

CBSE • CLASS 10 • SOCIAL SCIENCE

GEOGRAPHY

CHAPTER 04

Agriculture



CHAPTER NOTES



AGRICULTURE AND FARMING

WHAT IS AGRICULTURE?

- Agriculture is a primary activity.
- It produces food and supplies raw material for industries.
- Tea, coffee and spices are also exported.

WHY FARMING DIFFERS:

- Methods depend on the physical environment, technology and local socio-cultural practices.
- Farming methods have changed over time.

LIVELIHOODS:

- The chapter describes about two-thirds of the population as engaged in agricultural activities and over sixty per cent as depending on agriculture for livelihood.

THREE TYPES:

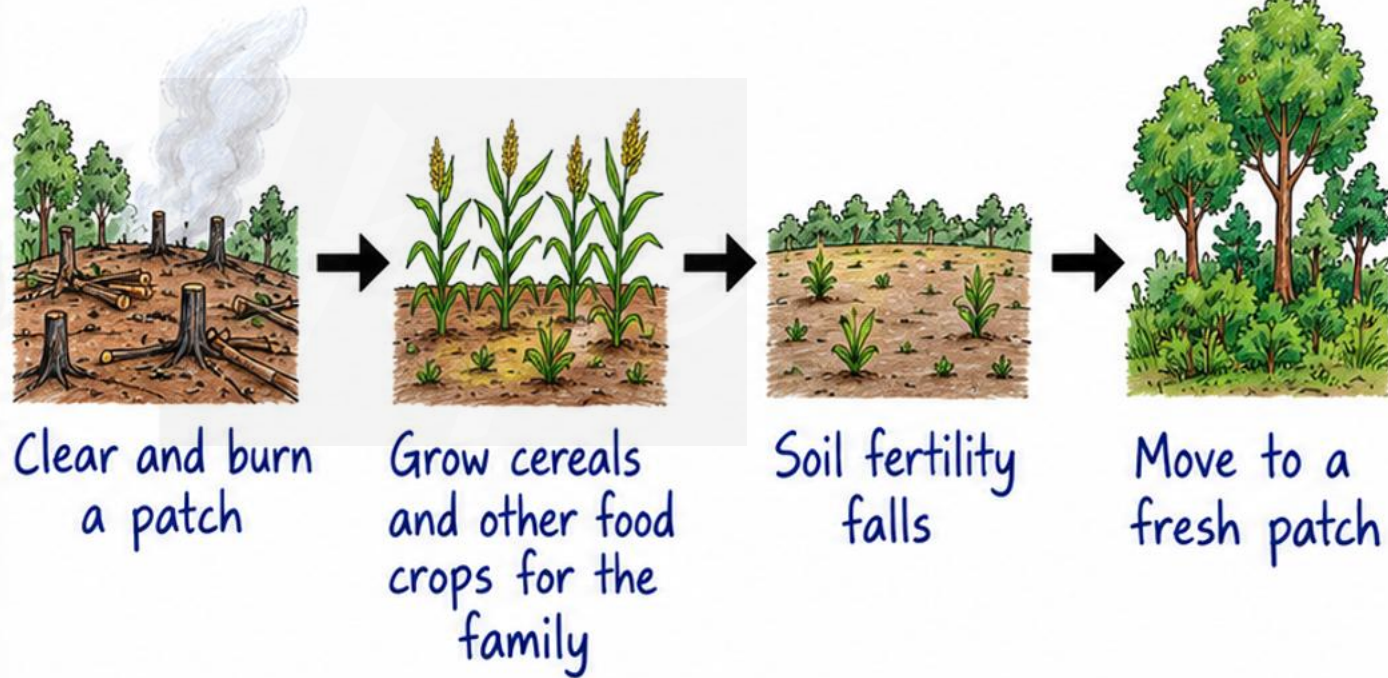
1. Primitive subsistence farming
2. Intensive subsistence farming
3. Commercial farming

These are the three types discussed in this chapter.

PRIMITIVE SUBSISTENCE FARMING

- Small patches of land are cultivated with simple tools such as a hoe, dao and digging sticks.
- Family or community members provide labour.
- Farming depends on the monsoon, natural soil fertility and crops suited to the local environment.
- Productivity is low because modern inputs and fertilisers are not usually used.

SLASH-AND-BURN FARMING



The old patch is left so that natural processes can restore its fertility. This is also called **shifting cultivation**.

SHIFTING CULTIVATION: INDIAN NAMES

LOCAL NAME	REGION
Jhumming	North-eastern India, including Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland
Bewar or Dahiya	Madhya Pradesh
Podu or Penda	Andhra Pradesh
Pama Dabi, Koman or Bringa	Odisha
Kumari	Western Ghats
Valre or Waltre	South-eastern Rajasthan
Khil	Himalayan belt
Kuruwa	Jharkhand
Pamlou	Manipur
Dipa	Bastar district, Chhattisgarh

The chapter also mentions shifting cultivation in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. These are regional names for the same general farming practice.

SHIFTING CULTIVATION: WORLD NAMES

Shifting cultivation is practised in different parts of the world. Its local name changes from one region to another.

LOCAL NAME	REGION
Milpa	Mexico and Central America
Conuco	Venezuela
Roca	Brazil
Masole	Central Africa
Ladang	Indonesia
Ray	Vietnam

The basic idea remains similar: cultivate a cleared patch, then move when its fertility declines.

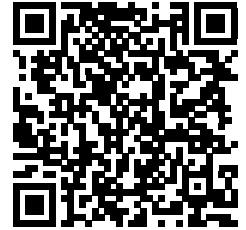


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