

# Agriculture

---

As you know that the land is a major resource of the nation. It is a fixed asset. It cannot be expanded to meet the other needs of a country. Agriculture is one of the many of its uses. Agriculture uses 60 out of 100 working people. It is the main economic activity in India. Here agriculture covers animal raising and fishery as well. Many industries in India are dependent on agriculture.



Ploughing

The basis for the classification of different type of agriculture in India is

1. rainfall,
2. irrigational facilities,
3. nature of soil,
4. purpose of production,
5. size of holding, and 6. technology.



Tea garden



Sugarcane



Sugar

**The main types of farming in India are**

**(a) Dry Farming** where rainfall is less than 80 cm.

Jawar, Bajra, and pulses are grown under this type of farming. Rajasthan, Maharashtra, parts of Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Gujarat, and Karnataka are the land areas where dry farming is done.



Plantation crops provide cocoa and coffee

**(b) Wet Farming** where rainfall is more than 200cm. Rice and jute are the main crops. West Bengal, Assam, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Tripura, Manipur, Mizoram and Malabar are the land where Wet farming is done.



Grams and beans are good sources of protein

**(c) Irrigated Farming** where the rainfall is between 80cm to 200cm.

In these areas, irrigated from the rainfall, along with surface water and under the surface water is done. It is practiced in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Wheat, Rice, and sugarcane are the important crops of irrigated farming.



Millets

There are other types of farming as well.

### Types of Crops

- **Food crops:** paddy, wheat, jawar, bajra, maize, etc.
- **Pulses:** gram, arahar, peas, black gram, lentil, etc.
- **Oil seeds:** groundnut, mustard, soyabeans, coconuts, sunflower, etc.
- **Beverages:** tea, coffee, coco, etc.
- **Fiber crops:** cotton, jute, etc.
- **Other crops:** sugarcane, spices, fruits, vegetables, floriculture, rubber, tobacco, etc.

Paddy is grown almost all over India except where there is very less rainfall. It is grown in kharif season. Rice is taken out of paddy. Many food products are made from rice. In one way or other, it is part of our meals. India is the second largest producer of rice next only to China.

Wheat is grown in rabi season. It is next to rice in amount of produce in India. Kharif season of crops is usually begins with coming of the rains. Rabi season begins around October when the rain stops.

Tea is exported to many countries by India. India is the leading producer and consumer of tea.



**Cotton** is produced on a large scale in India. India is the fourth largest producer after the U.S.A, China and Russia. The quality of cotton is rather poor. Cotton seeds are used for its oil and cattle feed.



Cotton ball

Sugarcane is the native plant of India. The country has the largest area in the world under this crop. Other crops are significant in various ways. We are exporting some of the products and importing many of them. It may be interesting to know that India is the largest producer of mangoes in the world.

Also that India is the second largest producer of vegetables in the world next only to China. However, India produces largest volume of cauliflower, second largest onion and third largest in cabbage. Since Independence, the Government has made special efforts to improve agriculture produce in multifarious ways.

The results have been very successful. This is called as the Green Revolution. India has stepped up the production of flowers. The local consumption of flowers is growing rapidly. India has started exporting flowers as well.



**Tips:**

- Land is the major fixed asset of the country.
- Agriculture is one of the many uses of land.
- Agriculture provides 60 percent of the employment in the country.
- There are many factors which decide the nature of farming.
- Major types of farming in India are (a) Dry farming (b) Wet farming and (c) Irrigated farming.
- There are many types of crops. Major crops among them are paddy, wheat, millets, pulses, oil crops, sugarcane and beverages.