

Agriculture

Q1. What is shifting cultivation? What are its disadvantages?

Ans. Shifting cultivation is a type of agriculture in which a plot of land is cleared by felling the trees and burning them. The ashes are then mixed with the soil and crops like maize, yam, potatoes and cassava are grown. After the soil loses its fertility, the land is abandoned and the cultivator moves to a new plot. Shifting cultivation is also known as 'slash and burn' agriculture.

It is disadvantageous because it involves deforestation and burning of trees. Thus it is not good for environment.

Q2. What are the types of commercial farming?

Ans. Commercial farming includes commercial grain farming, mixed farming and plantation agriculture.

i. In commercial grain farming crops are grown for commercial purpose. Wheat and maize are common commercially grown grains. Major areas where commercial grain farming is practised are temperate grasslands of North America, Europe and Asia.

ii. In mixed farming the land is used for growing food and fodder crops and rearing livestock. It is practised in Europe, eastern USA, Argentina, southeast Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

iii. Plantations are a type of commercial farming where single crop of tea, coffee, sugarcane, cashew, rubber, banana or cotton are grown. Large amount of labour and capital are required. Major plantations are found in the tropical regions of the world.