

Agriculture & Allied Activities

What Are Agriculture and Allied Activities?

- Agriculture: Cultivation of crops (food & cash) using land, labor, and other inputs.
- Allied Activities: Supportive sectors that enhance rural income and reduce dependence on farming alone.

Includes:

- Animal Husbandry (livestock, poultry)
- Fisheries (marine + inland)
- Forestry
- Sericulture (silk farming)
- Horticulture (fruits, vegetables, flowers)
- Apiculture (beekeeping)

Importance in Indian Economy

- Employs ~45% of the workforce (2024 estimate)
- Contributes ~17% to GDP (Agriculture + Allied)
- Foundation of rural economy, food security, and poverty alleviation
- Critical to achieving inclusive growth

Major Components

1. Crop Production

- Cereals (rice, wheat), pulses, oilseeds, sugarcane, cotton, jute
- India ranks 2nd globally in overall agricultural production

2. Horticulture

- Fruits (mango, banana), vegetables (potato, tomato), spices
- India is 2nd largest producer of fruits & vegetables

3. Animal Husbandry

- Rearing of cows, buffaloes, goats, poultry for milk, meat, eggs, wool
- India is 1st in milk production (White Revolution)

4. Fisheries

- Marine + inland (lakes, rivers, ponds)
- India is 3rd in fish production globally
- Blue Revolution focused on fish productivity

5. Forestry

- Production of timber, medicinal plants, fuelwood, bamboo
- Also includes NTFPs (Non-Timber Forest Products) – key for tribal economy

6. Sericulture

- Cultivation of silkworms for silk production
- India is 2nd largest producer of silk globally

Evergreen Revolution

- Coined by: M. S. Swaminathan
- Meaning: Sustainable increase in agricultural productivity without ecological harm
- Focuses on:
 - Nutrition security (not just food security)
 - Sustainable farming practices
 - Preserving soil health, biodiversity & water

It's the next phase after Green Revolution, aiming for productivity + sustainability.

Organic State Concept

- Organic Farming: Farming without chemical fertilizers/pesticides, using only natural inputs.
- Organic State: A state that declares 100% of its agricultural land as organic certified.

Example:

- Sikkim:
 - Became India's first Organic State in 2016
 - All farming done using organic methods
 - Recognized by FAO for model organic policy

Other states promoting organic farming:

◆ Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland

Q1. Who gave the call for an Evergreen Revolution?

[OPSC OCS 2021]

Options:

- (a) Verghese Kurien
- (b) M.S. Swaminathan
- (c) Y. V. Reddy
- (d) Tribhuvandas Patel

Correct Answer: (b) M.S. Swaminathan

Explanation:

- M. S. Swaminathan, regarded as the Father of the Green Revolution in India, later coined the term "Evergreen Revolution".
- He emphasized that the next phase of agriculture must ensure productivity with sustainability, unlike the Green Revolution which caused ecological concerns.

Evergreen Revolution aims at:

- Higher productivity per unit of land, water, and energy
- Eco-friendly and climate-resilient practices
- Maintaining soil health, biodiversity, and nutritional security

Q2. Which state in India has been declared as the first organic farming state?

[OPSC OCS 2021]

Options:

- (a) Odisha
- (b) Punjab
- (c) Sikkim
- (d) Kerala

Correct Answer: (c) Sikkim

Explanation:

- In 2016, Sikkim became India's first 100% organic state, by:
 - Banning synthetic fertilizers & pesticides
 - Certifying all its farmland under organic practices
- The achievement was recognized by the FAO and the UN, making Sikkim a global model for sustainable farming.