

# PROBLEMS OF INDIAN AGRICULTURE

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Introduction :- India has been an agricultural country since millennia, wherein nearly 70% of the country's population depends on agriculture for their livelihood. In India, agriculture is not only an occupation, while it has become an important part of economic, social and cultural life of Indians. It is the backbone of Indian economy because out of the total national income of the country 27% is got from agriculture.

Although, it is the backbone of Indian economy, but it is facing many problems which are following -

## 1. Heavy Pressure of Population on agriculture :-

There is heavy pressure of population on lands, as nearly 70% of the country's population depends on agriculture for their livelihood.

Depend on agriculture

Depend on others.

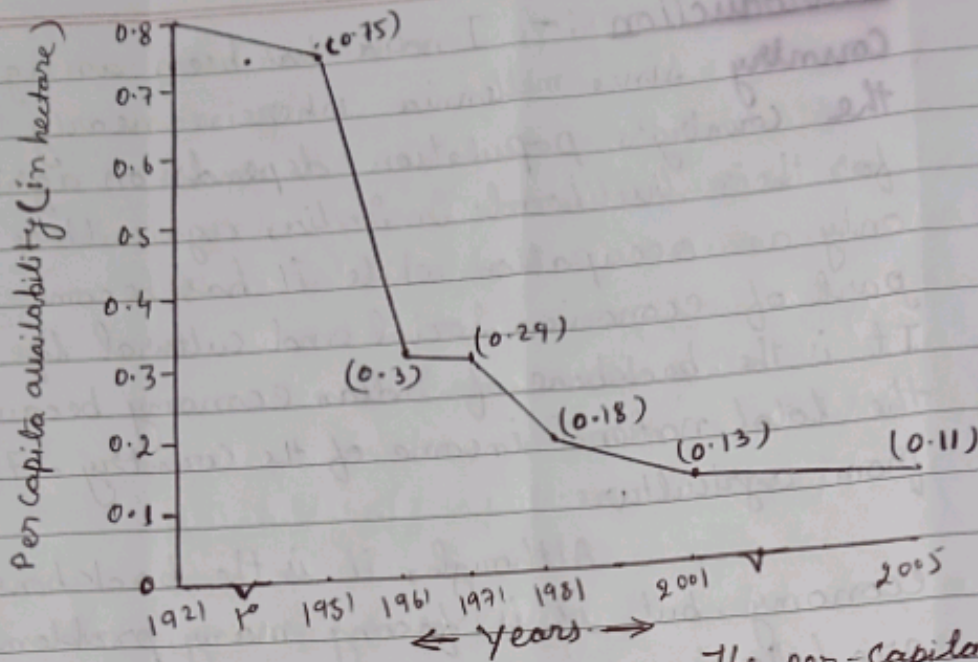
70%	30%
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Fig. Heavy Pressure of Population on agriculture.

Due to heavy pressure of population on agriculture the most part of the population are facing the problems of food scarcity, hunger and malnutrition. About 27% of the total malnourished population of the world live in India.

## 2. Decline in Per capita availability of agricultural land

Due to heavy pressure of population on agriculture, the per-capita availability of agricultural land ~~land~~ is declining continuously in India.



The per-capita agricultural land availability is much lower than several countries of the world.

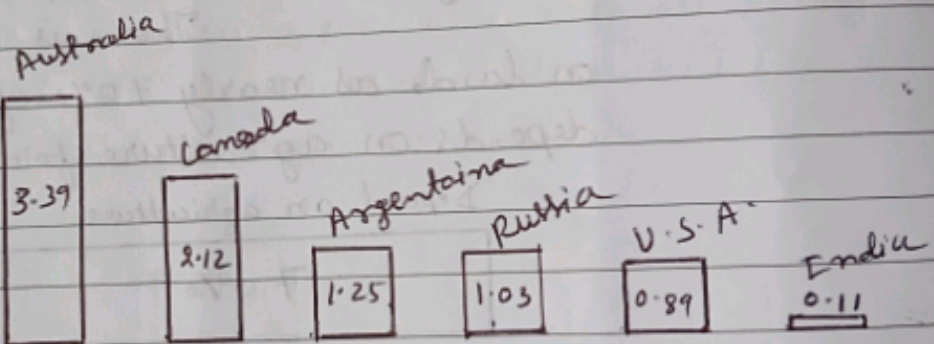
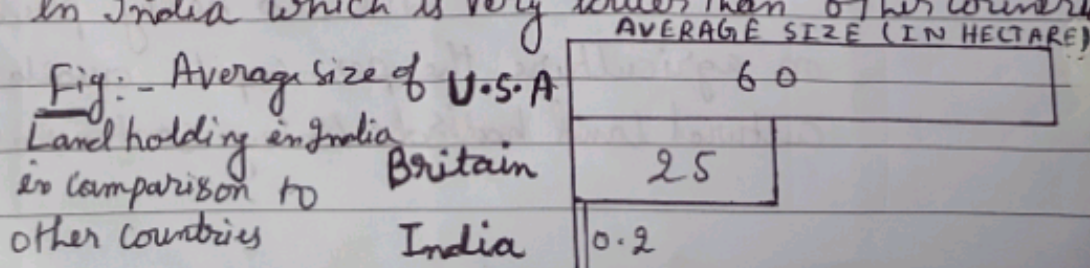


Fig:- Per Capita agricultural land availability in several countries of the world (in hectare)

3. Small Land holding :- Small land holding is the ~~one~~ major problem of Indian agriculture. Due to small land holding they are ~~one~~ become uneconomical for carrying on agricultural operation successfully. The average size of the operational holding is 0.2 hectare in India which is very lower than other countries



The area under operational holdings has, however, registered a marginal increase from 7% in 1960-61 to 19% in 2000-01, and small holdings also has increased from 32% to 44% in respective years, while large land holding has declined from 31% to 13%.

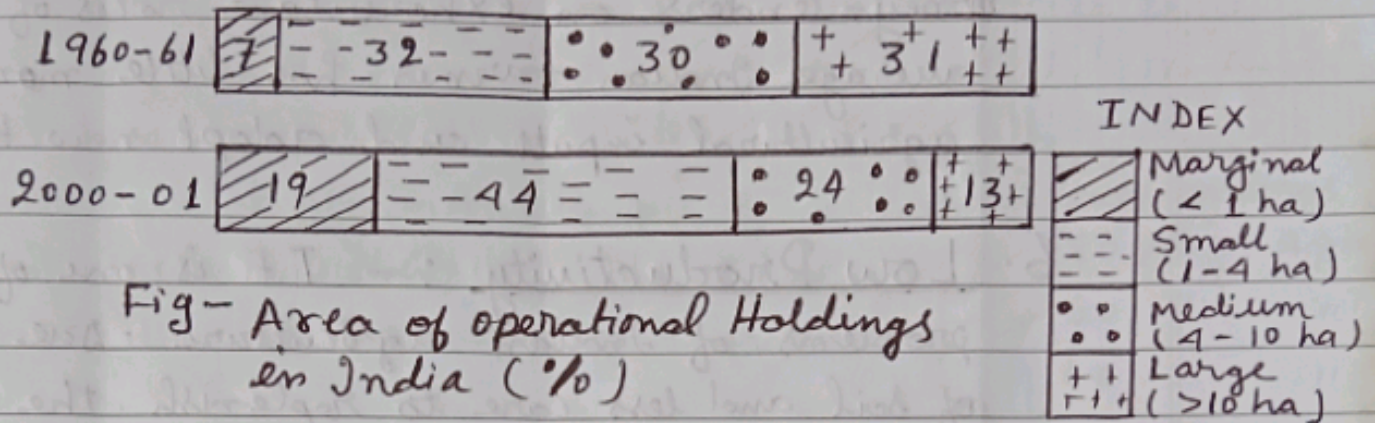


Fig - Area of operational Holdings in India (%)

The small holdings do not generate enough capital to support the families and to buy agricultural inputs. Machinery cannot be used on such small farms.

4. Irregular Distribution of land holdings - There are unequal distribution of land holdings is found in India. Poor farmers, which are more in number, have less land holding while rich farmers, which are less in number, have more land holding. Due to irregular distribution, the condition of the ~~poor~~ small farmers are very poor.

NO. OF FARMERS (IN%)	DISTRIBUTION OF LAND HOLDING (IN HECT)
62	Less than 2
25	2 to 5
9	5 to 10
4	More than 10

Table - Irregular Distribution of Land holdings in India

5. Poverty of farmers :- Most farmers of India are poor which condition is more pitiable. The one-fourth farmer of total are labour. They work in others land. The per capita income of an Indian farmer is about Rs. 2000 per annum. That is why, small farmers borrow money from big landlords or money-lenders on exorbitant rates of interest. An average Indian farmer has little money to buy agricultural inputs and adopt new technology.

6. Low Productivity :- It is one of the major problems of Indian agriculture. Due to low fertility of soil and less care to replenish, the per hectare yield of crops is very low. In recent years, however, there has been an appreciable increase in agriculture yields of some crops but these yields are much lower than several countries of the world.

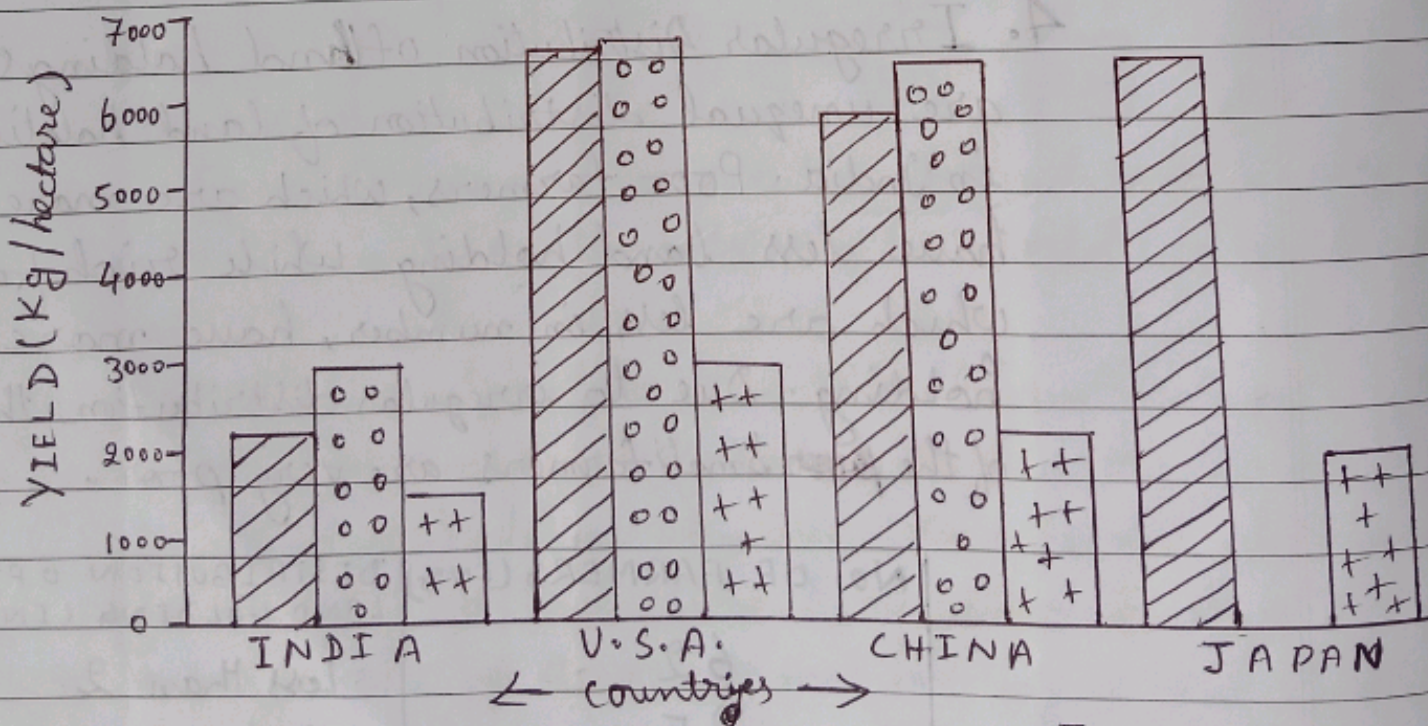
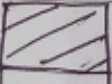
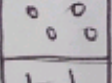
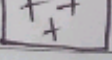


Fig- Average yield of selected crops in several countries.

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	Rice
	Wheat
	Groundnut.

7. Division of land holdings :- Due to the rapid growth of population and law of inheritance, the land holdings are gradually becoming smaller. It is a major problem of Indian agriculture because for carrying on agricultural operation they are unsuccessful.

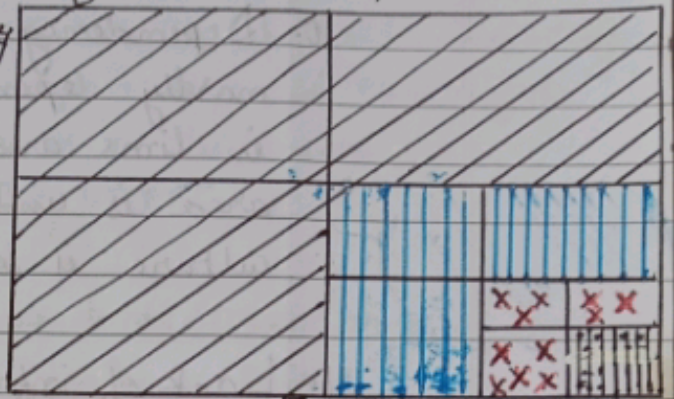


Fig:- An example of division of land holdings due to Law of inheritance

INDEX		Condition of holdings	
	80 years ago		
	60 " "		
	40 " "		
	20 " "		
	Present		

8. Scattered Land holdings :- All land holdings of a farmer in India are not found in one place. They are scattered in smaller size in all parts of village. That is why, major part of land holding become unuseful which finally effect the productivity of crops.



INDEX	
	Settlement
	Waterbody.
	Land of Farmer No.1
	" " " No.2
	" " " No.3

Fig- An example of Scattered Land holdings in a village of South India

9. Scarcity of agricultural inputs : Indian farmers are either less receptive to agricultural innovations or have little money agricultural inputs like improved quality seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, farm machinery etc. low use of agricultural inputs results in low agricultural

yields.

10. Dependency On Monsoon :- Indian agriculture is mostly dependent on rainfall which is highly variable in time and space. Only 41.2% of the total cropped area is under irrigation. That is why, India agriculture is known as gamble with monsoon.

11. Lack of infrastructure :- facilities of transport, communications, banking, electricity, storage, marketing etc are insufficient in rural areas. This has hampered the development of agriculture in the country.

