

READING MATERIALS

Subject –GEOGRAPHY Book-Resource & Development

Class –VIII

Chapter-4 AGRICULTURE

CONCEPTS

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is a primary activity. It includes growing crops, fruits, vegetables, flowers and rearing of livestock. Favourable climate, topography, soil is important for this activity.

NOMADIC HERDING

In this type of farming, herdsmen move from one place to another with their animals for fodder and water. This movement arises in response to climatic constraints and terrain. It is practised in extreme climatic regions.

PRIMARY ACTIVITY

These activities are concerned with obtaining products from nature directly. Hunting of animals, gathering of plant products such as nuts, fruits, fishing and harvesting of crops and trees.

SECONDARY ACTIVITY

Secondary activities include processing and increasing the utility of the products of the primary activity. Manufacturing of steel, baking of bread, weaving of clothes are examples of this activity.

TERTIARY ACTIVITY

Tertiary activities are concerned with providing services. It gives support to Primary and Secondary sectors. Transport, banking, trade, commerce are examples of Tertiary sector.

FARM SYSTEM

Agriculture or Farming is a type of system which includes 3 steps a) inputs b) operations and c) outputs. Physical Inputs are the favourable environment (Rain, light, soil) Human Inputs are Seeds, fertilisers, machines, labour etc. Operations or processing includes ploughing, sowing, weeding, irrigating, spraying etc and Outputs are the final products like crops, wool, dairy, poultry etc.

SUBSISTENCE FARMING

The aim of this type of farming is to meet the needs of the farmer's family. Low level of technology, household labours are used to produce on small output.

PRIMITIVE SUBSISTENCE FARMING

This Farming is subtype of Subsistence Farming. It is practised on small patches of land with the help of primitive tools. This type of farming depends on factors like monsoon, fertility of soil etc.

JHUM CULTIVATION

It is called primitive form of cultivation. Farmers clear a patch of forest by burning trees and after that they produce crops temporarily to sustain their family . When soil fertility decreases the farmers shift for a new land. This farming is now banned by the Governments.

INTENSIVE SUBSISTENCE FARMING

It is a subtype of Subsistence farming. Here people use simple tools and more labour. Land size is small and farmers cultivate land once or twice or sometimes thrice in a year. It is practised in highly populated areas.

COMMERCIAL FARMING

Commercial Farming is a type of farming in which crops are grown for commercial use only. It requires high doses of modern inputs for higher productivity. Sometimes with the cultivation animals are reared for sale in the market. So mixed farming, plantation farming are different types of farming.

MIXED FARMING

In mixed farming the land is used for growing food and fodder crops and rearing livestock.

PLANTATION FARMING

In this type of Commercial farming a single crop is grown on a large area. Here crops are grown for profit. It is a capital intensive activity. It has an interface of agriculture and industry.

AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT

Agriculture Development means maximising the production of farm by using modern technology like hybrid seeds, irrigation, fertilisers, machinery, multiple cropping etc.