

## AGRICULTURE REGION OF THE WORLD

Agriculture is the most fundamental form of human activity. An area or region with similar functional attributes is known as an agriculture system. Agriculture is the sum total of <sup>physical</sup> agriculture, social techniques, economic and cultural factors.

→ "Agriculture is defined as the purposeful tending of crops and livestock" — M. Carsty & Limberg

→ "Agricultural region is an uninterrupted area having some kind of homogeneity with specifically defined outer limit" — Whittlesey (1936)

### \* AGRICULTURAL REGION! -

→ Agricultural region may be defined as an extensive area or imaginary system of a geographical unit covering the globe, having uniformity in agricultural works, factors of production,

land utilization and livelihood of the farmers.

→ Agricultural characteristics are affected by the physical and human factors such as:-

⊙ Climate: Different crops need different climate at different time of years. In high and mid-latitude the length of the growing season are very much depends on temperature. Same is with

rainfall. The amount of rainfall at different period, amount of humidity, snowfall, etc become imp. for plant growth.

⊙ Soil:- The mineral composition for soil is very imp.

⊙ Landform:- Types of landform also influence the crop. The amount and direction of slope, accessibility and inaccessibility will be imp.

⊙ Density of the people - where the density of the population is high there the attitude of local consumption will be important. Labour force is more imp. here than Capital. Subsistence farming is being practiced here in monsoon Asia i.e. Japan, India and China.



① Green like progress - where modern implements, chemical fertilizers and capitals are used there agriculture is done on a large scale.

② Traditional factors - wherever traditions are imp. like religious belief, customs etc there the agriculture is also affected. In India, animals are reared for cultivating the land rather than the meat hence pastoral activities are negligible rather than the western nation.

### \* Typology of Agriculture Regions:

Diversity in the physical and non-physical factors over the earth surface to divide agriculture into typology is tedious work.

Whittlessey was the 1<sup>st</sup> person who made an attempt to classify agricultural types scientifically. In year 1936, Whittlessey had classified the agricultural system of the world into 13 parts on the base of regions.

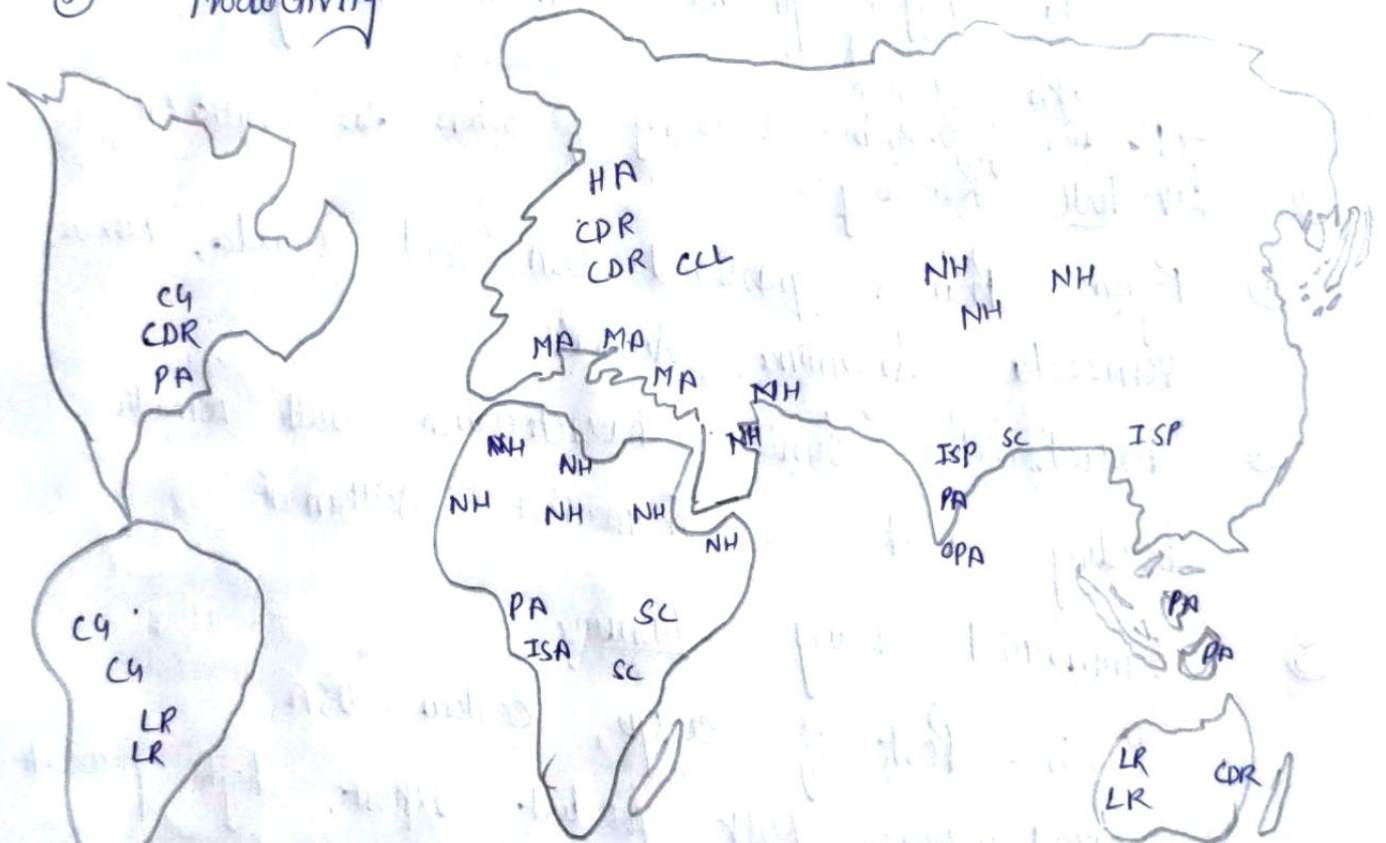
### \* Whittlessey world Agricultural Systems / Region:-

An area with similar functional attributes is as an agricultural region. The 1<sup>st</sup> scientific attempt for the Whittlessey in his paper



"Major agricultural regions of the Earth" published in 1936. Whittlesley classified the world into 11 major agricultural regions based on the five major variables comprises of both physical and non-physical factors :-

- ① Crop and livestock
- ② Marketing or consumption Pattern
- ③ Mechanized or tool used for Agriculture
- ④ Method of land use (Intensive or Extensive)
- ⑤ Productivity



NH = Nomadic Herding

LR = Livestock Rearing

CDR = Commercial Dairy Farming

PA = Plantation Agriculture

HA = Horticulture Agriculture

SC = Shifting Cultivation

CCL = Commercial Crop & Livestock

ISA = Intensive Subsistence without Paddy

ISP = " " " " with Paddy

C4 = Commercial Grain Farming

MA = Mediterranean Agriculture

Whittlesley Classification of Agriculture Region



The following are the "agriculture regions"

① Nomadic Herding:-

⊙ Region:- Sahara desert, part of west asia, Central Asia, Mongolia, China

⊙ characteristics:-

→ Herders has nomadic settlement

→ People move season to season with their livestock

→ Major Products:- Fruits, nuts, animal skin and product

→ India, Gujjar practice nomadic herding in the

Ladakh region  
→ Bedouin of S. Arabia & taurag of Sahara also practice it

② Livestock Ranching:-

⊙ Region:- Paines, Grassland USA and Canada, Mexico, Venezuela, Argentina, Australia

⊙ characteristics:- Similar characteristics with nomadic herding with a permanent settlement

③ Commercial Dairy Farming:-

⊙ Region:- Part of Europe, Eastern USA

⊙ characteristics:- Milk product export, high productivity of milk

④ Commercial crop and livestock farming:-

⊙ Region: Europe

⊙ characteristics:- Major crops are Potatoes, wheat, oats, Barley



### 5) Shifting Cultivation:-

- Region:- South America, Africa, northeast India, China, and Myanmar
- Characteristics:- low productivity of agriculture

### 6) Intensive Subsistence agriculture:-

- Region:- west India, part of Africa
- Characteristics:- Labour intensive agriculture, Two or more crops are grown in a year, very small farm lands.

### 7) Intensive Subsistence with Paddy crops:-

- Region:- monsoon region, east India, South-east Asia & eastern China
- Characteristics:- More than 2 paddy crops in a year grown

### 8) Commercial Grain Farming or Extensive Farming:-

- Region:- N. America & S. America
- Characteristics:- only 1 crop grown in a year & Mechanization of agriculture

### 9) Mediterranean agriculture:-

- Region:- European countries bordering Mediterranean Sea
- Characteristics:- Citrus fruit production

### 10) Plantation agriculture:-

- Region:- Jilly areas of India i.e western ghat & eastern ghat and Assam



① Characteristics:- Major crops tea, coffee, rubber, cocoa etc

(ii) Horticulture agriculture:-

① Region:- Around the central business district of world cities i.e Britain, Denmark, Germany, France, Italy, Europe.

② Characteristics:-  
① vegetables and fruits grown to fulfill the demand of the city

② farms are small such as farm one

③ the market gardens are scientifically managed to achieve optimum yield handsome return

\* Pros of Whittlesley's classification:-

① It provides a classification and description of major agricultural regions of the world used in atlases etc

→ A comparative study of the agricultural regions is possible by plotting the systems of the 1st degree of magnitude on a single map

→ The study focuses on the observable items in the agricultural landscape

→ The classification serves as a framework in which further refinements can be suggested

### \* CONS:-

- The various bases of classification viz, the cultural, and political factors are not static but continually changing. So, Whittesey's scheme has recently been modified by Thomas Fryer
- Whittesey has not taken into consideration some relevant indicators like land tenancy, size of holdings, fragmentation of holding, government policies

\* CONCLUSION:- By agriculture, many of the necessities of life i.e food, drink, fibres etc are produced. But at this stage, many portions of the world suffers from food deficiency. So, a modern cultivation method should apply for achieving sufficiency in food.