

45. Agriculture – main characteristics

Agriculture + forestry + fishing + extraction of raw materials = **primary industry**

Agriculture = the source of food for people.

There are many factors influencing the location and type of agriculture:

- natural factors: *climate* (seasons, amount of rain, temperature), *soils* (type, fertility, winds), *relief* (flat or mountainous), etc.
- socio-economic factors: *workforce* (quality), *transportation* (roads, railroads), *mechanization* (tractors, combine harvesters), etc.

Agriculture is divided into 2 main types of activities:

- *vegetable production*
- *livestock production*

Plant (vegetable) production

The base of this production is a soil (land) divided into:

- *arable land*
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- *grasslands*
- *forests*

The crops are used:

- *to feed the population*
- *to rear animals*
- *as a supply for industrial production*

Vegetable production 1990 (million tonnes)			
<i>Country</i>	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Rice</i>	<i>Maize</i>
<i>Former USSR</i>	95	-	13
<i>China</i>	90	180	70
<i>USA</i>	60	6	210
<i>India</i>	48	90	8
<i>Slovakia</i>	2	-	0.37

Vegetable production is divided into:

- ❖ foodstuffs
 - especially *cereals*, e.g. wheat, rice, maize, barley, rye, oats, millet, potatoes, etc.
- ❖ fodder crops
 - corn (+ cereals), potatoes (for pigs), etc.
- ❖ technical crops
 - flax, hemp, sugar cane, sugar beet, cotton-trees, olives, sunflowers, vines, hops, etc.

Livestock production

This production is used:

- *to feed the population* (e.g. meat, milk, eggs)
- *to provide raw materials for industrial production* (e.g. wool, leather)

The most widespread is the cattle production = 90% of the world's milk production and 30% of meat production

Pig farming – swinery – represents 40% of meat production. They are reared mainly in moderate climate and in densely populated areas.

Livestock production includes also rearing of:

- ❖ sheep
- ❖ poultry (fowls)
- ❖ fish

Livestock production 1990 (million pieces)			
<i>Country</i>	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Sheep</i>
<i>India</i>	200	9	55
<i>Brazil</i>	130	35	18
<i>Former USSR</i>	121	801	45
<i>USA</i>	110	55	10
<i>Slovakia</i>	1.6	2.5	0.6

Keywords

agriculture, forestry, fishing, raw materials' extraction, natural/socio-economic factors, vegetable/livestock production, arable land, grasslands, forests, to rear animals, foodstuffs, fodder/technical crops, cereals, wheat, rice, maize, barley, rye, oats, millet, potatoes, flax, hemp, sugar cane, sugar beet, cotton-trees, olives, sunflowers, vines, hops, cattle, swinery, sheep, poultry/fowls, fish