

Give reasons for the following

Mention any two reasons for the importance of agriculture in India.

Agriculture is important in India because it provides:

- (a) raw materials for the agro-based industries like cotton, jute, sugar and tobacco.
- (b) employment to about seventy per cent of the Indian population.

Q.28. Why are pulses grown so widely all over India?

Ans. Pulses are grown so widely all over India because they can be grown under a large variety of climatic conditions. They are leguminous plants and help in crop rotation. They are highly nutritious and the vegetarian population is largely dependent on it.

Q.29. Give geographical reasons for the following:

- (a) Regular pruning is essential for tea bushes.
- (b) Coffee beans are roasted.
- (c) Millets are known as dry crops.

Ans. (a) Pruning is essential for the tea bushes as it encourages the growth of new shoots with softer leaves. [2017]

The central stem is removed to encourage the quick development of the lateral branches. These are pruned to keep the bushes at a convenient height of about 40 cm to 50 cm for the pluckers.

- (b) The coffee beans are roasted after they are taken out and sorted out according to size and quality. Roasting gives brown colour and the aroma, flavour and taste.
- (c) Millets are known as dry crops as they are grown in areas that are too dry for rice and too hot for wheat to grow. They can also grow on poor soils.

Q.30. Give a geographical reason for each of the following:

- (a) Cotton grows widely in Maharashtra.
- (b) Clonal planting is the best method for tea propagation.
- (c) Oilseeds are an important commercial crop grown in India. [2014]

Ans. (a) Cotton grows widely in Maharashtra because of favourable climatic conditions. It has a warm climate, the land is irrigated and there are frost-free days during ripening. The Black soil is water retentive and provides the suitable moisture to the plants.

- (b) Clonal planting is the best method for tea propagation as it gives a better yield, special flavour and quality to the tea.
- (c) Oilseeds are an important commercial crop grown in India as recently it has become one of the important foreign exchange earners. The oil which is extracted is also used as a raw material for manufacturing products such as paints, soaps, cosmetics etc.

Q.31. Give a geographical reason for each of the following:

- (a) Tea is cultivated on hill slopes.
- (b) The yield per hectare of sugar cane is higher in the southern states.
- (c) Pulses are important food crops. [2015]

Ans. (a) Tea is cultivated on hill slopes as excess and stagnant water near the roots damages the plants.

- (b) The yield per hectare of sugar cane is higher in the southern states owing to the favourable climate, better irrigational facilities and assistance from the government.
- (c) Pulses are important as they are a source of protein for the vegetarian. Being leguminous, pulses fix atmospheric nitrogen in the soil and are rotated with other crops.

Q.32. Give geographical reasons for the following:

- (a) Jute has to be retted
- (b) Tea is grown on hill slopes
- (c) Silver oak and banana trees are grown on coffee plantations. [2012]

Ans. (a) Jute has to be retted or soaked in soft running water for about a week to separate the fibres from the stem.

- (b) Tea is grown on hill slopes as the roots of the tea bushes cannot tolerate stagnant water and the hill slopes drain away the water.
- (c) Silver oak and banana trees are grown on coffee plantations as they provide shade to the young plants from the direct rays of the sun.

- Q.36. Give two reasons why:
- (a) Sugar cane production is increasing in Maharashtra.
 - (b) Jute cultivation is most successful in West Bengal.
 - (c) Cotton cultivation is one of the main occupations in Gujarat.
- Ans. (a) Sugar cane production is increasing in Maharashtra because of its ideal geographical conditions, well-planned plantations, greater capital investment and modern scientific agricultural methods.
- (b) Jute cultivation is most successful in West Bengal because of the following reasons:
A damp, hot climate with high humidity, average temperature 27°C .
Rainfall — over 150 cm
Soil — A rich loamy alluvial soil of the delta regions.
- (c) Cotton cultivation is one of the main occupations in Gujarat as cotton grows well because soil and climatic conditions are ideal here. There is no frost, temperature is between 20°C and 32°C , rainfall is between 50 and 120 cm and there is water retentive soil.
- Q.37. Give one reason for each of the following:
- (a) The groundnut crop is often used as a rotation crop with bajra, jowar and gram.
 - (b) Ratoon cropping is popular in sugar cane.
- Ans. (a) The groundnut is often used as a rotation crop with bajra, jowar and gram because it is a leguminous crop and adds valuable nitrogen to the soil.
- (b) Ratoon cropping is popular in the cultivation of sugar cane because it is labour saving, decreases costs and matures early.