

Based on **Exploring Society : India and Beyond**
New NCERT Textbook

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Social Science

**EXPLORING SOCIETY :
INDIA AND BEYOND**

PART-2

For the Student of Class 7

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Vinisha Nakra*



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THEME A – India and the World :

Land and the People

1

The Story of Indian Farming

Summary

India's Agricultural Landscape

- Farming is one of the oldest occupations of humankind.
- The term 'agriculture' encompasses farming, animal husbandry, forestry and horticulture.
- Approximately 46 percent of India's working population is engaged in agriculture and allied activities for their livelihood.
- India's agricultural landscape is a vibrant blend of traditional and modern farming practices, with diverse crops and deep-rooted cultural traditions.
- Growing crops depends on several factors—the soil, the climate, the availability of water and so on.

Echoes from the Past

- The story of Indian farming goes back to prehistory.
- Archaeological investigations have shown the presence of rice grains in the Ganga Plain as early as the 7th or 8th millennium BCE.
- Barley and wheat were the staple crops of the Harappans.
- Cattle, asses, sheep, goats, dogs, pigs, fowl etc. animals were domesticated from the pre-urban phase of the Sindhu-Sarasvati Civilisation.
- Kautilya's Arthashastra, the Sangam literature, Amarakosha, Krishiparashara, Brihatsamhita, Vrikshayurveda etc. contain writings on agriculture, horticulture and plant biodiversity.

Climate, Seasons, and Crops : What Grows Where and When?

- India's varied geography and climate influence the variety of crops grown in different regions and at various times of the year.
- India is divided into 15 agroclimatic zones.
- Climate factors, soil types, terrain, vegetation types are combined to create categories.
- The upper Gangetic Plain Region, Southern Plateau, Hills and Western Dry Region are few examples of agroclimatic zones.

The monsoon and agriculture

- The Indian monsoon system is a key factor in the country's agricultural diversity.

Soil-crop linkages

Crops are strongly influenced by the type of soil where they grow.

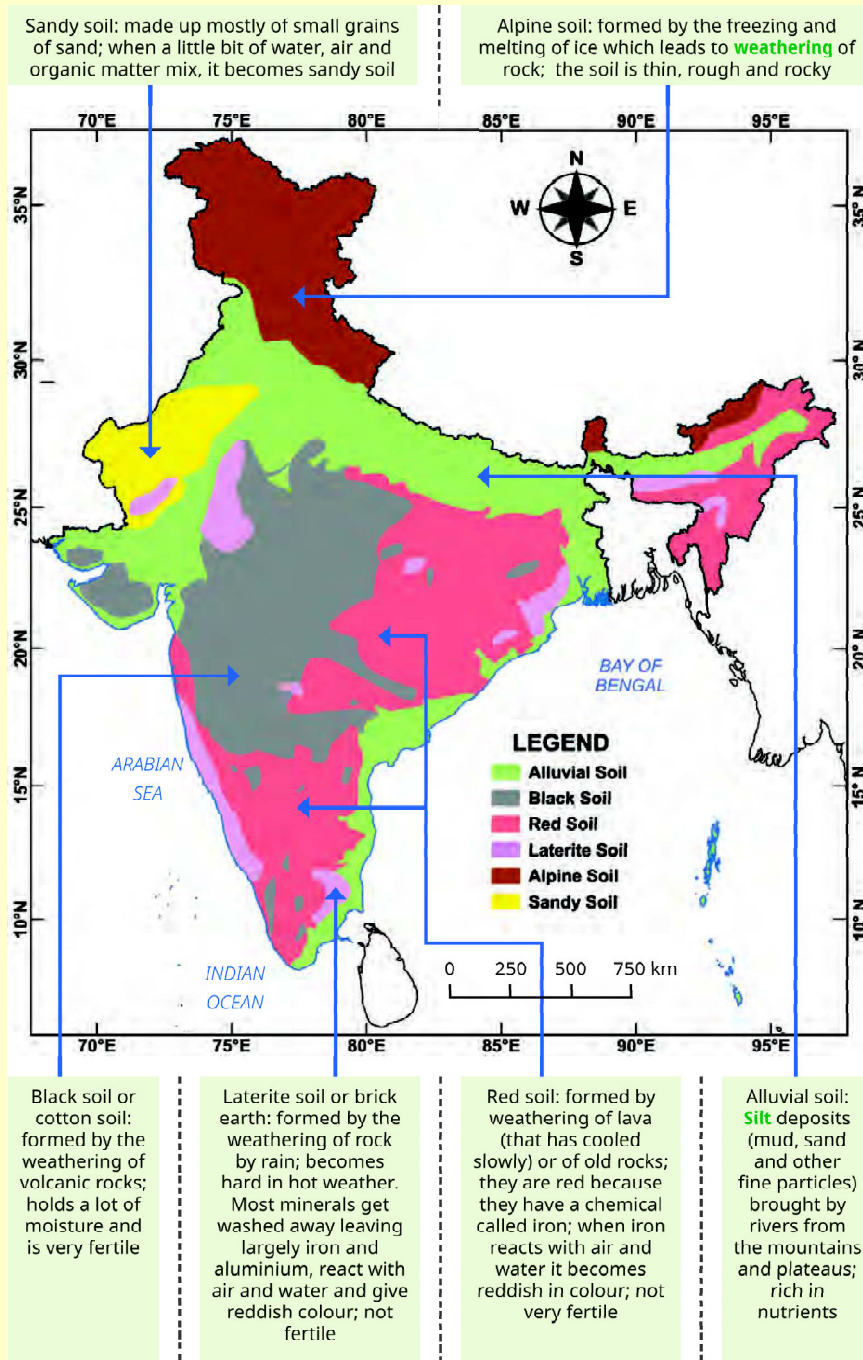
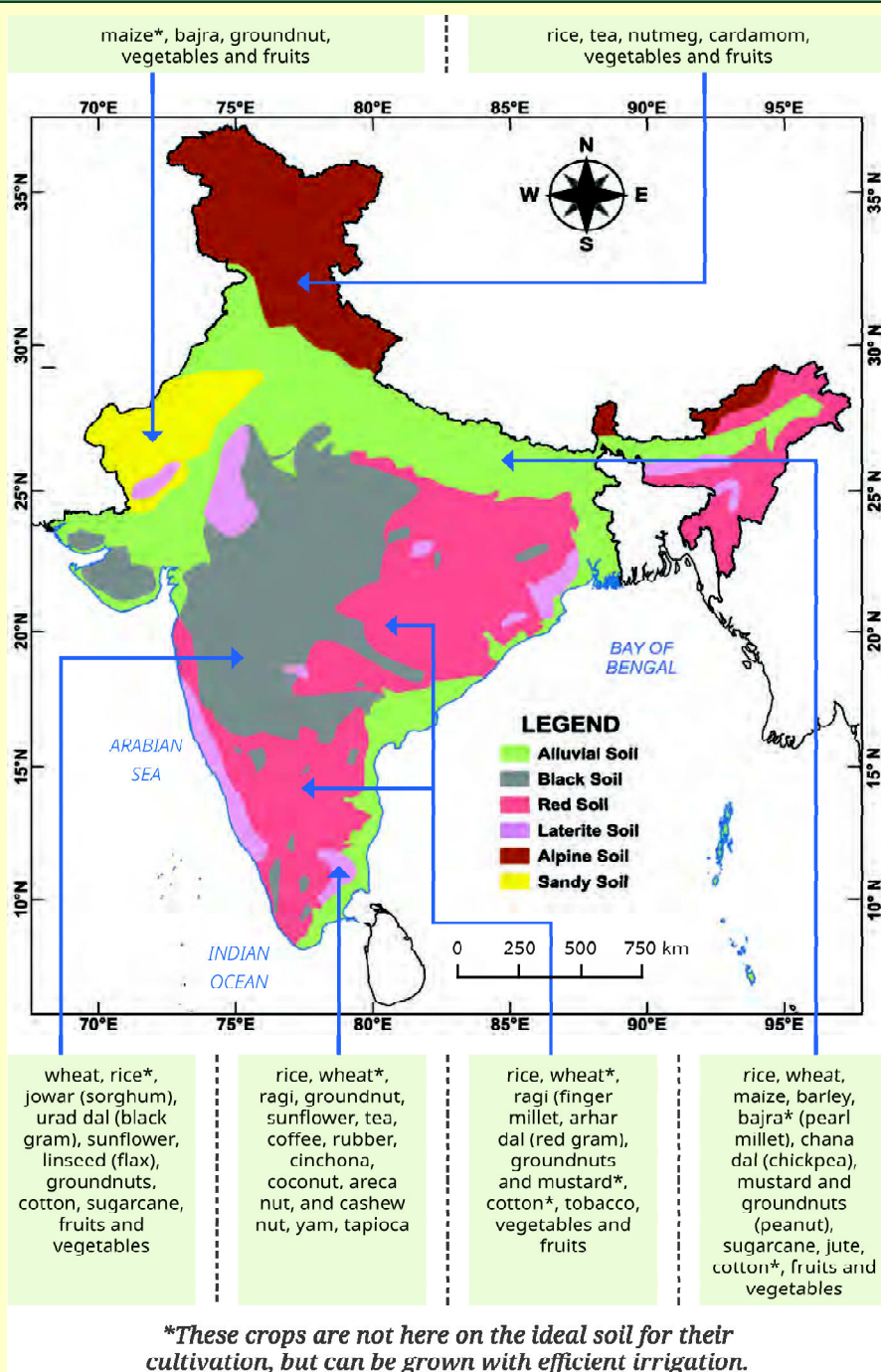


Fig. : A simplified map of the major soil types of India and their formation. Most regions will have local variations.



* The crops are not here on the ideal soil for their cultivation, but can be grown with efficient irrigation

Fig. : Some examples of crops grown in the different soil-type areas (You need not remember all these details)