

2.2 The sower

Ice Breakers

(1) Make a list of words related to agriculture.

Ans. Farmer, crop, fields, sow, reap, plough, irrigate, rainfall, bumper-harvest are some words related to agriculture.

(2) Discuss the activities carried out by a farmer.

Ans.



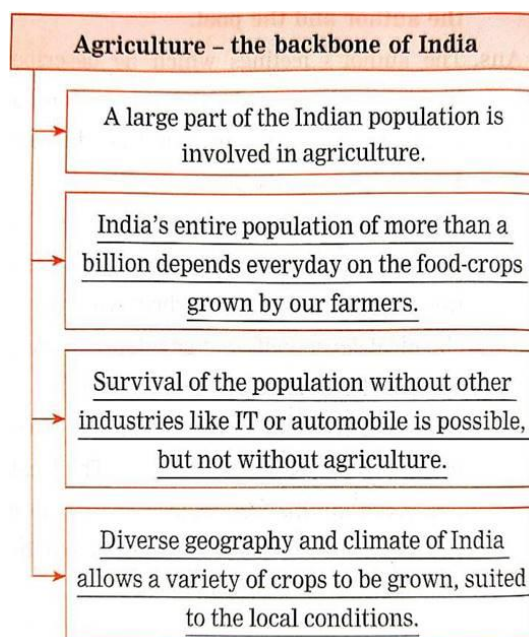
• (i) In our country engineering, teaching and medical fields are much sought after. Other professions, occupations, though they make a significant contribution to the society, do not get their due.

Ans.

1. Farmer	highly unpredictable economic gains.
2. Conservancy workers	engaged in occupations involving health-risks, in unsanitary conditions, without required work-gear and equipment.
3. House-help	no paid time off, no minimum wage assured, no old age benefits.
4. Daily wage labourers	unsafe work-conditions, arbitrary-wages, gender inequality, no housing, no proper education for offspring, no healthcare, greedy labour-contractors.
5. Street-venders	uncertain income, harassment.

(ii) 'Agriculture is the backbone of the Indian economy'. Fill in the boxes supporting this statement. Complete the following web diagram.

Ans.



Paraphrase

The poet is seated in the front of her house watching the evening scene before her. The sun is setting. Twilight has set in; daylight is fading fast as night falls upon the earth. Working hours are almost over, but in the dimness of dusk, she sees a farmer still among his fields. She describes him as old and poor, patiently surveying the land around him. She feels respect for the peasant. His figure is dark against the evening skies and towers over the ploughed soil. He is ready for the task at hand.

He is going to sow the seeds, which, sometime in the future, he will harvest. The old farmer walks up and down scattering the seeds methodically under the darkening sky. The poet, deep in thought watches him. He is a noble and impressive figure. He seems to touch the starry sky from where she is watching.

BRAINSTORMING

(A1) There are a number of challenges a farmer in India faces. Discuss with your friend, how it is possible to improve the condition of farmers.

Ans.

Sr.No.	Challenges	Solutions
1	Water scarcity	Rainwater Harvesting
2	Credit and indebtedness	Implement policies for farmers' easier bank-borrowing
3	Land issues	Govt. intervention to support poor farmers
4	Climatic changes	• Education and awareness among farmers to take insurance for yields due to natural calamities poor

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public policies to improve environment and stop destruction of forest spaces for industries.
5	Social groups	Formation of appropriate social groups to get information about government policies/best seeds/best market prices, etc.
6	Lack of advanced technology	Latest developments in Agri-tech must be brought to farmers' co-ops., especially for cold storage, transport, marketing, value addition and preserving -technology for perishable produce.
7	Diversification	Education of farmers to grow a variety of crops suited to the local conditions/market demands
8	Market risks	(Support price) MSP, value addition, equipment and know-how for cold storage, food-processing technology, must be provided to instill confidence in farmers

(A2) The poet has observed the sower closely. Express in your own words the reverence the poet has for the sower.

Ans. The poet observes that the old farmer is still at work even at dusk. He does not end his work just because it is twilight, or because other workers have gone home. She feels wonder and respect ('I feel a thrill') at his tall shape, alone in the field, looking over his land. He dutifully plods up and down, sowing. She is lost in thought ('Muse I'). She is impressed at his hard work, for he works alone in order that many other people can also eat.

(A3) The poet is prompted to call the sower an 'august personality', which means one who has reached the highest position in his workplace. Explain this using the following points.

- Hard work**

Ans. The farmer has to labour, every day from sun up to sundown, preparing the land, sowing, weeding, fertilizing, irrigating, keeping away pests, poachers, stray animals and constantly fearing bad weather. He has to pray for rain and sun at the right stage for his fields of crops, and, if all goes well he can harvest it. He must again get a good price for his hard work to make a livelihood. There are so many things that could go wrong in spite of his back-breaking toils.

- Perseverance**

Ans. The farmer, has to face many adversities. Too much rain or too little, wild winds or animals, sickness of the plants or his family, are all threats. There is the never ending attention and work demanded by the crops in the fields. All this requires enormous determination. He perseveres even then, tending to the land so that his harvest will feed not only his family, but his fellowmen too. The inner

courage to face the difficulties and the determination to do hard labour shows the farmer's perseverance.

- **Dedication**

Ans. Only the farmer who is dedicated to work on his beloved land can face the multiple challenges. He must love the land and the hard work and harvest is his reward. For an onlooker it might be frightening to think of so many things that could cause ruin. It is easier to leave this to 'someone else' and buy the supply of food we need. But only the dedicated son of the earth will give his sweat and blood to nurture the earth, season after season, year after year.

(A4) (i) Pick out the examples of alliteration from the poem and write them down.

Ans. But a sower lingers still, '...
'Seems to touch the starry skies.' The sibilant occurs in the same line. The letter 'S' begins three words of the six in a line
'From his hands..' The letter 'h' begins adjacent words 'Darkness deepens'.
Adjacent words begin
with the letter 'd'.

(ii) 'Seems to touch the starry skies'. The poet has used word imagery. Describe the idea and pick out other similar examples from the poem.

Ans. The poet has created a mental picture of a farmer touching the sky filled with stars.

Similar examples of word imagery are as follows:

1. Twilight hastens on to rule.

(A5) (i) Write an appreciation of the poem considering the following points:

- About the poem/poet/title
- Theme
- Poetic devices, language, style
- Special features/novelties/focussing elements
- Values, message
- Your opinion about the poem

Ans. Toru Dutt's translation of Victor Hugo's poem is in praise of a farmer

working by himself to sow the seeds after sundown. The twenty line poem is not divided into stanzas, and the rhyme scheme is ab, ab, cd, cd and so on. The theme centres on the lone farmer continuing to toil even in the half-darkness with quiet determination. The poem is set around sunset, which is described variously as 'Sunlight dying fast,' 'Twilight hastens,' 'Shadows', 'Darkness deepens,' 'starry skies'. The farmer is described as 'Old', 'in rags', 'patient', 'his silhouette dominates', 'Marches along', and his 'august gestures'.

Poetic devices like alliteration, imagery and hyperbole add the tone of the poet's respect and admiration for the farmer's toil. The words 'his gestures are august' and 'his height seems to touch the skies', 'strides'. 'Marches' are in contrast to the figure being 'old, in rags'. This emphasizes how in spite of his poverty he is a commanding figure. Toru Dutt succeeds in making the reader to imagine the old farmer with reverence for his single-handed toil in the darkness.

(ii) Write a summary of the poem using the following points:

- Title
- Introductory paragraph (about the poem, type, nature, tone)
- Main body (central idea, gist of the poem)
- Conclusion (opinion, views, appeal)

Ans. The title is what the whole poem is about - the Farmer sowing his fields. The poet is observing the lone figure in the half darkness which is fast turning to night. He is old and poorly clad in rags, yet she admires him for his dignity. The personality of the honest and hard-working has a quiet air of confidence, fearlessness, and independence. Toru Dutt captures these beautifully in her description by the language used. Her deep respect and admiration for the simple, hard working farmer is felt by the reader also. The poem is simple in form and language, but the message is deep and can be felt by the reader also.

(iii) Compose a poem on a farmer in 4 to 6 lines to complete the following:

Ans. He sweats in the haze of the midday blaze
He does not fret if it forgets to rain
He sows and ploughs, over years and days
To the soil he bows, his Mother, the furrowed plain.

(A6) Imagine that you are a farmer from a drought-prone area. Write a letter to a newspaper editor, discuss the problems and suggest possible solutions.

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17 June, 2019

The Editor
The New Day
6, Tilak Road
Marine Lines
Mumbai - 400 001
Maharashtra.

Sub - The drought-ridden farmer.

Dear Sir,

This is to bring to the limelight the sad plight and suffering of farmers in the drought-prone areas of Maharashtra through your esteemed newspaper.

This is the third consecutive year that has gone by without rains. No sowing has taken place for six-growing seasons. The farmers are staring at starvation. Their children are sick with malnutrition -related diseases. This is natural calamity, is partly man-made. Steps must be taken immediately to help.

Here are a few suggestions for long term and short term measures. Short term measures would be to gather the distressed farmers and their families into areas with food, shelter and medical attention provided for such so that their physical and mental health is safe. They are landowners who have lived with dignity and also fed the country's population. They need support urgently in this hour of trouble. If and when the rains arrive, there should be water-harvesting and conservation methods undertaken. The necessary infrastructure and education of farmers should be started in the meantime. Afforestation is needed to replace the ecosystem destroyed by excessive tree-cutting that has occurred over many areas.

The government authorities have to take immediate action for surveying, planning and carrying out these steps. At least some steps to save the farmers from ruin must be taken. Farmer suicides are happening regularly and it should not be allowed to happen in this instance.

I hope the authorities concerned will take action at the earliest and save the sons of the soil.

Thanking you,
Yours truly,
Deepak Shinde

(A7) Agriculture is the principal occupation in Maharashtra that has many career opportunities

Write in brief about the various career opportunities given above. You can collect the information from the career opportunities given above. following universities :

1. Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur.

2. Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Pune.

3. Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola.

(a) Agricultural Correspondent: An Agricultural Correspondent covers all the events, articles of interest and stories which are relevant to farmers; writes articles for newspapers and magazines or television about -

- fertilizers, seeds, irrigation, etc.
- Disease outbreaks
- Weather reports and patterns
- Labour issues

(b) Marketing Communications Manager: The Marketing Communications Manager is responsible for:

- Creating and implementing plans to increase market share
- Commissioning or conducting market research
- -to produce effective promotional materials
- Coordinating with and managing agency partners
- Developing schedules and maintaining deadlines

(c) Agricultural policy analyst- An agricultural economist specializes in understanding the economic activity within agricultural markets.

(d) Farm Management - is the collective term for various management strategies and methods that are employed to keep a farm productive.

(e) Soil Conservationist - A soil and water conservationist is a scientist that performs land surveys, designs soil or water conservation plans, creates guidelines to prevent soil erosion and the loss of soil fertility.

(f) Scientist - Krishi Vigyan Kendra. KVK exist mostly so that they can give skill-based training to farmers. It is a place where farmer can go to resolve crop-related issues.

(g) Machine Design Engineer - Designs machines specific to fields like medical/ agriculture/ geriatric-care and so on.

(h) A Zoologist - is a biological scientist that studies animals.

(i) Veterinarians - are medical professionals that treat animals. They examine, diagnose, and treat pets, farm animals, or other animals and often perform surgery.

(j) Food Microbiology - is important to safety, production, processing, preservation, and storage of food.

(k) Horticulture - is the science and art of producing, improving, marketing, and using fruits, vegetables, flowers, and ornamental plants.

(l) Agricultural Economics - is the study of the allocation, distribution, and utilization of the resources used, along with the commodities produced, by farming.

(A8) Project: Visit your college library or use the web and collect information on 'Green Revolution' and 'White Revolution' in our country.

Ans. At the time of its independence, India was an agriculture-dependent economy. And yet the state of Indian agricultural sector was dismal. From the lack of investment, a dearth of technology, low yield per acre several problems plagued the industry. And so the Indian government took steps to bring about the Green Revolution using HYV seeds.

Green Revolution:

- The introduction of High Yielding Variety (HYV) seeds.
- Along with better and efficient irrigation
- correct use of fertilizers
- make India self-sufficient in food grains.
- M.S. Swaminathan is known as the father of Green Revolution.

White Revolution :

- The India government began "Operation Flood" Programme to increase milk production
- Operation Flood was to create a nationwide milk grid.

- It helped in reducing the malpractices by milk traders and mercenary merchants.
- Helping in eradicating poverty.
- This helped in reducing seasonal and regional price variations
- Augment rural incomes.
- Offer fair prices for consumers
- Verghese Kurien is considered as the father of India's 'White Revolution'.