However, since the 1990s, globalisation has brought new challenges for Indian farmers. Despite being major producers of rice, cotton, rubber, tea, coffee, jute, and spices, India's agricultural products struggle to compete with those from developed countries due to heavy subsidies in those nations. Indian agriculture is at a critical

point. To make farming successful and profitable, we need to focus on improving conditions for small and marginal farmers.
