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## Types of Farming and Cropping Pattern

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**India as an Agricultural Economy:** Two-thirds of India's population is engaged in agricultural activities, making agriculture the primary occupation for many.

**Role of Agriculture in Indian Economy:**

- **Employment:** Agriculture employs over 50% of the population, including farmers, labourers, and traders.
- **GDP Contribution:** It contributes about 17% to India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- **Export Earnings:** Surplus agricultural production is exported, earning valuable foreign exchange.

**Types of Farming Systems Practiced in India:**

- **Primitive Subsistence Farming:** Practiced on small land patches using primitive tools like hoe and dao. It depends on monsoon and natural soil fertility. Also called slash-and-burn agriculture or jhumming in northeastern states.

- **Intensive Subsistence Farming:** Practiced in densely populated areas using high doses of fertilizers and irrigation to increase production.
- **Commercial Farming:** Uses modern inputs like high-yield variety seeds, chemical fertilizers, and pesticides. The main goal is profit through selling produce. Includes plantation farming (e.g., tea, coffee).

### Cropping Seasons in India:

- **Rabi Season:** October to June; crops include wheat, barley, gram, and oilseeds. Grown mainly in northern states.
- **Kharif Season:** June to October; crops include rice, maize, millets, cotton, jute, groundnut. Requires good rainfall.
- **Zaid Season:** Short season between Rabi and Kharif; crops include watermelon, cucumber, and some vegetables.

### Exam Questions

**Q1:** What are the main types of farming practiced in India?

**Answer:** Primitive subsistence farming, intensive subsistence farming, and commercial farming.

**Q2:** Name the three cropping seasons in India and one crop grown in each.

**Answer:** Rabi (wheat), Kharif (rice), Zaid (watermelon).

## Major Crops and Technological and Institutional Reforms

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**Major Crops in India:**

- **Rice:** Staple food, second largest producer globally, a Kharif crop requiring high temperature and humidity.
- **Wheat:** Second most important cereal, a Rabi crop needing cool growing season and sunshine.
- **Millets:** Coarse grains like jowar, bajra, and ragi grown in specific regions.
- **Maize:** Used as food and fodder, a Kharif crop grown in several states.
- **Pulses:** India is the largest producer and consumer; includes tur, urad, moong, masur, peas, and gram.
- **Sugarcane:** Tropical crop, main source of sugar and related products.
- **Oil Seeds:** Includes groundnut, mustard, coconut, soyabean, and others used for cooking and industry.
- **Tea and Coffee:** Plantation crops grown in specific climatic conditions; India is a major producer.
- **Horticulture Crops:** Fruits and vegetables like mangoes, oranges, bananas, and tomatoes.
- **Non-Food Crops:** Rubber and fibre crops like cotton, jute, hemp, and silk.

### Technological and Institutional Reforms:

- Post-independence land reforms including abolition of zamindari and consolidation of holdings.
- **Green Revolution:** Introduction of high-yield variety seeds, fertilizers, and irrigation to increase cereal production.
- **White Revolution:** Increase in milk production through Operation Flood.
- Institutional credit through banks and cooperatives, crop insurance, and government schemes like Kissan Credit Card.
- Government support includes minimum support prices (MSP) and agricultural information dissemination via media.
- **Bhoodan-Gramdan Movement:** Initiated by Vinoba Bhave in 1951 to encourage voluntary land donation for the landless, known as the Bloodless Revolution.

### Exam Questions

**Q1:** What was the Green Revolution and why was it important?

**Answer:** The Green Revolution was the introduction of high-yield variety seeds, fertilizers, and irrigation in the 1960s and 1970s to increase food grain production in India, helping to achieve food security.

**Q2:** Name two major plantation crops in India.

**Answer:** Tea and coffee.

## Solved Examples

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**Example 1:** Identify the cropping season and major states for wheat cultivation in India.

**Solution:** Wheat is a Rabi crop grown mainly in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand.

**Example 2:** Explain the significance of the White Revolution.

**Solution:** The White Revolution, also known as Operation Flood, significantly increased milk production in India, making it the largest milk producer in the world and improving rural livelihoods.

## Practice Set

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### Easy

- What is subsistence farming?
- Name the three cropping seasons in India.

### Moderate

- Describe the main features of commercial farming.
- List any four major food crops grown in India.

## Challenging

- Explain the impact of the Green Revolution on Indian agriculture.
- Discuss the role of institutional reforms in improving Indian agriculture.

## Answer Key

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- **Easy:**
  - Subsistence farming is farming where farmers grow food mainly for their own consumption.
  - The three cropping seasons are Rabi, Kharif, and Zaid.
- **Moderate:**
  - Commercial farming uses modern inputs like HYV seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides to produce crops for sale.
  - Major food crops include rice, wheat, millets, and pulses.
- **Challenging:**
  - The Green Revolution increased food grain production, reduced dependence on imports, and improved food security.
  - Institutional reforms like land redistribution, cooperative societies, and credit facilities helped farmers access resources and improve productivity.

## Quick Reference

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- **Primitive Subsistence Farming:** Small scale, primitive tools, dependent on monsoon.
- **Intensive Subsistence Farming:** High labor and input use, small landholdings.
- **Commercial Farming:** Large scale, modern inputs, profit-oriented.
- **Rabi Crops:** Wheat, barley, gram.
- **Kharif Crops:** Rice, maize, cotton.
- **Zaid Crops:** Watermelon, cucumber.
- **Green Revolution:** High-yield seeds, fertilizers, irrigation.

- **White Revolution:** Increased milk production.
- **Bhoodan–Gramdan Movement:** Voluntary land donation for landless.

## Glossary

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- **Agriculture:** The science or practice of farming including cultivation of soil and rearing of animals.
- **Commercialisation of Farming:** Growing crops for sale in markets rather than local consumption.
- **Green Revolution:** A period of agricultural transformation using modern technology to increase production.
- **Institutional Reforms:** Changes in land ownership, credit, and cooperative systems to improve agriculture.
- **Primitive Subsistence Farming:** Traditional farming using simple tools and natural conditions.
- **Slash and Burn Agriculture:** Clearing and burning forest land to create fields.
- **White Revolution:** Increase in milk production through organized dairy farming.
- **Zaid Crops:** Crops grown in the short season between Rabi and Kharif.

## Chronology of Key Agricultural Events

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Time Period / Year	Event / Change	Importance
1951	Bhoodan–Gramdan Movement	Encouraged voluntary land donation for landless farmers, promoting social justice.
1960s–1970s	Green Revolution	Introduced high–yield seeds and modern inputs, increasing food grain production.
1970s onwards	White Revolution (Operation Flood)	Increased milk production, making India the largest milk producer.
1980s–1990s	Comprehensive land development and institutional reforms	Improved credit access, cooperative societies, and crop insurance for farmers.