

# Agriculture – Definition and Meaning

- The term Agriculture is derived from two Latin words ager or agri meaning soil and cultura meaning cultivation. Agriculture is an applied science which encompasses all aspects of crop production including horticulture, livestock rearing, fisheries, forestry, etc.
- Agriculture is defined as an art, science and business of producing crops and livestock for economic purposes.
- ART - way to perform the operations of the farm in a skillful manner.
- SCIENCE - utilizes all technologies developed on scientific principles such as crop breeding, production techniques, crop protection, economics etc. to maximize the yield and profit.
- BUSINESS - aims at maximum net return through the management of land labour, water and capital, employing sciences for production of food, feed, fibre and fuel. i.e. commercialization.

- **Agriculture** is defined in the Agriculture act (1947) (United Kingdom), as including ‘horticulture, fruit growing, seed growing, dairy farming and livestock breeding and keeping, the use of land as grazing land, meadow land, osier land, market gardens and nursery grounds, and the use of land for woodlands where that use ancillary to the farming of land for Agricultural purposes”

## **SCOPE and IMPORTANCE**

- About 15% contribution to the gross domestic product (GDP).
- The sector provides employment to more than 50% of country's work force and is the single largest private sector occupation.
- Agriculture accounts for about 15% of the total export earnings and provides raw material to a large number of Industries (textiles, silk, sugar, rice, flour mills, milk products).

- **Trade** – When he started producing more than his requirement the excess was exchanged, this is the basis for trade. When agriculture flourished, trade developed. This led to infrastructure development like road, routes, etc.

## Major Milestones in the development of Agriculture in India

- 1880 - Department of Agriculture was established
- 1903 - Imperial Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) was started at Pusa, Bihar
- 1912 - Sugarcane Breeding Institute was established in Coimbatore
- 1929 - Imperial Council of Agricultural Research at New Delhi (then ICAR) after independence becomes ICAR
- 1936 - Due to an earthquake in Bihar, IARI was shifted to New Delhi and the place was called with original name Pusa
- 1962- First Agricultural University was started at Pantnagar

- 1965-67 - Green revolution in India due to introduction of HYV –Wheat, rice, use of fertilizers, construction of Dams and use of pesticides
- 1970 – Operation Flood

