

# Agriculture in India and – Food Crops

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## Agriculture in India - Food Crops

**Types of Agriculture in India:** Agriculture is a crucial sector in India's economy, contributing in various ways:

- Provides food for the growing population.
- Supplies raw materials for agro-based industries.
- Creates a market for industrial goods.
- Offers employment to millions.
- Contributes to exports.

Some key types of farming in India include:

- Shifting Agriculture
- Subsistence Agriculture
- Intensive Agriculture
- Extensive Farming
- Plantation Farming
- Mixed Farming

### **Shifting Agriculture:**

- Also known as "slash and burn," practiced mainly in northeast India.
- A forest area is cleared by cutting and burning trees, using the ash as fertilizer.
- After a few years, the land is left fallow, and a new area is cleared.
- Common crops: maize, potato, yam, cassava.

### **Subsistence Farming:**

- Small land holdings using traditional farming methods.
- Mainly for self-consumption, with little use of fertilizers or high-yielding seeds.

### **Intensive Farming:**

- Labor-intensive, with the use of fertilizers, high-yield seeds, and irrigation.
- Multiple crops grown on the same field.

### **Extensive Farming:**

- Large-scale cultivation with high productivity.
- Mechanized, and crops like rice, wheat, maize, and sugarcane are grown.

### **Plantation Farming:**

- Single crops like tea, sugarcane, coffee, and rubber are grown on large estates.
- Requires large labor and capital, and modern agricultural methods.

### **Mixed Farming:**

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- Growing multiple crops and rearing animals.
- Provides steady income for farmers.

## Commercial Farming:

- Crops are grown for sale, with mechanized farming practices.
- Major crops: wheat, maize.
- Practiced in Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, and other regions.

## Dry Farming:

- Practiced in areas with limited irrigation.
- Crops like jowar, bajra, and ragi are grown, especially in Western Rajasthan and parts of the Deccan.

## Problems Faced by Indian Agriculture:

- Environmental: Unreliable rainfall, soil erosion, lack of irrigation.
- Institutional: Small, fragmented land holdings, exploitation of farmers.
- Economic: Subsistence farming, challenges of globalization.
- Technological: Outdated farming techniques.

## Steps to Improve Agricultural Production:

- Reforms like the abolition of the Zamindari Act and land consolidation.
- Creation of irrigation infrastructure and subsidies for fertilizers.
- Minimum support prices for crops.

## Green Revolution:

- Introduction of high-yield seeds, fertilizers, and irrigation.
- Led to increased farm production and self-sufficiency in food grains.
- Criticized for environmental damage and soil degradation.

## Agricultural Crops and Seasons:

### Cropping Seasons:

- **Rabi (Winter):** Sown in October-December, harvested in April-June. Major crops: wheat, barley, mustard.
- **Kharif (Monsoon):** Sown in July, harvested in September-October. Major crops: rice, maize, cotton.
- **Zaid (Summer):** Sown in March-April, harvested in May-June. Major crops: watermelon, cucumber, vegetables.

### Rice:

- **Climate:** Requires temperatures of 20-35°C and high rainfall.
- **Methods:** Dry and puddle methods are used for cultivation.

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- **Regions:** Grown in states like West Bengal, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, and Assam.

### Wheat:

- **Climate:** Cool climate, ideal temperature 10-25°C.
- **Regions:** Grown primarily in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, and Madhya Pradesh.

### Millets:

- **Jowar, Bajra, and Ragi** are common varieties.
- **Climate:** Grown in arid and semi-arid regions with rainfall below 50 cm.
- **Regions:** Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Karnataka, and Gujarat.

### Pulses:

- Key pulses: gram, urad, moong, masur.
- **Climate:** Grown in areas with moderate rainfall (50-75 cm).
- **Regions:** Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan.