Chapter 9: Agriculture

CONTENTS 3 exercises · 8 questions

9.1	Multiple Choice Questions	3 Q
9.2	Answer the following questions in 30 words	3 Q
9.3	Answer the following questions in about 120 words	2 Q

Exercise 9.1 — Multiple Choice Questions

Q1 Which one of the following describes a system of agriculture where a single crop is grown on a large area? (a) Shifting Agriculture (b) Plantation Agriculture (c) Horticulture (d) Intensive Agriculture

SOLUTION

Plantation is a type of commercial farming in which a single crop is grown on a large area.

As the source states: "In this type of farming, a single crop is grown on a large area. The plantation has an interface of agriculture and industry." Plantations cover large tracts of land using capital-intensive inputs and migrant labour, and the produce is used as raw material in industries (e.g. tea, coffee, rubber, sugarcane, banana).

Answer: (b) Plantation Agriculture

Q2 Which one of the following is a rabi crop? (a) Rice (b) Gram (c) Millets (d) Cotton

SOLUTION

Rabi crops are sown in winter (October to December) and harvested in summer (April to June).

The source lists the important rabi crops as "wheat, barley, peas, gram and mustard." Rice, millets and cotton are kharif crops, so gram is the only rabi crop among the options.

Answer: (b) Gram

Q3 Which one of the following is a leguminous crop? (a) Pulses (b) Jawar (c) Millets (d) Sesamum

SOLUTION

Pulses are leguminous crops. According to the source, "Being leguminous crops, all these crops except arhar help in restoring soil fertility by fixing nitrogen from the air."

Jowar and millets are coarse grains and sesamum is an oilseed, so pulses is the correct leguminous crop.

Answer: (a) Pulses

Exercise 9.2 — Answer the following questions in 30 words

Q1 Name one important beverage crop and specify the geographical conditions required for its growth.

SOLUTION

Tea is an important beverage crop and an example of plantation agriculture, introduced in India initially by the British.

The tea plant grows well in tropical and sub-tropical climates with deep and fertile well-drained soil, rich in humus and organic matter. Tea bushes require a warm, moist, frost-free climate all through the year, and frequent showers evenly distributed over the year ensure continuous growth of tender leaves. It also needs abundant, cheap and skilled labour.

Answer: Tea; grows in tropical/sub-tropical climate with deep, fertile, well-drained soil rich in humus, a warm moist frost-free climate, and frequent evenly-distributed showers.

Q2 Name one staple crop of India and the regions where it is produced.

SOLUTION

Rice is the staple food crop of a majority of the people in India, and India is the second largest producer of rice in the world after China.

The source states that rice is grown in the plains of north and north-eastern India, coastal areas and the deltaic regions. With canal irrigation and tubewells it is also grown in areas of less rainfall such as Punjab, Haryana, western Uttar Pradesh and parts of Rajasthan. Important rice-growing regions include Assam, West Bengal, coastal Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Maharashtra.

Answer: Rice; grown in the northern and north-eastern plains, coastal and deltaic regions, and (with irrigation) in Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh.

Q3 Enlist the various institutional reform programmes introduced by the government in the interest of farmers.

SOLUTION

After Independence, priority was given to institutional reforms such as collectivisation, consolidation of holdings, cooperation and abolition of zamindari, with land reform being the main focus of the First Five Year Plan.

Other institutional programmes introduced in the interest of farmers include: provision for crop insurance against drought, flood, cyclone, fire and disease; establishment of Grameen banks, cooperative societies and banks to provide loans at lower rates of interest; Kisan Credit Card (KCC); Personal Accident Insurance Scheme (PAIS); special weather bulletins and agricultural programmes on radio and television; and the announcement of minimum support price, remunerative and procurement prices for important crops to check the exploitation of farmers by speculators and middlemen.

Answer: Collectivisation, consolidation of holdings, abolition of zamindari, crop insurance, Grameen/cooperative banks, Kisan Credit Card, Personal Accident Insurance Scheme, weather bulletins, and minimum support/procurement prices.

Exercise 9.3 — Answer the following questions in about 120 words

Q1 Suggest the initiative taken by the government to ensure the increase in agricultural production.

SOLUTION

Sustained use of land without compatible techno-institutional changes had hindered the pace of agricultural development, so the government introduced several technological and institutional reforms.

Institutional reforms after Independence included collectivisation, consolidation of holdings, cooperation and abolition of zamindari, with 'land reform' being the main focus of the First Five Year Plan.

In the 1960s and 1970s the Green Revolution (based on package technology) and the White Revolution (Operation Flood) were initiated. In the 1980s and 1990s a comprehensive land development programme with both institutional and technical reforms was introduced.

Other steps included: crop insurance against drought, flood, cyclone, fire and disease; establishment of Grameen banks, cooperative societies and banks for loans at lower interest; Kisan Credit Card (KCC) and Personal Accident Insurance Scheme (PAIS); special weather bulletins and agricultural programmes on radio and television; and the announcement of minimum support price, remunerative and procurement prices to check exploitation of farmers by speculators and middlemen.

Answer: Land reforms, the Green Revolution, the White Revolution (Operation Flood), crop insurance, Grameen/cooperative banks, KCC and PAIS, weather bulletins on radio/TV, and minimum support/procurement prices.

Q2 Describe the geographical conditions required for the growth of rice.

SOLUTION

Rice is the staple food crop of a majority of people in India, and it is a kharif crop.

According to the source, rice requires a high temperature (above 25°C) and high humidity, with annual rainfall above 100 cm. In areas of less rainfall, it grows with the help of irrigation.

It is grown in the plains of north and north-eastern India, coastal areas and the deltaic regions. The development of a dense network of canal irrigation and

tubewells has made it possible to grow rice even in areas of less rainfall such as Punjab, Haryana, western Uttar Pradesh and parts of Rajasthan.

Answer: Rice (a kharif crop) needs high temperature above 25°C, high humidity and annual rainfall above 100 cm; in low-rainfall areas it is grown with irrigation (canals and tubewells).