

Chapter : 5

Primary Activities

1. Choose the right answer from the four alternatives given below:

(i). Which one of the following is not a plantation crop?

- (a) Coffee
- (b) Sugarcane
- (c) Wheat
- (d) Rubber

Answer: (c) Wheat

(ii). In which one of the following countries co-operative farming was the most successful experiment?

- (a) Russia
- (b) Denmark
- (c) India
- (d) The Netherlands

Answer: (b) Denmark

(iii). Growing of flowers is called:

- (a) Truck farming
- (b) Factory farming
- (c) Mixed fanning
- (d) Floriculture

Answer: (d) Floriculture

(iv). Which one of the following types of cultivation was developed by European colonists?

- (a) Kolkoz
- (b) Viticulture
- (c) Mixed farming
- (d) Plantation

Answer: (d) Plantation

(v). In which one of the following regions is extensive commercial grain cultivation not practised?

- (a) American Canadian prairies
- (b) European Steppes
- (c) Pampas of Argentina
- (d) Amazon Basin

Answer: (d) Amazon Basin

(vi). In which of the following types of agriculture is the farming of citrus fruit very important?

- (a) Market gardening
- (b) Mediterranean agriculture
- (c) Plantation agriculture
- (d) Co-operative farming

Answer: (b) Mediterranean agriculture

(vii). Which one type of agriculture amongst the following is also called 'slash and burn agriculture'?

- (a) Extensive subsistence farming
- (b) Primitive subsistence farming
- (c) Extensive commercial grain cultivation
- (d) Mixed farming

Answer: (b) Primitive subsistence farming

(viii). Which one of the following does not follow monoculture?

- (a) Dairy farming
- (b) Mixed farming
- (c) Plantation agriculture
- (d) Commercial grain farming

Answer: (b) Mixed farming

2. Answer the following questions in about 30 words:

(i). Future of shifting cultivation is bleak. Discuss.

Answer:

- These days the biggest problem being faced by the shifting cultivators is of shortening cycles of jhum, which makes the entire practice unsustainable.
- Also there are several restrictions imposed by governments through forest acts etc., which hinder the free movement of
- tribes and practice of shifting cultivation.
- Shifting cultivation is sustainable (only for self -consumption) in nature, hence it is unable to meet with the market demand and therefore there is no scope for it in the increasing globalized markets.
- With the infiltration of non tribals in the tribal areas, tribals are adopting to modern agricultural practices which are more productive and environmentally sustainable.
- To support a small population, a huge land resource base is required, ultimately it leads to soil erosion and land degradation.

(ii). Market gardening is practiced near urban areas. Why?

Answer: Market gardening specializes in the cultivation of high value perishable crops such as vegetables, fruits and flowers, solely for the urban markets. They are situated close to urban markets mainly because of the high value crops.

The crops are costly, hence they need to be situated close to a market where people have high purchasing power and also demand for high valued crops. In such a situation urban areas are the perfect markets.

These crops are perishable in nature; hence farms cannot be situated far away from the main market. Therefore, farms are situated close to the urban markets so as to prevent crops from getting stale.

(iii). Large scale dairy farming is the result of the development of transportation and refrigeration.

Answer: Dairy products are highly perishable in nature. They have a very small shelf life. For their supply to overseas and distant markets, adequate storage facilities with regulated temperature and storage conditions is essential. Initially supply of dairy products was limited to nearby markets but development of storage, preservation and transportation facilities have widened their coverage.

Modern transportation such as refrigerated trucks, ships with special cargoes and faster means of transportation like airways provide with adequate facilities, which allow transportation of dairy products to far off markets without spoilage. Refrigeration prevents dairy products from getting spoiled. It increases their durability. Hence dairy products can be sold over far off places.

3. Answer the following questions in not more than 150 words:

(i). Differentiate between Nomadic Herding and Commercial Livestock Rearing.

Answer:

Nomadic Herding	Commercial Livestock Rearing
(i) In nomadic herding herders move with their animals from place to place, and rely on them totally for food, cloth and transportation.	(i) Commercial livestock rearing is a modern practice of rearing animals for export of animal products.
(ii) It is a primitive subsistence activity.	(ii) It is a modern scientific, market oriented activity.
(iii) Multiple animals are kept depending upon the region.	(iii) Single type of animals are kept.
(iv) Herders keep on moving with animals from one place to another according to availability of pasture and water. They also practice transhumance. The area of a tribe is decided by matter of tradition.	(iv) It is carried out on huge permanent ranches which are scientifically managed parcels
(v) Generally related to nomadic tribes	(v) Associated with western developed countries.
(vi) Little or no capital is utilized.	(vi) High capital intake and spent on caring, feeding, breeding of animals.
(vii) Primarily a subsistence activity, in which herder rely on animals for their need of food, cloth, transportation etc.	(vii) It is market oriented activity where animals like horse, sheep are reared to obtain products like meat, hides etc. for sales in national as well as international markets.
(viii) No modern technological support.	(viii) It is highly mechanized

(ii). Discuss the important characteristic features of plantation agriculture. Name a few important plantation crops from different countries.

Answer: Originally introduced by the Europeans in colonies situated in the tropics, plantation agriculture is distinct from other kinds of agricultural practises because of its specific features.

The characteristic features of this type of farming are:

- Profit oriented large-scale production system
- Large estates and plantations
- Huge capital investment
- Totally market oriented
- Scientific method of cultivation
- Cheap and large skilled labour supply
- Monoculture
- It is a link between agriculture and industry.
- They are provided with well-developed transportation facilities where raw material provided by them is processed.

Important Plantation Crops:

- The French established cocoa and coffee plantations in West Africa.
- The British set up
 - Large tea gardens in India and Sri Lanka,
 - Rubber plantations in Malaysia and
 - Sugarcane and banana plantations in West Indies.
- Spanish and Americans invested heavily in coconut and sugarcane plantations in the Philippines.
- The Dutch once had monopoly over sugarcane plantation in Indonesia.
- Some coffee fazendas (large plantations) in Brazil are still managed by Europeans.