

Chapter 9: Agriculture

9.1 Introduction to Agriculture

- Agriculture is the practice of cultivating soil, growing crops, and raising animals for food, fiber, and other products.
 - It is the **primary occupation** for a large portion of India's population.
 - Agriculture depends on **climate, soil, water availability**, and **technology**.
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9.2 Types of Farming in India

9.2.1 Primitive Subsistence Farming

- Practiced mainly in **tribal and hilly areas**.
- Uses **simple tools** and **traditional methods**.
- Low productivity, crops grown for **self-consumption**.
- Examples: **Jhum or shifting cultivation** in Northeast India.

9.2.2 Intensive Subsistence Farming

- High use of labor and capital on small landholdings.
- Mainly found in **Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar**.
- Crops include **wheat, rice, sugarcane, vegetables**.

9.2.3 Commercial Farming

- Producing crops for **sale in the market**.
 - Uses **modern tools, fertilizers, irrigation**.
 - Examples:
 - **Plantation farming**: Tea, coffee, rubber (Kerala, Assam).
 - **Mixed farming**: Growing crops and rearing animals.
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9.3 Major Crops of India

9.3.1 Food Crops

- **Rice**: Grown mainly in **Bihar, West Bengal, Punjab**.
- **Wheat**: Grown in **Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Millets and Pulses**: Grown in **dry regions**.

9.3.2 Cash Crops

- **Sugarcane**: Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra.
 - **Cotton**: Gujarat, Maharashtra.
 - **Tea and Coffee**: Assam, Kerala.
 - **Rubber**: Kerala.
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9.4 Agricultural Practices

- **Irrigation**: Essential for increasing production.
- Common methods: **Canals, wells, tube wells, drip irrigation**.

- Use of **fertilizers and pesticides** to enhance yield.
 - Adoption of **modern machinery** like tractors, harvesters.
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9.5 Problems in Indian Agriculture

- **Dependence on monsoon** causing droughts and floods.
 - **Small and fragmented landholdings.**
 - Lack of modern technology in many areas.
 - Soil degradation and **waterlogging.**
 - **Low productivity** compared to developed countries.
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9.6 Government Measures to Improve Agriculture

- Introduction of **Green Revolution**: High-yield variety seeds, chemical fertilizers.
 - Expansion of **irrigation facilities.**
 - Providing **subsidies** and **crop insurance.**
 - Encouraging **organic farming** and sustainable practices.
 - Development of **agricultural research institutes.**
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9.7 Role of Agriculture in Indian Economy

- Provides **food** and **raw materials** to industries.
- Employment for more than 50% of the population.

- Contributes significantly to the **GDP**.
- Supports **export earnings** through cash crops.