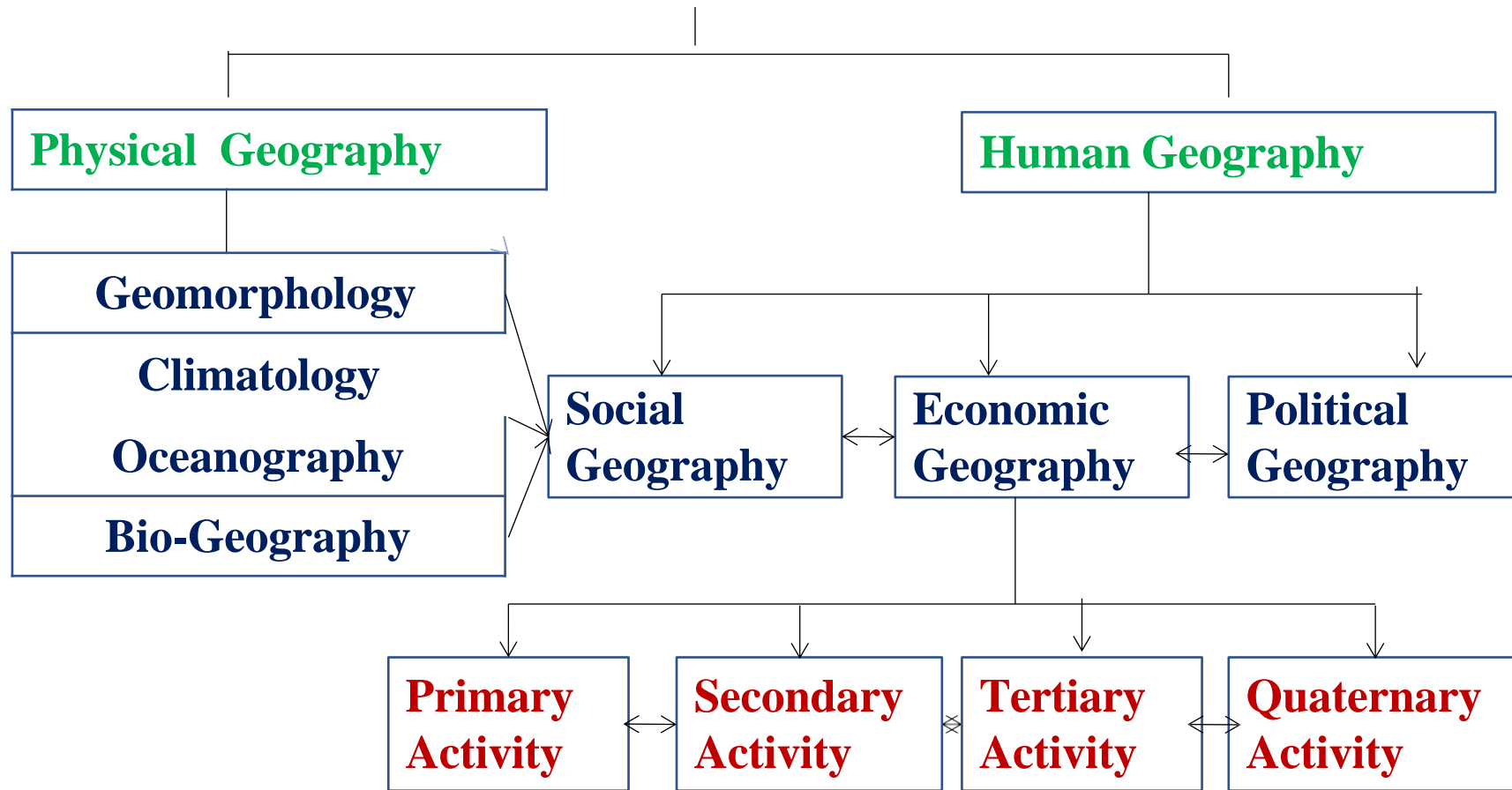


AGRICULTURAL GEOGRAPHY

LECTURE 1

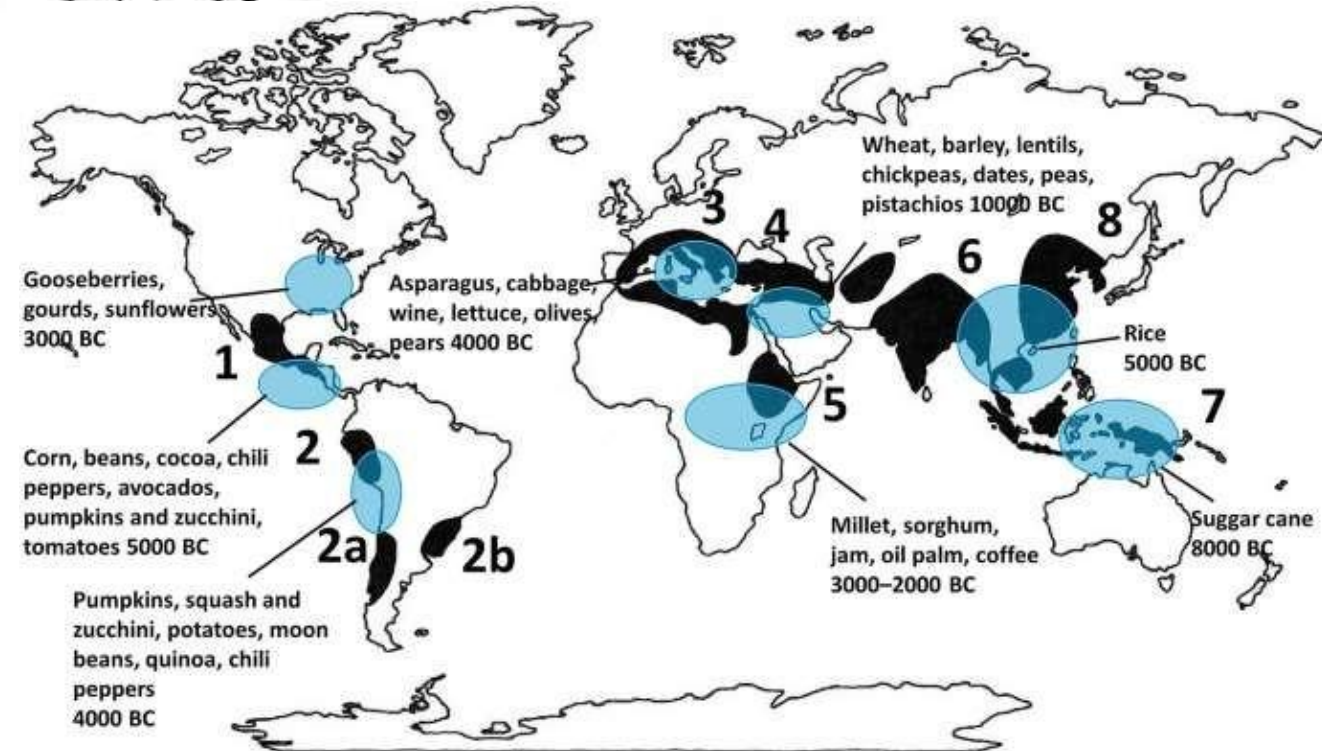
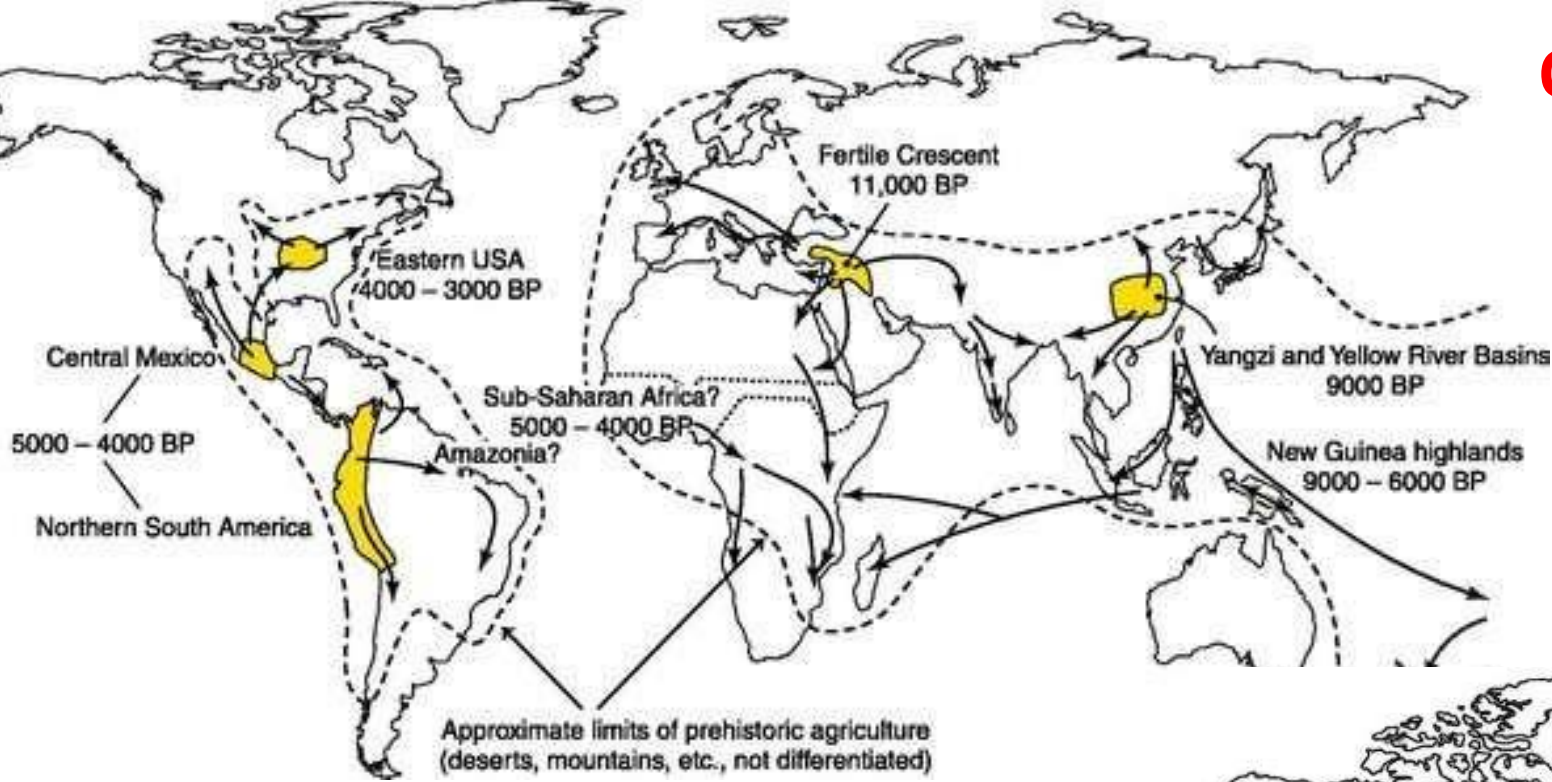


GEOGRAPHY



Place of Agricultural Geography

ORIGIN & DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Agricultural Geography deals with the art and science of domestication of plants and animals.

Definitions of Agriculture Geography

- According to **Symons (1960)**, “The art of cultivation of soil or crops and animal husbandry is called agriculture”
- According to **Whittlesy (1936)**, The use of human effort with the object of acquiring products of plant and animal origin is called agriculture
- According to **Hillman (1911)**, agriculture geography deals with a comparative study of agriculture of countries and continents.
- According to **Reeds (1964)**, It deals with the description and explanation of regional differentiation of agricultural characteristics and also analyse and interpret the main causes of spatial variations.
- According to **Zimmerman (1966)**, defines agriculture as “*those productive efforts by which man settled on the land, seeks to make use of land and if possible, accelerate and improve upon the natural genetic processes of plants and animal life to the end that these processes which yield the vegetable and animal products needed or wanted by man*”.
- According to **Buchanan (1959)**, has used the word “**Portmanteau**” for agriculture which involves **the production of food grains and agricultural products from soil through simple to complex processes.**
- According to **Bernhard (1915)**, agriculture geography is the study of regional variations in agriculture and the factors responsible for them. It is also attempt to identify the physical and cultural factors which control the spatial distribution of agricultural pursuits.
- According to **Jhonston (1985)**, defines agricultural geography as “*the study of spatial variations in agricultural activity; involving both the description of such variations and attempt to explain them.*”
- According to **Jasbir and Dhillon (1981)**, agriculture geography is concerned with the formulation and testing of hypotheses, interpretation of spatial distribution and location of various characteristics of agricultural activities on the surface of the earth and measurement of geographic relationship. And also seeks to identify, describe and classify the problems of agriculture against geographical back drop.

The science and art of cultivating soil, growing and harvesting of crops, domestication of animals and raising of livestock is known as **agriculture**.

According to **Sauer (1952)**, the **Origin And Development Agriculture**, propounded that;



1. Agriculture did not originate in communities desperately in short supply of food, but among communities where there was **sufficiency of food resulting into relative freedom from want and need**.
2. The hearths of domestication are to be sought in regions of marked diversity of plants and animals.
3. The primitive agriculture did not origin in the large river valleys, subject to the lengthy floods and requiring protective dams, drainage or irrigation, but in moist hill lands.
4. The agriculture began in forested lands which had soft soil easy to dig.
5. The pioneers of agriculture had previously required special skills but the hunters would be least inclined towards the domestication of plants.
6. The founders of agriculture were sedentary folks, because growing of crops requires constant attention and supervision and unless guarded properly, the crop will be lost.

According to **Coppock (1969)**, each investigation involves four stages:

- i) Identification of the problems
- ii) Collection of relevant data
- iii) Formulation of hypotheses
- iv) Testing and identification of hypotheses to provide an adequate explanation



LAND CAPABILITY

Land capability survey was devised by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial research Organisation (CSIRO) for demarcation of land capability regions of Australia. Subsequently the capability survey was widely applied in European and Anglo-American countries and in some of the Third World Countries.



Land capability may be defined as the ability of the land surface to support natural **plant growth/ wildlife habitat or artificial crop growth/ human habitat**. Thus, it indicates the type of land use [viz., human habitation, agriculture, pastures, forests, wildlife habitat, etc.] that is suitable over a particular type of land.

Land capability survey helps in **ascertaining the usefulness of land, its utility for agriculture, forest, industry, tourism, and other land use purpose.**

For the delineation of land capability regions, only physical parameters are taken **into consideration**. The demarcation of these regions in fact is on the basis of texture, **structure of soil, terrain, slope, run-off, temperature, and precipitation**. Thus, in the land capability survey, **there is a heavy reliance on the results of soil survey in pedological conditions.**

In general each soil group has its own physical and chemical properties. These properties determine the land capability and land suitability. **For example, the regur soil is good for the cultivation of cotton, sugarcane and citrus fruits, while the alluvial soil is utilised for wheat, rice, maize, sugarcane, pulses, and oilseeds.**

In India, the basic objective of the soil survey was to achieve the land capability classification. The All India Soil and land Use Survey Organization attempted the land **capability survey** in 1960 which identified eight land use capability classes.