NCERT SOLUTIONS

CLASS - 8TH

Class : 8th
Subject : Geography
Chapter : 4
Chapter Name : Agriculture

Q1 Answer the following questions.
(i) What is agriculture?
(ii) Name the factors influencing agriculture?
(iii) What is shifting cultivation? What are its disadvantages?
(iv) What is plantation agriculture?
(v) Name the fibre crops and name the climatic conditions required for their growth

Answer. (i) The word agriculture is derived from the Latin words agri—meaning soil—and culture—meaning cultivation or tilling of soil. It is defined as the science and art of cultivation of soil, raising crops and rearing livestock.
(ii) The factors influencing agriculture are favourable topography of soil and climate.
(iii) Shifting cultivation or slash-and-burn cultivation is a type of farming activity which involves clearing a plot of land by felling trees, burning the felled trees, mixing the ashes with soil, and then growing crops like maize, yam, potatoes and cassava on the cleared land. After the soil loses its fertility, the land is abandoned and the cultivator moves on to a new plot. This type of farming has the following disadvantages.
(a) Leads to deforestation
(b) Soil becomes susceptible to erosion due to deforestation
(c) Soil loses its fertility due to the erosion of the top soil
(iv) Plantation agriculture is a type of commercial farming where a single crop of tea, coffee, sugarcane, cashew, rubber, banana or cotton is grown. Large amount of labour and capital is required in this type of farming. The produce is either processed on the farm itself or in nearby factories. Major plantations are found in the tropical regions of the world, like rubber in Malaysia, coffee in Brazil, tea in India and Sri Lanka, etc.
(v) Cotton and jute are the fibre crops.
Climatic conditions required for the growth of cotton:
(a) High temperature
(b) Light rainfall
(c) 210 frost-free days
(d) Bright sunshine
Climatic conditions required for the growth of jute:
(a) High temperature
(b) Heavy rainfall
(c) Humid climate

Page : 46 , Block Name : Exercises

Q2 Tick the correct answer.
(i) Horticulture means
(a) growing of fruits and vegetables
(b) primitive farming
(c) growing of wheat
(ii) Golden fibre refers to
(a) tea
(b) cotton
(c) jute
(iii) Leading producers of coffee
(a) Brazil
(b) India
(c) Russia

Answer. (i)-(a)
(ii)-(c)
(iii)-(a)

Page : 46 , Block Name : Exercises

Q3 Give reasons.
(i) In India agriculture is a primary activity.
(ii) Different crops are grown in different regions

Answer. (i) Two-third of India's population is dependent upon agriculture. Hence, in India, agriculture is a primary activity.
(ii) The type of crops grown is dependent upon the type of soil and the type of climate of a region. Different regions have different soil types and climatic conditions. This is why a crop may have favourable factors of growth in one region and adverse factors of growth in another. The demand for the produce, labour and level of technology are also some factors that decide the type of crops grown in a particular region.

Page : 46 , Block Name : Exercises

Q4 Distinguish between the followings.
(i) Primary activites and tertiary activities
(ii) Subsistence farming and intenstive farming

Answer. (i) Primary activites
(a) Connected with the extraction and production of natural resources
(b) Example: Agriculture, fishing
Tertiary activities
(a) Provide support to the primary and secondary sectors

(b) Example: Services such as banking and transport

(ii) Subsistence farming- Practised to meet the needs of the farmer's family; involves the use
of low levels of technology and household labour for producing a small output
Intensive farming-A type of subsistence farming; involves the annual cultivation of a small
plot of land using simple tools and more labour

Page : 46 , Block Name : Exercises