

Unit 6

I. Choose the correct answer (Each question carries one mark)

1. Most of the agricultural labourers are
 - a) rich
 - b) middle class
 - c) poor**
 - d) upper class
2. Leather industry and tourism are
 - a) Non-farm sector.**
 - b) Farm sector.
 - c) other sectors.
 - d) Productive activities.
3. The increased milk production can be mainly attributed to the successful implementation of
 - a) operation food**
 - b) operation flood
 - c) operation blue
 - d) operation fruit.
4. It is an agricultural allied activity
 - a) poultry**
 - b) Cottage industry.
 - c) small industry
 - d) tourism

II. Fill in the blanks. (Each question carries one mark)

1. The growth of real India is possible only from the development ofvillages.....
2. At the time of independencemoneylenders and traders..... exploited the small and marginal farmers.
3. ..Organic..... farming is free from chemicals.
4. The fishing community regards the water body as...divine.....
5.Private..... Trade predominates agricultural market.

III. Match the following. (Each question carries one mark)

A	B
NABARD	Milk production
Money Lender	Institutional source
Green revolution	Fruit Production
Golden revolution	Non-institutional force
White revolution	Food production

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NABARD	Institutional source
Money Lender	Non-institutional force
Green revolution	Food production
Golden revolution	Fruit Production
White revolution	Milk production

IV. Answer the following question in a word /sentence each. (Each question carries one mark)

1. What is rural development?

Rural development is a comprehensive term. It essentially focuses on action for the development of areas that are lagging behind in the overall development of the village economy.

2. Give the meaning of agricultural marketing.

Agricultural marketing is a process that involves the assembling, storage, processing, transportation, packaging, grading and distribution of different agricultural commodities across the country.

3. What is organic farming.

Efforts in evolving technologies which are eco-friendly are essential for sustainable development and one such technology which is eco-friendly is organic farming.

4. Expand PDS.

Public Distribution System

V. Answer the following question in four sentences each. (Each question carries two marks)

1. Name the areas which are challenging and need fresh initiatives for rural development.
 - a) Development of human resources
 - b) Land reforms
 - c) Development of productive resources in each locality
 - d) Infrastructure development
 - e) Special measures of alleviation of poverty

2. Give the meaning of Rural Development.

Rural development is a comprehensive term. It essentially focuses on action for the development of areas that are lagging in the overall development of the village economy. Some of the areas which are challenging and need fresh initiatives. Farming communities must be provided with various means that help them increase the productivity of grains, cereals, vegetables and fruits. They also need to be given opportunities to diversify into various non-farm productive activities such as food processing.

3. How money lenders exploited the rural farmers.

At the time of independence, moneylenders and traders exploited small and marginal farmers and landless labourers by lending to them on high interest rates and by manipulating the accounts to keep them in a debt-trap. A major change occurred after 1969 when India adopted social banking and multiagency approach to adequately meet the needs of rural credit.

4. Name the institutional sources of rural credit.

The institutional structure of rural banking today consists of a set of multiagency institutions, namely, commercial banks, regional rural banks (RRBs), cooperatives and land development banks.

5. Give two examples for alternative market.

Apni Mandi (Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan); Hadaspar Mandi (Pune); Rythu Bazars (vegetable and fruit market in Andhra Pradesh) and Uzhavar Sandies (farmers markets in Tamil Nadu).

6. Name the two life-giving sources of fishing community.

The water bodies consisting of sea, oceans, rivers, lakes, natural aquatic ponds, streams etc. are, therefore, an integral and life-giving source for the fishing community.

7. Mention the benefits of organic farming.

Organic agriculture offers a means to substitute costlier agricultural inputs (such as HYV seeds, chemical fertilisers, pesticides etc.) with locally produced organic inputs that are cheaper and thereby generate good returns on investment.

8. What is the role self-help group in providing rural credit?

The SHGs promote thrift in small proportions by a minimum contribution from each member. From the pooled money, credit is given to the needy members to be repayable in small instalments at reasonable interest rates.

VI. Answer the following question in twelve sentences each. (Each question carries four marks)

1. List out the major problems of rural development.
 - a) Development of human resources including – literacy, more specifically, female literacy, education and skill development – health, addressing both sanitation and public health
 - b) Land reforms
 - c) Development of the productive resources of each locality
 - d) Infrastructure development like electricity, irrigation, credit, marketing, transport facilities including construction of village roads and feeder roads to nearby highways, facilities for agriculture research and extension, and information dissemination
 - e) Special measures for alleviation of poverty and bringing about significant improvement in the living conditions of the weaker sections of the population emphasising access to productive employment opportunities.

2. Explain the drawbacks of agriculture market.

Prior to independence, farmers, while selling their produce to traders, suffered from faulty weighing and manipulation of accounts. Farmers who did not have the required information on prices prevailing in markets were often forced to sell at low prices. They also did not have proper storage facilities to keep back their produce for selling later at a better price.

Private trade (by moneylenders, rural political elites, big merchants and rich farmers) predominates agricultural markets. The quantity of agricultural products, handled by the government agencies and consumer cooperatives, constitutes only 10 per cent while the rest is handled by the private sector.

3. Write a short note on alternative markets.

It has been realised that if farmers directly sell their produce to consumers, it increases their share in the price paid by the consumers. Some examples of these channels are Apni Mandi (Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan); Hadaspar Mandi (Pune); Rythu Bazars (vegetable and fruit market in Andhra Pradesh) and Uzhavar Sandies (farmers markets in Tamil Nadu).

Further, several national and multinational fast food chains are increasingly entering contracts/alliances with farmers to encourage them to cultivate farm products (vegetables, fruits, etc.) of the desired quality by providing them with not only seeds and other inputs but also assured procurement of the produce at pre-decided prices. Such arrangements will help in reducing the price risks of farmers and would also expand the markets for farm products.

VII. Answer the following question in twenty sentences each. (Each question carries six marks)

1. Explain the measures taken by the government to improve the Agricultural Marketing System.

The first step was regulation of markets to create orderly and transparent marketing conditions. By and large, this policy benefited farmers as well as consumers. However, there is still a need to develop about 27,000 rural periodic markets as regulated market places to realise the full potential of rural markets. Second component is provision of physical infrastructure facilities like roads, railways, warehouses, godowns, cold storages and processing units.

The current infrastructure facilities are quite inadequate to meet the growing demand and need to be improved. Cooperative marketing, in realising fair prices for farmers' products, is the third aspect of government initiative.

The success of milk cooperatives in transforming the social and economic landscape of Gujarat and some other parts of the country is testimony to the role of cooperatives.

The fourth element is the policy instruments like

- (i) assurance of minimum support prices (MSP) for 24 agricultural products
- (ii) maintenance of buffer stocks of wheat and rice by Food Corporation of India and
- (iii) distribution of food grains and sugar through PDS.

2. Write a short note on the following: a) Horticulture b) Fisheries

Blessed with a varying climate and soil conditions, India has adopted growing of diverse horticultural crops such as fruits, vegetables, tuber crops, flowers, medicinal and aromatic plants, spices and plantation crops. These crops play a vital role in providing food and nutrition, besides addressing employment concerns. The period between 1991-2003 is also called an effort to heralding a 'Golden Revolution' because during this period, the planned investment in horticulture became highly productive and the sector emerged as a sustainable livelihood option.

Economic condition of many farmers engaged in horticulture has improved and it has become a means of improving livelihood for many unprivileged classes too. Flower harvesting, nursery maintenance, hybrid seed production and tissue culture, propagation of fruits and flowers and food processing are highly remunerative employment options for women in rural areas.

The fishing community regards the water body as 'mother' or 'provider'. The water bodies consisting of sea, oceans, rivers, lakes, natural aquatic ponds, streams etc. are, therefore, an integral and life-giving source for the fishing community. In India, after progressive increase in budgetary allocations and introduction of new technologies in fisheries and aquaculture, the development of fisheries has come a long way.

Presently, fish production from inland sources contributes about 49 per cent to the total fish production and the balance 51 per cent comes from the marine sector (sea and oceans). Today total fish production accounts for 1.4 per cent of the total GDP.

2. Write a note on animal husbandry.

In India, the farming community uses the mixed crop-livestock farming system — cattle, goats, fowl are the widely held species. Livestock production provides increased stability in income, food security, transport, fuel and nutrition for the family without disrupting other food-producing activities. Today, livestock sector alone provides alternate livelihood options to over 70 million small and marginal farmers including landless labourers. A significant number of women also find employment in the livestock sector.

Poultry accounts for the largest share with 42 per cent followed by others. Other animals which include camels, donkeys, horses, ponies and mules are in the lowest rung. India had about 287 million cattle, including 90 million buffaloes, in 1997. Performance of the Indian dairy sector over the last three decades has been quite impressive.

3. List out the benefits of organic farming.

Organic agriculture offers a means to substitute costlier agricultural inputs (such as HYV seeds, chemical fertilisers, pesticides etc.) with locally produced organic inputs that are cheaper and thereby generate good returns on investment. Organic agriculture also generates incomes through international exports as the demand for organically grown crops is on a rise. Studies across countries have shown that organically grown food has more nutritional value than chemical farming thus providing us with healthy foods.

Since organic farming requires more labour input than conventional farming, India will find organic farming an attractive proposition. Popularising organic farming requires awareness and willingness on the part of farmers to adapt to new technology.

Inadequate infrastructure and the problem of marketing the products are major concerns which need to be addressed apart from an appropriate agriculture policy to promote organic farming. It has been observed that the yields from organic farming are less than modern agricultural farming in the initial years.