

- Primitive subsistence farming is known by '*Jhumming*' in north-eastern states like Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland;
- It is also known as *Pamlou* in Manipur, *Dipa* in Bastar district of Chattishgarh.
- In states like Assam, West Bengal and Orissa, three crops of paddy are grown in a year. These are *Aus*, *Aman* and *Boro*.
- Third most important food crop is Jowar.
- Ragi is very rich in iron, calcium, other micro nutrients and roughage.
- Maize is a crop which is used both as food and fodder.
- Urad, moong, masur, and gram are leguminous crops, these crops help in restoring soil fertility by fixing nitrogen from the air. Therefore, these are mostly grown in rotation with other crops.
- Groundnut is the major oilseed produced in the country.
- The Arabica variety of coffee brought from Yemen is produced in the country
- Rearing of silk worms for the production of silk fibre is known as **sericulture**.
- India is the original home of the cotton plant.
- Jute is known as the golden fibre.
- Vinobha Bhave introduced voluntary redistribution of farm-lands to poor landless farmers for their economic well-being. This act was known as '**Bhoodan**' or bloodless revolution.

Q.1 Examine the crucial role played by agriculture in our economy and society.

Ans. Two-thirds of its population is engaged in agricultural activities. Agriculture is a primary activity, which produces most of the food that we consume. Besides food grains, it also produces raw material for various industries. Moreover, some agricultural products like tea, coffee, spices, etc. are also exported.

Primitive Subsistence Farming

Q.2 State any five characteristics of Primitive Subsistence Farming.

Ans. In this type of farming farmers grow crops for self-consumption.

- It is practised on small patches of land.
- Farmers use primitive tools like hoe, dao and digging sticks,
- Only family/community labour is used for farming.
- This type of farming depends upon natural conditions such as monsoon, natural fertility of the soil and suitable conditions for the crops.
- It is also known as slash and burn' agriculture.
- Land productivity is low as the farmer does not use fertilisers.
- Food grain crops such as paddy, maize, potatoes are grown.

Intensive Subsistence Farming

Q.3 State any five characteristics of Intensive Subsistence Farming.

Ans. Characteristics are -

- Intensive subsistence farming is practiced in West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh.
- It is practised in areas of high pressure of population on agricultural land.
- It is labour-intensive farming,
- High doses of biochemical inputs and irrigation are used for obtaining higher production.
- Farm size is small and uneconomical due to the division of land,
- The farmers take maximum output from the limited land.
- Farmers do not have any alternative source of livelihood. Thus, there is enormous pressure on agricultural land.

Commercial Farming

Q.4 State any five characteristics of Commercial Farming.

Ans.

- Farmer use of higher doses of modern inputs, e.g. high yielding variety (HYV) seeds, chemical fertilisers, insecticides and pesticides.
- Farmer obtains higher productivity from land due to high doses of above inputs.

- The degree of commercialisation of agriculture varies from one region to another.
- In Plantation a single crop is grown on a large area.
- The plantation has an interface of agriculture and industry.
- The produce is used as raw material in respective industries.
- Modern machinery are used with the help of migrant labourers.
- It requires well-developed network of transport and communication.
- In India, tea, coffee, rubber, sugarcane, banana, etc. are important plantation crops.
- Plantation farming is practiced in Assam and North Bengal (Tea), Coffee in Karnataka.

CROPPING PATTERN

Q.5 Explain the features of three cropping seasons in India.

Ans. The three cropping seasons in India are rabi, kharif and zaid.

1. **Rabi crops**

- a. These crops are sown in winter from October to December and harvested in summer from April to June.
- b. Some of the important Rabi crops are wheat, barley, peas, gram and mustard.
- c. Success of Rabi crops depend on the precipitation during winter months due to the western temperate cyclones.
- d. Northern and northwestern states such as Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir are important for the producers of Rabi crops.

2. **Kharif crops**

- a. These crops are grown with the onset of monsoon and harvested in September-October.
- b. Important crops grown during this season are rice (paddy), maize, jowar, bajra, tur (arhar), moong, urad, cotton, jute, groundnut and soyabean.
- c. Some of the most important kharif regions are Assam, West Bengal, coastal regions of Orissa, the Konkan coast, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

3. **Zaid season**

- a. This season is in between the Rabi and the Kharif seasons,
- b. This is a short season during the summer months.
- c. Some of the crops produced during zaid are watermelon, muskmelon, cucumber, vegetables and fodder crops and Sugarcane.

Q.6 Analyses the challenges faced by the farming community in India. Why technological and institutional reforms are necessary for India.

Ans.

- Continued uses of land without reforms lead to slow down in the pace of agricultural development.
- Most of the farmers in large parts of the country still depend upon monsoon and natural fertility of soil.
- Our population grew at fast rate than agriculture production.
- Low farm productivity, lack of modern technology, inadequate irrigation facilities, and post-harvest losses are very common.
- More than 60 per cent of India's population depended on agriculture.

Q.7 Mention important institutional/land reforms introduced in India after independence.

Ans.

- After independence collectivisation, consolidation of holdings, cooperation and abolition of zamindari, etc. were given priority to bring about institutional reforms in the country.
- In 1960s and 1970s two most important reforms were introduced **The Green Revolution** and **The White Revolution** (Operation Flood).
- In 1980-90s **crop insurance**, Establishment of **Grameen banks**, cooperative societies, **Kissan Credit Card (KCC)**, **Personal Accident Insurance Scheme (PAIS)** are some other schemes introduced for the benefit of the farmers.
- Special **weather bulletins** and **agricultural programmes** for farmers were introduced on the radio and television. The **minimum support price, remunerative and procurement prices** for important crops to check the exploitation of farmers by speculators and middlemen.