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Agriculture Notes for Punjab Patwari

Soils of India: Six Different Types of Soils Found in India are as follows:

Soil is our prime natural and economic resource. Soils in India differ in composition and structure.

1. Alluvial Soils:



- largest and the most important soil group of India
- These are formed by the deposition of sediments by rivers.
- They are rich in humus and very fertile.
- They are found in Great Northern plain, lower valleys of Narmada and Tapti and Northern Gujarat.
- These soils are renewed every year.

Influence on Agriculture: Alluvial soil is very productive. Abundant of wheat, sugarcane, oilseeds, pulses, rice and jute is grown on this soil.

2. Black Soils:



- These soils are made up of volcanic rocks and lava-flow.
- It is concentrated over Deccan Lava Tract which includes parts of Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- It consists of Lime, Iron, Magnesium and also Potash but lacks in Phosphorus, Nitrogen and Organic matter.

Influence on Agriculture: They retain moisture for a long period. These soils are fertile and suitable for the production of cotton, sugarcane, wheat and groundnut.

3. Red Soils:



- These are derived from weathering of ancient metamorphic rocks of Deccan Plateau.
- Its redness is due to iron composition. When iron content is lower it is yellow or brown.
- They cover almost the whole of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and parts of Orissa.

Influence on Agriculture: They are relatively less fertile, but are capable of growing good crops with the help of irrigation and fertilizers. Rice, wheat, millet, gram, pulses, sugarcane, oilseeds and cotton are cultivated on these Soils.

4. Laterite Soils:



- These soils are formed due to intense leaching and are well developed on the summits of hills and uplands.
- They are commonly found in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and hilly areas of Orissa and Assam.

Influence on Agriculture: These soils are infertile as they cannot retain moisture. They are unsuitable for agriculture. Some plants like the cashew can thrive on lateritic soils. Root crops like tapioca also do reasonably well on these soils

5. Mountain Soils:



- These soils are formed as a result of the accumulation of organic matter derived from forest growth.
- They are found in Himalayan region and vary in different regions according to altitude.
- Tea is grown in those areas which receive sufficient rainfall.

Influence on Agriculture: They are fertile and suitable for cultivation of potatoes, rice, wheat, fruits and tea.

6. Desert Soils:



- In the desert regions of Rajasthan, soils are not well developed.
- As evaporation is in excess of rainfall, the soil has a high salt content and saline layer forms a hard crust.
- These soils are generally sandy and deficient in organic matter.

Influence on Agriculture: These soils are not suitable for agriculture due to scanty rainfall; however, agriculture can be carried on with the help of irrigation. Bajra, wheat, groundnut can be grown on these soils.

Points to remember	Type of Soil
<i>The soil most common in Indo-gangetic plains</i>	Alluvial
<i>The soil which swells when wet and develops cracks when dry</i>	Black
<i>The soil which owes its colour to oxides of iron</i>	Laterite
<i>The soil which requires least use of fertilisers</i>	Alluvial
<i>The soil which requires least tilling</i>	Black
<i>The kind of soil which is treated with gypsum to make it suitable for cropping</i>	Alkaline soil
<i>The soil which is poor in soluble salts</i>	Laterite
<i>The soil which is rich in surface accumulation of organic matter</i>	Peaty soil
<i>The soil which is most suitable for cultivation of cotton</i>	Black



CROPPING PATTERN

Rabi: Rabi crops are also known as winter crops.

Sown – October to December and

Harvested – April to June.

Main Crop – Wheat, barley, pea, gram and mustard.

Note – Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhan and Uttar Pradesh are the important producers of rabi crops.

Kharif: Kharif crops are also known as summer crops.

Sown – The beginning of monsoon

Harvested – September-October.

Main Crop – Paddy, maize, jowar, bajra, tur, moong, urad, cotton, jute, groundnut and soyabean crops.

Note – Assam, West Bengal, coastal regions of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are important rice growing states.

Note – In Assam, West Bengal and Orissa, three crops of paddy are grown in a year. These are called Aus, Aman and Boro.

Zaid: The zaid season falls in between the rabi and kharif seasons.

Main Crop – Watermelon, muskmelon, cucumber, vegetables and fodder crops

Note – Sugarcane is planted in this season but takes almost a year to grow.