

## ECONTENT - for M.A Semester III (2020)

### Core Course 13, Unit IV

#### Concept and Techniques of Delimitation of Agricultural Region .

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Agricultural region may be defined as an extensive area or imaginary system of geographical unit covering the globe ,having uniformity in agricultural works, types of crops, production method, factors of production, land utilization and livelihood of the farmers. The livelihood of farmers include their residences and standard of living too. The farms are distinctive from surrounding areas.

Agricultural characteristics are affected by the physical and human factors

- a) **Climate** - Different crops need different temperature for plant at different times of the year. In high and mid-latitudes the length of growing season are very much important which depends on temperature. Same is with rainfall. Amount of rainfall at different period, time of rainfall ,amount of humidity, snowfall etc become important for plant growth.
- b) **Soil** - The mineral composition of soil is important. There are certain crops which destroy the fertility of soil.
- c) **Landform**- Type of landform also influences the crop. The amount and direction of slope, accessibility and inaccessibility will be important .Flatness of land affects agricultural characteristics.
- d) **Density of population** – Where the density of population is high there the attitude of local consumption will be important. Labour force is more important here than capital. Hence, machines are less used because most of the work is done by hand as in Monsoon Asia hence subsistence farming in China ,India and

Japan. In fact, if other factors are uniform in those areas capital is more important, machines are more used. Commercial farming is practiced. Special crops are grown and exported as in U.S.A, Canada, Australia and Newzealand .

- e) **Scientific Progress**- Where modern implements, chemical fertilisers and capital are used there agriculture is done on a large scale. For commercial farming transport linkages are important specially railways ,waterways refrigeration etc.
- f) **Traditional Factors** –Wherever traditions are important like religious belief ,customs ,eating habits etc.there the agriculture is also affected.. Indian farmers follow the same system or method of agriculture like their forefathers.In India animals are reared for cultivating the land rather than meathence pastoral activities are negligible rather than the western nation.
- g) **Socio-economic and political factors** – In industrially advanced nations agriculture provides the raw materials for industries as well as fulfilling the demands of the people. In U.S.A on the atlantic coast tobacco and vegetables are usually grown . Australia ,Newzealand depend on pastoralism Europe is dependent on butter,cheese and meat from Great Britain. In SE Asia rubber plantations are the result of economic and political relations too. The development of cotton belt is due to the presence of Negro labourers in the very beginning .

### **Criteria of delimitation of Agricultural Regions**

Whittlesey in 1939, classified agricultural regions . According to him any classification of the agricultural region may be based upon the following criteria ;-

1) **Crop and animal association-**

Agriculture and pastoralism go together in the world. Both are dependent on availability of an extensive land and fertility of the soil. Human factor is supplemented by animals which increase the efficiency of labour. The animals provide milk, meat, bones, manures and they have a positive effect on agriculture.

2) **Capital and labour** – Capital and labour too have an impact on agriculture. Agriculture dependent on labour tends to make it subsistence type. Mechanisation improves the productivity in agriculture. Exchange of capital affects the amount of production types and varieties of crops

3) **Productivity of agriculture-** With variations in agricultural conditions the method of production also gets influenced. We may find uniformity in crop and animal combination of two regions but the production method may be different. The same crop may be produced by primitive method or by machines as tractors. In some regions animals are used for agricultural works and in other they are kept for utilization of crops so that maximum use of animals may be possible. Some regions produce crops with the help of irrigation and some without irrigation. Thus agricultural productivity also reflects the uniformity and regional distribution of agricultural conditions prevailing in the country.

4) **Consumption pattern of agriculture-** The consumption pattern of agricultural production is yet another criteria. In some regions crops are grown on commercial basis for trade thus importance is given on the growth of just one crop, but where farmers cultivate the land for their livelihood there they have to grow many crops. Thus the agricultural characteristics vary a lot.

5) **Methods and techniques used in agriculture-** Methods and techniques used in agriculture as well as standard of living of farmers are again an important criteria of classification of agricultural regions. For example farmers in Europe and U.S.A the farmers enjoy all the benefits. The techniques of farming are good as well as the standard of living. In SE Asian countries most of the villages lack transport facilities, electricity, health and nutrition facilities. The standard of living is therefore low. On this basis classification of agricultural region can be done,

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