

Account for the development of agriculture in a Continental / Subcontinental region (not in Europe), that you have studied, with reference to the following factors: • Soil • Climate.

India is a continental region. India experiences a tropical monsoon type climate with high temperatures (20 to 30 degrees celcius) that influences the types of crops they grow. Rice and sugar are grown as the high temperatures are fitting to their growth requirements. In fact, climate conditions are so ideal that rice covers 25% of all the agricultural land in india and provides 90% of the food for the nation. The monsoon is a reversal of wind patterns over the continent that creates a wet season (June - September) and a dry season (October - June). This allows a system of double cropping, where two crops are produced in one area of land a year. This favours arable farming, the main type of farming in India. During the wet monsoon, a vast area of low atmospheric pressure develops over the hot landmass of Asia. It suck in moisture laden winds from the Indian ocean. They rise over the Western ghat mountains, falling as torrential relief rain. The land becomes flooded and rice is grown in paddy fields, localised in the Eastern half of the country. Rice is an essential crop to india as the population of 1.2 billion rely on it for food, therefore they rely on the 2000 mm of rainfall of this season that is needed for the growth of the rice. After the wet monsoon ends, the dry monsoon begins allowing the growth of maize and millet to start, as they are suited to the drier weather. The tropical climate is also suited for tea production, in the state of Aswan in North East India it is grown. India is a major supplier of tea for global trade. It accounts for 13% of India's exports. In the North West, temperatures in the Thar desert are very high, making it unsuited for the majority of crops. However, where irrigation is installed maize and cotton are grown.

In the North of India, the high relief of the Himalayan mountain range has caused the formation of very thin, infertile soils. The area is given over to goat herding and subsistence farming. The west monsoon rains and meltwater from glaciers, feed into the Brahmaputra river and the river

Ganges. The excess water causes the lower valleys to flood, allowing it to deposit rich alluvial soil. In these areas, rice is grown. The Ganges valley is in fact one of the most intensively farmed areas in the world.

where two thirds of the population rely on agriculture for a livelihood, intensive subsistence farming is common practice. Most farms are less than half an hectare. Soil is pushed to its limits and is often not fertile resulting in weak crop growths. With some areas receiving more than 2000 mm of rain a year, leaching occurs and the soils become infertile. Consequently, Laterite soils are formed, where all minerals except iron is washed downwards. These are the most common type of soil in India. Coffee is grown in these soils, especially in the South West of Kerala. It is mostly grown in commercial plantations and exported. Black soils in the Deccan plateaus are derived from basalt rock and have a high clay content and can retain moisture as a result. Irrigation crops such as cotton are suited for these soils. Desert soils in the Thar desert are infertile, dry, lacking in humus and consequently, poorly farmed.