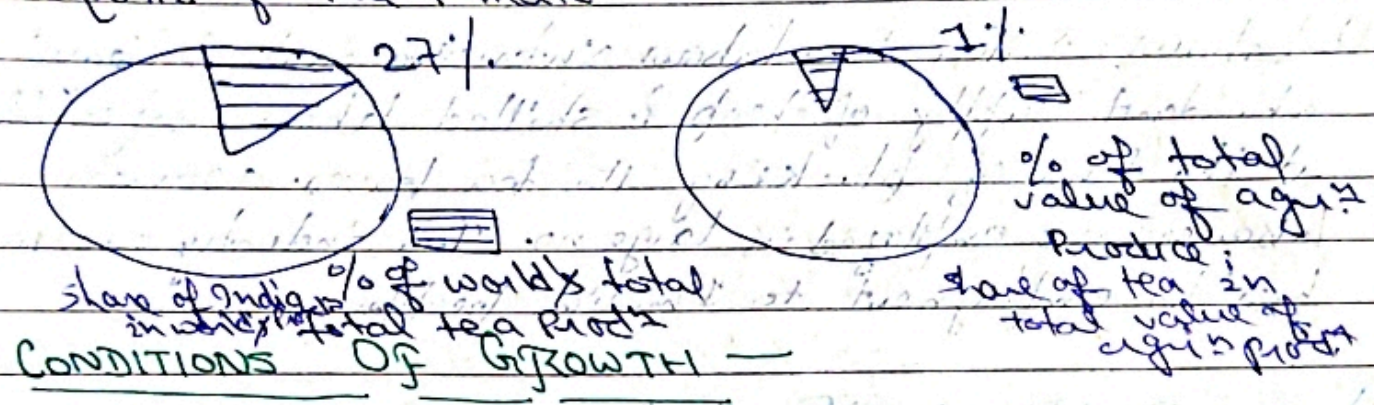


Agriculture forms the backbone of Indian economy & TEA ^{with high export value} Plantation crops forms the backbone of eco agriculture of India.

Introduction ^{Amongst}

Tea is the most imp. beverage crop of India. At present there are 715 tea companies, more than 7,000 tea estates and 19,738 tea gardens in the country providing employment to 10 lakh persons. India is the largest producer of tea in the world, accounting for more than 27% of tea production of the world. Tea occupies 0.23% of the total cropped area of the country & contributes about 1% of the total value of agricultural produce. In 2002-09 India earns Rs 1637 crore from the exports of tea & mate.



CONDITIONS OF GROWTH

1 Temperature → Tea bush is a tropical and sub-tropical plant & thrives well in hot & humid climate. The ideal temp. for its growth is 20°-30°C & temp. above 35°C & below 10°C are harmful for the bush.

Rainfall → It requires 150-300 cm annual rainfall well distributed throughout the year.

Soil → Tea bush grows well in well drained, deep, friable loams. However, virgin forest soils rich in humus & iron content are considered to be the best soil for tea plantations. Large proportion of phosphorus & potash in the soil gives special flavour to tea.

4) Topography → Stagnant water is injurious to its roots. So it is grown on hill slopes where water drains away easily & waterlogging does not take place.

5) safer slopes → Tea is a shade-loving plant & develops more vigorously when planted along with shady trees on slopes.

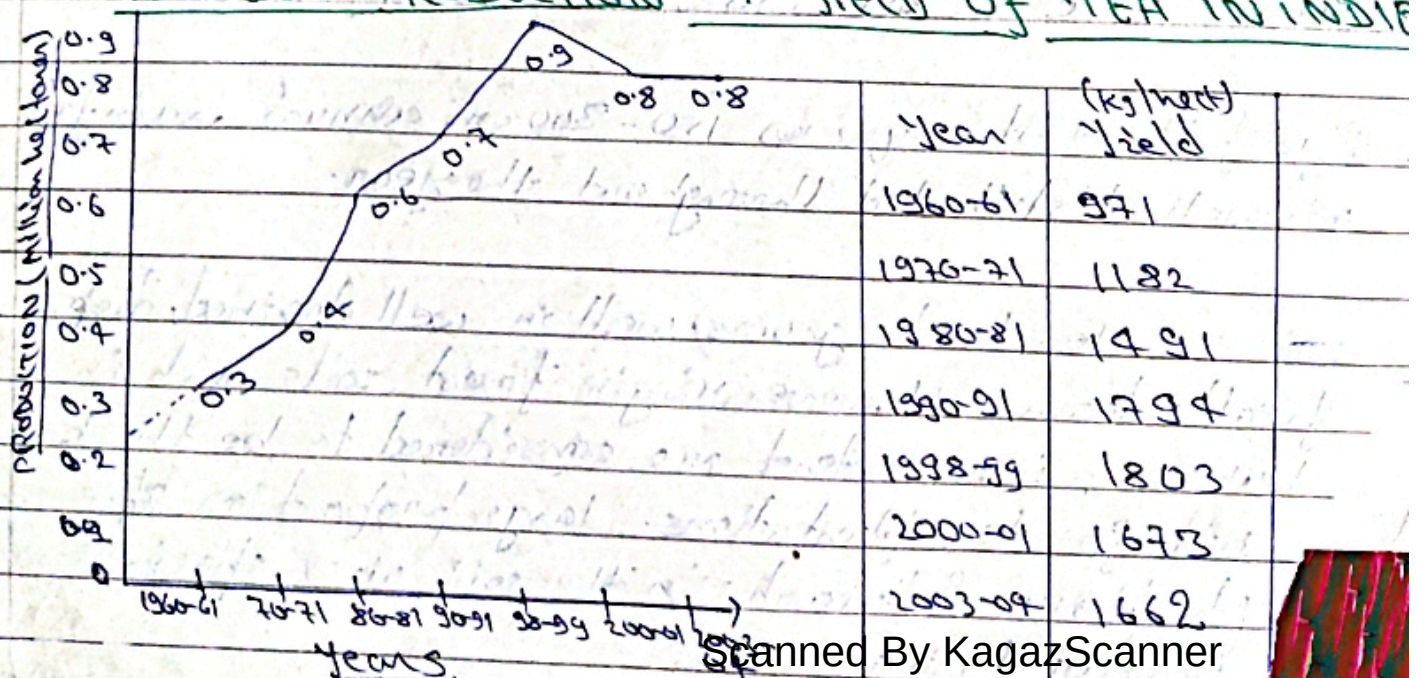
6) distance from sea → most of the tea plantations in India are found at elevation varying from 600 to 1,800 metres above sea level. Heights affect the flavour of tea.

7) Labour → Tea is a labour intensive crop & requires abundant supply of cheap & skilled labour, especially at the time of plucking the tea leaves. Women labourers are employed in large no. Tea industry currently provides employment to 1 million peoples.

→ PRODUCTION OF TEA IN INDIA

India is the largest producer & consumer of tea in the world & accounts for 27% of world production.

PROGRESS IN PRODUCTION & YIELD OF TEA IN INDIA



1958-99 the production & yield is highest among all the 4 years i.e 0.9 million hectares & 1803 yield (kg/ha).

DATE: / /

Analysis :-

Tea cultivation does not have long tradition in India as it started in the middle of 19th century, only when 1st tea plantations were established in Assam. Tea cultivation has shown steady progress right from the beginning evident from the data & graph above.

Production & yield increase 166.6% & 71%.

resp. bet. 1960-61 & 2003-04.

=> STATEWISE ^{PRODUCTION} DISTRIBUTION OF TEA IN INDIA

STATE	PRODUCTION (in %)	Yield
1. ASSAM	51.43	17.9
2. W.B.	22.36	12.5
3. Tamil Nadu	15.90	25.2
4. KERALA	8.45	18.4
5. TRIPURA	0.87	11.2
6. KARNATAKA	0.62	25.8
7. Others	0.37	-
Total	100.00	18.5

Analysis :-

With 51.43% of total Assam is the largest producer of tea in the country. Followed by W.B., Tamil Nadu, Kerala. Tamil Nadu has the distinction of producing highest yield i.e 25.2% in the country, & Karnataka also 25.8% yield (kg/ha). Tripura and Karnataka are the low producing states.

=> DISTRIBUTION OF TEA IN INDIA

GROWTH IN AREA OF TEA IN INDIA DURING DIFF. DECADES

