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Lecture 12

Types of Farming



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The types of farming' refers to the methods of farming and to different practices that are used in carrying out farming operations. Johnson defined it as when farms in a group are quite similar in the kinds and proportions of the crops and the livestock that are produced and in the methods and practices followed in production, the group is described as a type of farming". The flow chart given below details out various types



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Farming

Types

- 1. Diversified including marginal**
- 2. Specialized**
- 3. Mixed**
- 4. Ranching**
- 5. Dry**



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Natural, economic and to some extent social factors determine the type of farming in an area. Within the restraining influence of natural factors, economic factors- relative prices of farm products, resources of the farmer, transport facility, farm size, land value and technological developments influence the type of farming practiced in a region and set the proportion of area under each enterprises. Religious beliefs and social background also play some part in following the type of farming on the farm.



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Diversified or General farm

A farm on which no single product or source of income equals as much as 50% of the total receipt is called a diversified or general farm. On such a farm, the farmer depends on several sources of income.



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Advantages of Diversified farming

1. Better use of resources. Better use of land through adoption of crop rotations, steady employment of farm and family labour and more profitable use of equipment are obtained in diversified farming.
2. Business risk is reduced due to crop failure or unfavorable market prices.
3. Regular and quicker returns are obtained from various enterprises.



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Disadvantages of Diversified Farming

1. Marketable produce is insufficient unless the producers arrange for the sale of their produce on co-operative basis.
2. Because of varied jobs in diversified farming, a farmer can effectively supervise only limited number of workers.
3. Better equipping of the farm is not possible because it is not economical to have expensive implements and machinery for each enterprise.



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Specialized farming

- A specialized farm is one on which 50% or more receipts are derived from one enterprise. Income is sale plus produce used at home.
- Conditions for Specialization (i) Where there are special market outlets, (ii) Where economic conditions are fairly uniform for a long period, (iii) Where an enterprise is not much affected by abnormal weather conditions, e.g., poultry farm



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Mixed Farming

- Mixed farming is a type of farming under which crop production is combined with livestock raising. The livestock enterprise is complementary to crop production so as to provide a balanced productive system of farming. When the livestock begin to compete with crops for the same resources, the relationship between the two enterprises changes from complementary phase to competitive nature.



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Ranching

- A ranch differs from other type of crop and livestock farming in that the livestock grazes the natural vegetation. Ranches are not utilized for tilling or raising crops. The ranchers have no land of their own and make use of the public grazing land. A ranch occupies most of the time of one or more operator. Ranching is followed in Australia, Tibet and in certain parts of India. An average Australian sheep farm covers an area of about 100 square miles and there are some farms as large as 1,000 square miles.



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Dry Farming

- Farmers in dry and precarious tracts, which receive 50 cm or less of annual rainfall, struggle for livelihood. The major farm management problem in these tracts, where crops entirely depends upon rainfall, is the conservation of soil moisture