

**Q.4. What are the main cropping seasons of India? Distinguish between them.**

**Ans.** There are three cropping seasons in India—rabi, kharif and zaid.

Rabi	Kharif	Zaid.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Winter cropping season is known as Rabi.</li> <li>2. Rabi crops are sown in winter from October to December.</li> <li>3. The crops are harvested in summer from April to June.</li> <li>4. Availability of precipitation during winter months due to western disturbances helps in the success of these crops.</li> <li>5. Wheat, barley, peas, gram and mustard are examples of crops growing in Rabi season.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Wet summer cropping season is known as Kharif.</li> <li>2. Kharif crops are grown with the onset of monsoon in June.</li> <li>3. The crops are harvested in September-October.</li> <li>4. These crops have high water requirement either from monsoon rain or by irrigation.</li> <li>5. Paddy, maize, jowar, bajra, tur (arhar) moong, urad, cotton, jute, groundnut and soyabean are examples.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dry summer cropping season is known as Zaid.</li> <li>2. Zaid is a short intervening cropping season in between rabi and kharif season</li> <li>3. The crops are grown in summer months (March to May).</li> <li>4. They are irrigated crops.</li> <li>5. Watermelon, muskmelon, cucumber, vegetables and fodder crops are examples of crops growing in Zaid season.</li> </ol>

Intensive Subsistence Farming	Commerical Farming
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. This type of farming is practised in areas of high population pressure on land.</li> <li>2. Farmers and his family produce mainly cereal crops for subsistence of the family and for local market.</li> <li>3. It is a labour intensive agriculture.</li> <li>4. Farms sizes are small and uneconomical due to fragmentation of land holding on account of 'right of inheritance'.</li> <li>5. Farmers try to take maximum output from the limited land in absence of alternative source of livelihood.</li> <li>6. Farmers use high dose of biochemical inputs and irrigation to increase productivity.</li> <li>7. Cereals like rice, wheat, millets are mainly grown.</li> <li>8. It is practised in most parts of India, mainly in east and south even today.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. This type of farming is practised in areas of low population density.</li> <li>2. Crops are grown in large scale for commercial purposes, and for export to other countries.</li> <li>3. It is capital intensive requiring high application of modern inputs.</li> <li>4. Farm sizes are large for use of modern machineries and for large scale production.</li> <li>5. Farmers earn huge profit from commerical agriculture from sale of crops.</li> <li>6. Modern inputs like high-yielding variety (HYV) seeds, chemical fertilisers, insecticides and pesticides are used to obtain higher productivity.</li> <li>7. Wheat, cotton, sugarcane, oilseeds, tea and coffee are grown.</li> <li>8. This type of farming is mainly practised in Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Western Uttar Pradesh</li> </ol>

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**Q.5. How are technological reforms and institutional reforms been able to improve the condition of Indian agriculture? Explain with suitable examples.**

**Ans.** Technological and institutional reforms were introduced by the government with the objective of improving Indian agriculture, modernising it and raising its productivity.

- (i) The Persian wheel has been replaced by water pump, the plough by tiller and harrow drawn by tractor, the bullock cart by truck.
  - (ii) Flooding of fields for irrigation is being replaced by sprinkler and drip irrigation to prevent wastage of water and land degradation.
  - (iii) Chemical fertilisers and at present biofertilisers are used to increase soil fertility and yield per acre.
  - (iv) Consolidation of land holdings have made farming more economic and facilitated adoption of modern technology.
  - (v) The technological advancements gave birth to Green Revolution and White Revolution which improved yield from agriculture.
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**Q.3. Describe the geographical conditions for growth of cotton. Name the major areas production. Why is West Bengal the leading producer of Jute, the second important crop of India?**

**OR**

**Which are the important fibre crops of India? Mention the major producing area for each crop. Write about the geographical conditions required for the growth of the important fibre crop.**

**Ans.** Cotton, jute, hemp and natural silk are the major fibre crops of India. The geographical conditions required for the growth of cotton, the most important fibre crop of India are as follows. Cotton is a kharif crop and requires high temperature, light rainfall or irrigation, 210 frost-free days and bright sunshine for its growth. Rainfall at the time of bursting of the cotton bolls is harmful as it spoils the cotton balls.

Cotton grows well in drier parts of the black soil area of the Deccan plateau. Black soil is known as black cotton soil due to the fact that it is ideal for growth of cotton.

The major cotton-producing states of India are Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

Jute is the second most important fibre crop of India. West Bengal, especially the Hooghly basin of the state, is the leading rice-producing area of the country on account of the well-drained fertile soil of the floodplain which are renewed every year. Also the climatic conditions with high temperature during time of growth and sufficient availability of water have favoured jute cultivation in the Hooghly basin of West Bengal. Bihar, Assam, Orissa and Meghalaya are the other jute-producing states.

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