

TOPIC: CROP PRODUCTION AND MANAGEMENT

INTRODUCTION:

Food is one of the basic necessities of life for all living organisms. Food provides energy for carrying out all body functions such as digestion, respiration and excretion. Among all living organisms, only green plants make their own food. Animals and human beings depend on plants and other animals for their food. In order to provide food for a large population, proper management and distribution of food is necessary.

More than 10,000 years ago, people used to hunt for food and look for shelter. Finally they learnt cultivation of land. This marked the new era in the history of humans- from food-gatherers they turned into food producers.

AGRICULTURE:

Agriculture is an applied Science that deals with the mass production of crop plants and animals useful to human beings. To fulfill the food requirement of such a large population like that of India, increased production, proper management and distribution of food is necessary.

CROPS AND CROPPING PATTERNS:

Plants of the same kind grown at one place on a large scale are called a crop. For example, crop of wheat means that all the plants grown in the field are of wheat. The product of cultivated plant is called crop produce.

Some crop plants grown in India:

S.No.	Type of crop	Crop Produce
1	Cereals	Wheat, Rice, maize, bajra, barley
2	Pulses	Gram, pea, bean, moong
3	Vegetables	Cabbage, Cauliflower, brinjal
4	Fruits	Mango, apple, pear, guava
5	Spices	Cardomom, black pepper
5	Fibre Crop	Cotton, jute, hemp
7	Plantation Crop	Tea, coffee, rubber, coconut
8	Sugar crops	Sugar cane, sugar beet
9	Oil Crops	Groundnut, Mustard, Castor
10	Medicinal Crops	Tulsi, Asparagus, neem
11	Timber	Teak Sheesham Pine

HORTICULTURE:

(Hortus – garden, culture- cultivation) is a branch of agriculture that deals with the production of vegetables, fruits and ornamental (decorative) plants. It is similar to agriculture but is usually carried on a small scale. Some important horticultural crops of India are Potato, Tomato, Cabbage (vegetables), apple, guava, pear (fruits)rose, jasmine, croton (ornamental plants).



The fact that horticulture crops are grown in 10% of India's gross cropped area signals the success of small and marginal farmers in growing more fruits and vegetables, driven by higher demand.

TYPES OF CROPS

Did you know India is the largest producer of bananas and mangoes in the world? It is also the second largest producer of wheat and rice. Agriculture has always been the backbone of our country's economy. And ever since the Green Revolution, we have started cultivating varied types of crops. Let us educate ourselves about the most important crops grown in India.

TWO BROAD CROPPING PATTERNS IN INDIA:

- i) KHARIF CROP
- ii) RABI CROPS

(I) KHARIF CROPS: The word "Kharif" is Arabic for autumn since the season coincides with the beginning of autumn or winter. Kharif crops also are known as *monsoon crops*. These are the crops that are cultivated in the monsoon season. The Kharif season differs in every state of the country but is generally from June to September. These crops are usually sown at the beginning of the monsoon season around June and harvested by September or October. Rice, maize, bajra, ragi, soybean, groundnut, cotton are all Kharif types crops.



RICE



MAIZE

(I) RABI CROPS: The Arabic translation of the word "Rabi" is spring. These crops' harvesting happens in the springtime hence the name. The Rabi season usually starts in November and lasts up to March or April. Rabi crops are mainly cultivated using irrigation since monsoons are already over by November. In fact, unseasonal showers in November or December can ruin the crops. The seeds are sown at the beginning of autumn, which results in a spring harvest. Wheat, barley, mustard and green peas are some of the major rabi types of crops that grow in India.



WHEAT



MUSTARD

SOLVED EXERCISE

Q1. Plants of the same kind grown at one place on a large scale are called a crop.

Q2. Kharif crops also are known as monsoon crops.

Q3. Which among the following is rabi crop?

(a) Wheat

(b) Gram

(c) Mustard

(d) All of these

Ans. All of these

Q4. Write down the difference between Rabi and Kharif crop.

Ans. The difference between Rabi and Kharif crop are as follows:

Kharif Crops	Rabi Crops
They are monsoon crops	They are non-monsoon crops
These are grown in wet and hot conditions	Require cold and relatively dry conditions to grow
Sowing of seeds begins in the rainy season around July	Here seeds are sown at the beginning of autumn in November or December
Harvesting is done in September – October	Harvesting happens in June – July
Examples: Rice, Maize, Bajra etc	Examples: Wheat, Mustard, Peas etc

Q5. Write a small note on Horticulture.

Ans. Horticulture: (Hortus – garden, culture- cultivation) is a branch of agriculture that deals with the production of vegetables, fruits and ornamental (decorative) plants. It is similar to agriculture but is usually carried on a small scale. Some important horticultural crops of India are Potato, Tomato, Cabbage (vegetables), apple, guava, pear (fruits) rose, jasmine, croton (ornamental plants).

Q6. Give any two examples of Pulses, Cereals, Plantation crop and Medicinal plants

Ans.

S.No.	Type of crop	Crop Produce
1	Cereals	Wheat, Rice,
2	Pulses	Gram, pea
3	Plantation Crop	Tea, coffee
4	Medicinal Crops	Tulsi, Asparagus

Q7. Look at the following picture and identify the product obtained from it?



Ans. This picture depicts horticulture of tomato.

Q8. Why is food one of the basic necessities of life?

Ans: Food is one of the basic necessities of life for all living organisms. Food provides energy for carrying out all body functions such as digestion, respiration and excretion.

Q9. What is meant by the term Agriculture?

Ans: Agriculture is an applied Science that deals with the mass production of crop plants and animals useful to human beings

Q10. What is necessary to fulfill the food requirement of ever increasing population of India?

Ans: To fulfill the food requirement of such a large population like that of India, increased production, proper management and distribution of food is necessary.

PRACTICE EXERCISE

Q1. Rabi crops are harvested in the _____.

Q2. An applied Science that deals with the mass production of crop plants and animals useful to human beings is called _____.

Q3. A branch of agriculture that deals with the production of vegetables, fruits and ornamental (decorative) plants is known as _____.

Q4. Which among the following is a kharif crop?

(a) Pea

(c) Wheat

(b) cotton

(d) Mustard

Q5. Which one of the following is a spice?

(a) Potato

(c) Mango

(b) Bean

(d) Black Pepper

Q6. Give two examples of spices, sugar crop and timber.

Q7. Write a small note on Kharif crop.

Q8. How did learning cultivation help human beings?

Q9. What do you mean by Rabi crop?

Q10. What is depicted in the picture given below? Which category of crop does this belong to?

