

CROPPING PATTERN, PRODUCTION AND PRODUCTIVITY OF PRINCIPAL CROPS IN ASSAM

1. Cropping Pattern in Assam

Meaning:

Cropping pattern in Assam refers to the **distribution of agricultural land among various crops.

Main Features:

- * Dominance of food crops, especially rice

- * Three rice seasons:

Sali (winter rice) – largest share

Ahu (autumn rice)

Boro (summer rice, irrigated)

Limited diversification compared to other states

Other Crops:

Pulses: lentil, gram

Oilseeds: mustard, rapeseed

Cash crops: jute, sugarcane, tea

Characteristics:

- * Heavy dependence on monsoon rainfall

- * Small and fragmented landholdings

- * Gradual shift toward horticulture and cash crops

Factors Influencing Cropping Pattern:

- * High rainfall and fertile alluvial soil

- * Floods and erosion (major constraint)

- * Traditional farming practices

- * Limited irrigation facilities

2. Production of Principal Crops in Assam

Meaning:

Production refers to the total quantity of crops produced annually.

Major Crops:

Rice– accounts for about 80–85% of total cropped area

Tea – important plantation crop and export earner

Jute – grown in Brahmaputra valley

Oilseeds & pulses– produced in smaller quantities

Trends:

- * Rice production has increased due to expansion of Boro cultivation
- * Tea production is significant globally (Assam is one of the largest tea producers)
- * Fluctuations due to floods and climate variability

Problems Affecting Production:

- * Frequent floods and soil erosion
- * Low irrigation coverage
- * Traditional methods of cultivation
- * Inadequate infrastructure and storage

3. Productivity of Principal Crops in Assam

Meaning:

Productivity is the yield per hectare of land.

Current Situation:

- * Productivity of rice is lower than the national average
- * Tea productivity relatively better due to organized plantation sector

Reasons for Low Productivity:

- * Limited use of HYV seeds and fertilizers
- * Poor irrigation facilities
- * Flood damage and waterlogging
- * Lack of mechanization
- * Fragmented landholdings

Improvements Noticed:

- * Increase in Boro rice productivity (due to irrigation)
- * Government schemes promoting modern inputs
- * Expansion of agricultural extension services

4. Interrelationship

- * Cropping pattern dominated by rice → affects overall production structure
- * Production depends on both area and productivity
- * Low productivity restricts total agricultural output

5. Conclusion

Agriculture in Assam is rice-centric and monsoon-dependent, with moderate production but low productivity. For improvement:

- * Diversification into high-value crops
- * Expansion of irrigation (especially for Boro rice)
- * Flood control measures
- * Adoption of modern technology

