



G.D.GOENKA PUBLIC SCHOOL, SRINAGAR

Subject: Social Science

Aspect: Supported

Topic: Agriculture

Date: 21-09-2021

Name:

Grade/Sec.: **VIII**.....

Revision

Learning Objectives:

- Understand agriculture
- Subsistence farming and commercial farming.

We divide economic activities into three categories: primary, secondary and tertiary. Agriculture, an activity that is related directly to the extraction and production of natural resources, is a primary activity. Manufacturing of steel and baking of bread are secondary activities since they are not directly related to the extraction or production of natural resources, but their utilisation. Transport and trade are tertiary activities since they do not come in either category.

Two-thirds of India's population depends on agriculture.

Some of the important inputs required in agriculture are seeds, fertilisers, machinery and labour. Operations involved are ploughing, sowing, irrigation, weeding and harvesting. Outputs include crops, wool, dairy and poultry products.

Two main types of farming practised are subsistence farming and commercial farming.

Subsistence farming is practised solely to meet the needs of the farmer's family. Therefore, the practices involved are usually old-fashioned. Use of modern technology is minimum and most work is done by household labour.

In Intensive subsistence agriculture, simple tools and huge labour are used by a farmer to cultivate a small plot of land. More than one crop is grown annually in favourable conditions. Rice is the major crop. This form of agriculture is seen in the thickly populated areas of the monsoon regions of south, south-east and east Asia.

Shifting cultivation is a class of primitive subsistence agriculture. In this, a plot of land is cleared by felling the trees and burning them. The ashes are then mixed with soil and crops are grown. After some time, the land is abandoned and the farmers move to a different place. This type of farming is common in the thickly forested areas of the Amazon basin, tropical Africa, parts of South-east Asia and north-east India. It is also called "slash and burn" agriculture.