

STUDY MATERIAL NO... 38
FOR T.D.C PART- II (GEOGRAPHY HON'S)
Paper – 3rd (Bihar)

BY

Dr. ALPNA JYOTI

Deptt. of Geography, Marwari College, Darbhanga
LNMI University, Darbhanga

Q. – AGRICULTURE REGION OF BIHAR

Introduction:-

Bihar, with its bountiful natural resources of fertile soil, abundant water, varied climate and rich cultural and historical heritage is one of the most fascinating states of India. The farmers are intelligent and hard working.

Bihar is located in the eastern part of the country (between 83°-30' to 88°-00' longitude). It is an entirely land-locked state, although the outlet to the sea through the port of Kolkata is not far away. Bihar lies mid-way between the humid West Bengal in the east and the sub humid Uttar Pradesh in the west which provides it with a transitional position in respect of climate, economy and culture. It is bounded by Nepal in the north and by Jharkhand in the south. The Bihar plain is divided into two unequal halves by the river Ganga which flows through the middle from west to east. An area of 621635 ha is covered by forests. Bihar is divided into 38 Districts, 101 Sub divisions, 534 Blocks and 8463 *Panchayats*. The population of Bihar in 2001 was 82878796 comprising 43153964 males and 39724832 females. It formed 8.06% of India's population. Population density in the State was 880/km². Agriculture is the vital source wealth in Bihar. 76% of its population is engaged in agricultural pursuits.

Agriculture is the vital source of wealth in the State with about 79% of its population is engaged in agricultural pursuits. Bihar's productive contribution in food grain, fruit, vegetables, spices and flowers can increase manifold with improved methods and system management.

Agro and Sub Agro-Climatic Zones:

Bihar falls in the Agro Climatic Zone–IV, which is called “Middle Gangetic Plains Region”. Based on soil characterization, rainfall, temperature and terrain, this zone is further divided into sub-zones i.e. Zone-I, North Alluvial Plain, Zone-II, north East Alluvial Plain, Zone-III A South East Alluvial Plain and Zone-III B, South West Alluvial Plain, each with its own unique prospects. There are three major types of soil in Bihar i.e. Piedmont Swamp Soil - found in northwestern part of West *Champanan* district. *Terai* Soil - found in northern part of the state along the border of Nepal. Gangetic Alluvium - the plain of Bihar is covered by gangetic alluvium (both new as well as old).

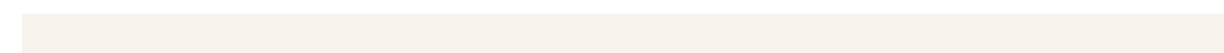
Name of the districts under each Agro-Climatic Zone

S.No.	Agro-climatic zone	Districts
1.	Agro- climatic zone I (Northern West)	West Champaran, East Champaran, Siwan, Saran, Sitamarhi, Sheohar, Muzaffarpur, Vaishali, Madhubani, Darbhanga, Samastipur, Gopalganj, Begusarai
2.	Agro-climatic Zone II (Northern East)	Purnea, Katihar, Saharsa, Supaul, Madhepura, Khagaria, Araria, Kishanganj.
3.	Agro-climatic zone IIIA (Southern East)	Sheikhpura, Munger, Jamui, Lakhisarai, Bhagalpur & Banka.
4.	Agro-climatic zone IIIB (Southern West)	Rohtas, Bhojpur, Buxar, Bhabhua, Arwal, Patna, Nalanda, Nawada, Jehanabad, Aurangabad, Gaya.

Table 2: Important Physiographic features of the Agro-climatic Zone

Sl. N o.	Agro-climatic zone	Soil	pH	Orga nic Matte r (%)	Availab le Nitroge n (Kg./H	Available Phospho rus (Kg./Ha.)	Availab le Potash (Kg./H a.)
-----------------	---------------------------	-------------	-----------	-----------------------------	------------------------------------	---	-------------------------------------

					a.)		
1.	Agro-climatic zone I (Northern West)	Sandy loam, loam	6.5 – 8.4	0.2-1.0	150-350	5-50	100-300
2.	Agro-climatic Zone II (Northern East)	Sandy loam, Clay loam	6.5 – 7.8	0.2-1.0	150-300	10-35	150-250
3.	Agro-climatic zone III (Southern East & West)	Sandy loam, Clay loam, loam, Clay	6.8 – 8.0	0.5-1.0	200-400	10-100	150-350



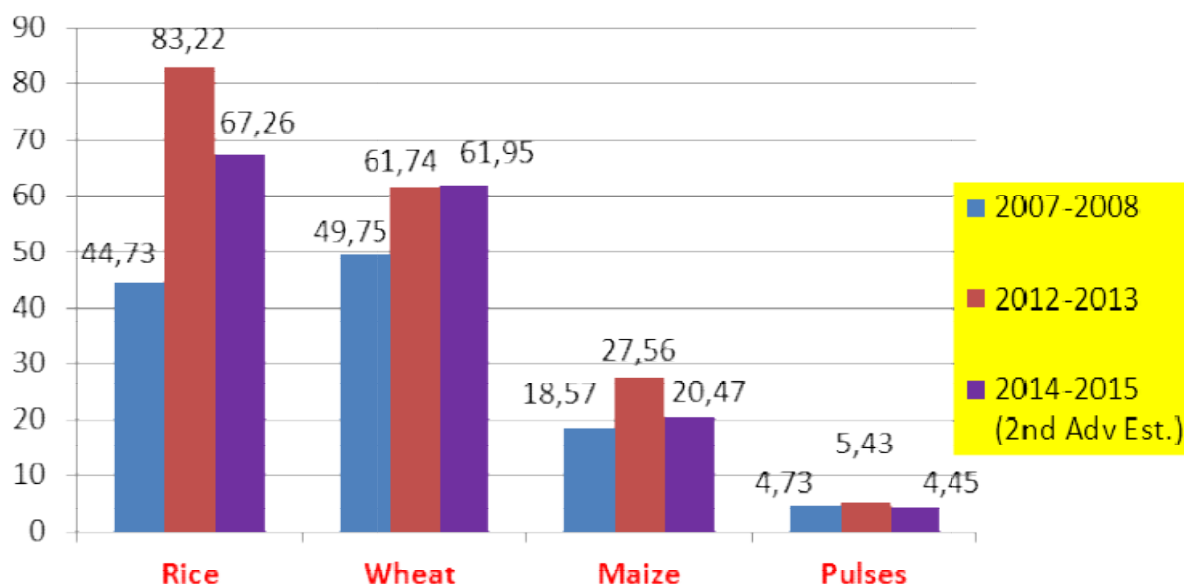
Sl. No.	Agro-climatic zone	Soil	Total Rainfall (mm)	Temperature (°C)	
				Max.	Min.
1.	Agro-climatic zone I (Northern West)	Sandy loam, loam	1040 – 1450 (1245.00)	36.6	7.7
2.	Agro-climatic Zone II (Northern East)	Sandy loam, Clay loam	1200 – 1700 (1450.00)	33.8	8.8
3.	Agro-climatic zone III	Sandy loam,	990 – 1240	37.1	7.8

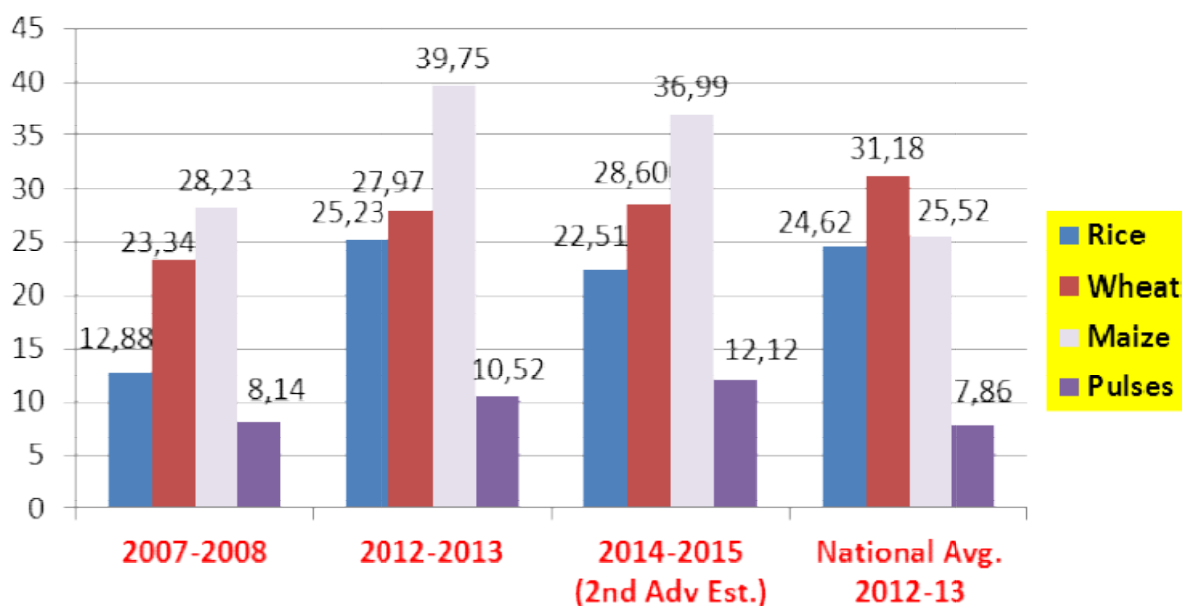
	(Southern East & West)	Clay loam, loam, Clay	(1115.00)		
--	------------------------	-----------------------	-----------	--	--

Cropping Pattern:

The state is endowed with rich biodiversity. Bihar is the third largest producer of vegetables and fourth largest producer of fruits in the country. It is the largest producer of litchi, makhana, guava, lady's finger in India. The state already exports litchi, basmati rice and snow pea. It has competitiveness in maize, rice and fruit such as banana, mango, litchi and vegetables like onions, tomato, potato and brinjal. The principal agricultural crops are paddy, wheat, jute, maize and oil seeds. Cauliflower, cabbage, tomato, radish, carrot, beat etc. are some of the vegetables grown in the state. Sugarcane, potato and barley are some of the non-cereal crops grown. The entire agricultural operations are divided into two crop seasons i.e. *kharif* and *rabi*. The *kharif* season starts from the third week of May and lasts till the end of October followed by the *rabi* season.

Distribution of crops:-





Agriculture cropping pattern

Cropping pattern is dominated by cereals. Rice-wheat cropping system occupies more than 70% of the gross cropped area. Pulses occupy around 7% of the gross cropped area. The important cropping sequences of different zones is:-

Zone - I	Rice – Wheat, Rice – Rai, Rice – Sweet Potato, Rice – Maize (Rabi), Maize – Wheat, Maize – Sweet Potato, Maize – Rai, Rice – Lentil, Rice – linseed
Zone - II	Jute – Wheat, Jute – Potato, Jute – Kalai, Jute – Mustard, Rice – Wheat – moong, Rice – Toria.
Zone - III	Rice – Wheat, Rice – Gram, Rice – Lentil, Rice – Rai.

This land of this zone which are alluvial plains are sloppy towards the south – east direction . The rivers move eastward direction along the natural levee before they finally meet the Ganga. Bihar lies in the river plains of the basin of the river Ganga. It is endowed with fertile alluvial soil ground water resources. This makes the agriculture of Bihar rich and diverse. Rice, wheat, and maize are the major cereal crops. Arhar, urad, moong, gram, pea, lentils, and khesaria are some of the pulses cultivated in Bihar. Bihar is the largest producer of vegetables, which is dominated by potato, onion, eggplant, and cauliflower. In fruit cultivation, it is the largest producer of lychee and the

third largest producer of pineapple, as well as a major producer of mango, banana, and guava. Sugar cane and jute are two other major cash crops of Bihar.

-----000-----

