

Branches of Agriculture

Seven branches

1. Agronomy
2. Horticulture
3. Forestry
4. Animal husbandry
5. Fishery science
6. Agricultural Engineering and
7. Home science



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- **Agronomy** – Deals with the production of various crops which includes food crops, fodder crops, fibre crops, sugar, oilseeds, etc. The aim is to have better food production and how to control the diseases.
- **Horticulture** - Deals with the production of fruits, vegetables, flowers, ornamental plants, spices, condiments and beverages.
- **Forestry** – Deals with production of large scale cultivation of perennial trees for supplying wood, timber, rubber, etc. and also raw materials for industries.
- **Animal husbandry** – Deals with agricultural practice of breeding and raising livestock in order to provide food for humans and to provide power (draught) and manure for crops.

- **Fishery science** – Deals with practice of breeding and rearing fishes including marine and inland fishes, shrimps, prawns etc. in order to provide food, feed and manure.
- **Agricultural Engineering** – Deals with farm machinery for field preparation, inter-cultivation, harvesting and post harvest processing including soil and water conservation engineering and bio-energy.
- **Home Science** – Deals with application and utilization of agricultural produces in a better manner in order to provide nutritional security, including value addition and food preparation.

On integration, all the seven branches, first three is grouped as for crop production group and next two animal management and last two allied agriculture branches.

Evolution of man and Agriculture

- There are different stages in development of agriculture, which is oriented with human civilization. They are Hunting → Pastoral → Crop culture → Trade (stages of human civilization).
- **Hunting** – It was the primary source of food in old days It existed for a very long period.
- **Pastoral** – Human obtained his food through domestication animals, e.g. dogs, horse, cow, buffalo, etc. They lived in the periphery of the forest and they had to feed his domesticated animals. For feeding his animals, he would migrated from one place to another in search of food. It was not comfortable.
- **Crop culture** - By living near the river bed, he had enough water for his animals and domesticated crops and started cultivation. Thus he has started to settle in a place.

- **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

