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Primary Activities

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SUBJECT & STREAM

Geography (Fundamentals of Human Geography) •
Humanities / Arts

TARGET CLASS & LEVEL

Class 12 (Senior Secondary Board Examinations)

TEXTBOOK & CHAPTER

NCERT Book 1 • Unit III • Chapter 4

MATERIAL STANDARD

100% Textbook Grounded • Simple English • 20-
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Class 12 Geography (NCERT) • Chapter 4: Primary Activities

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Subject: Class 12 Geography (NCERT)

NCERT Unit III • Chapter 4

Primary Activities

Complete Comprehensive Study Notes • Easy English • Point-by-Point Breakdown • NCERT Solutions • Exam Question Bank

1. Chapter Overview & Learning Objectives

Human economic activities generate income and sustain civilization. Primary activities are the foundation of all economic life because they extract food, raw materials, and energy directly from the earth's natural ecosystems. By studying this comprehensive note, students will master:

- **Economic Classification:** Distinction between primary, secondary, tertiary, and quaternary economic activities, and the concept of *red-collar workers*.
- **Hunting and Gathering:** Primitive subsistence gathering, regional distribution, modern commercial gathering (chicle, quinine, rubber, balata), and synthetic competition.
- **Pastoralism:** Complete comparative analysis between Nomadic Herding (Pastoral Nomadism) and Commercial Livestock Rearing.
- **Transhumance:** Seasonal mountain-valley and tundra migrations of Gujjars, Bakarwals, Gaddis, and Bhotiyas.
- **Types of Agriculture:** Exhaustive study of:
 - Primitive Subsistence Agriculture (Shifting cultivation: Jhuming, Milpa, Ladang).
 - Intensive Subsistence Agriculture (Paddy dominated vs. non-paddy crops).
 - Plantation Agriculture (Colonial origins, estates, crops, and Brazilian *fazendas*).
 - Extensive Commercial Grain Cultivation (Temperate grasslands: Steppes, Prairies, Pampas, Velds, Downs).
 - Mixed Farming (Crop rotation, animal husbandry, fodder crops).
 - Dairy Farming (Capital-intensive, urban proximity, three global belts).
 - Mediterranean Agriculture (Viticulture, grape processing, citrus fruits).
 - Market Gardening & Horticulture (Truck farming, factory farming, urban peri-meters).
 - Co-operative Farming vs. Collective Farming (Soviet *Kolkhoz* model).
- **Mining:** Physical and economic factors, surface (open-cast) vs. underground (shaft) mining methods, and environmental hazards.
- **Complete NCERT Exercise Solutions & Board Exam Question Bank:** Model answers for all textbook and high-yield questions.

2. Economic Activities and Primary Activities Defined

- **Economic Activities:** All human actions that generate monetary income and output are known as economic activities. They are classified into primary, secondary, tertiary, quaternary, and quinary activities.
- **Primary Activities:** Economic activities that depend directly on the physical environment, involving the direct extraction and utilization of the earth's natural resources: land, surface/ground water, natural vegetation, wild animals, building stones, and minerals.
 - *Key Branches:* Hunting, wild food gathering, pastoral animal rearing, commercial fishing, forestry and lumbering, crop agriculture, and mineral mining/quarrying.

- **Red-Collar Workers:** People engaged in primary activities are professionally designated as **red-collar workers** due to the outdoor, physically demanding nature of their manual work in fields, forests, and mines.

3. Hunting and Gathering: The Oldest Human Occupations

Hunting and gathering represent the earliest economic pursuits of human civilization, practiced since the Paleolithic era:

- **Primitive Subsistence Characteristics:**
 - Practiced by primitive tribal communities living in harsh, extreme environments (polar cold or equatorial jungles).
 - Operates at an extremely low level of technology using simple tools (stone implements, sharpened digging sticks, bone arrows).
 - Requires negligible capital investment; yield per person is very low with zero economic surplus produced.
 - Provides immediate daily biological sustenance: wild meat, animal hides for clothing, and edible forest produce for food.
- **Geographical Distribution:**
 - *High-Latitude Belts:* Northern Canada, Northern Eurasia (Arctic tundra and taiga), and Southern Chile.
 - *Low-Latitude Belts:* The Amazon River Basin (South America), Tropical Central Africa (Congo Basin), the northern fringes of Australia, and interior pockets of Southeast Asia.
- **Modern Commercial Gathering:** In contemporary times, gathering in tropical rainforests has partially transformed into a commercial market-oriented activity:
 - *Barks of Trees:* Extracted to produce **quinine** (vital anti-malarial drug from Cinchona bark), tannin extracts for leather tanning, and cork for bottling.
 - *Leaves:* Harvested for medicinal drugs, herbal beverages, cosmetics, and woven fibers.
 - *Tree Trunks & Sap:* Harvested for natural rubber, balata, aromatic gums, and industrial resins.
 - *Chicle (Zapota Tree):* The milky sap of the wild Zapota tree is collected to make **chicle**—the elastic base of chewing gum after flavor is extracted!
- **Global Decline of Gathering:** Gathering cannot become a dominant global industry. Forest products cannot compete with high-quality, inexpensive **synthetic substitutes** produced by modern chemical manufacturing (e.g., synthetic rubber replacing wild rubber).

4. Pastoralism: Animal Rearing Systems

As human societies realized that wild animal hunting was unsustainable and depleted wildlife, they domesticated animals adapted to their local environments. Today, animal husbandry is practiced under two contrasting systems:

A. Nomadic Herding (Pastoral Nomadism)

- **Core Nature:** A primitive subsistence activity where herders rely completely on livestock for food (milk, meat), clothing (wool, hides), shelter (leather tents), and transport.
- **Pasture Migration:** Herders do not own fixed ranches; they move constantly from one grazing ground to another with their herds, following seasonal availability of water and wild grass. Each nomadic tribe controls a well-defined territorial route by tradition.
- **Animal Specialization by Region:**
 - *Tropical Africa:* Cattle are the dominant livestock.
 - *Sahara and Arabian Deserts:* Camels, sheep, and hardy goats.
 - *Mountainous Tibet and Andes:* Yaks and Llamas (adapted to high altitude and thin air).

- *Arctic and Sub-Arctic Tundra*: Reindeer (caribou).
- **Core Nomadic Belts:**
 1. From the Atlantic coast of North Africa across the Arabian peninsula to Mongolia and Central China.
 2. The Tundra belt of northern Eurasia.
 3. South-West Africa and the island of Madagascar.
- **Concept of Transhumance:** The seasonal migration of pastoral herders and their livestock between high mountain pastures in summer and low river valleys in winter:
 - *Himalayan Pastoral Tribes*: The **Gujjars, Bakarwals, Gaddis, and Bhotiyas** migrate upward to lush alpine meadows (*bugyals*) during warm summer months, and migrate back downward to valley plains during severe freezing winters.
 - *Tundra Transhumance*: Herders migrate south toward the sheltered boreal forest fringe in winter and move north to open tundra in summer.
- **Decline of Nomadic Herding:** Pastoral nomadism is shrinking globally due to: (1) Imposition of strict national political boundaries; and (2) State-sponsored settlement schemes and agricultural colonization.

B. Commercial Livestock Rearing

- **Core Nature:** Highly organized, capital-intensive, scientifically managed livestock farming oriented strictly toward global commercial markets.
- **Permanent Ranches:** Animals graze on permanent, fenced ranches spanning thousands of hectares. Ranches are subdivided into parcels; herds are systematically rotated across parcels to prevent over-grazing.
- **Single Animal Specialization:** Unlike nomads who herd mixed animals, commercial ranches specialize in a **single animal species**—chiefly cattle, sheep, goats, or horses.
- **Scientific Management:** Heavy emphasis on scientific breeding, artificial insemination, genetic improvement, disease control, veterinary healthcare, and mechanization.
- **Global Export Focus:** Meat, wool, hides, and dairy are processed, refrigerated, canned, and packaged directly on-site or in nearby industrial slaughterhouses for global export.
- **Major Global Belts:** New Zealand, Australia, Argentina, Uruguay, and the western plains of the United States of America.

5. Master Comparison: Nomadic Herding vs. Commercial Livestock Rearing

Attribute	Nomadic Herding (Pastoral Nomadism)	Commercial Livestock Rearing
Primary Purpose	Subsistence livelihood; direct family consumption of milk, meat, and hides.	Commercial profit; mass production of meat, wool, and leather for global sale.
Mobility & Land Tenure	Continuous seasonal mobility across common traditional grazing lands.	Sedentary operation on permanently owned, fenced, and divided ranches.
Animal Variety	Mixed species kept together (cattle, goats, sheep, camels).	Strict specialization in a single high-yielding animal species.
Capital & Technology	Negligible capital; primitive traditional methods; zero veterinary care.	Vast capital; advanced scientific breeding, genetic selection, and refrigerated logistics.
Feeding Strategy	Natural wild pastures; dependent on erratic rainfall and seasonal vegetation.	Cultivated fodder crops, scientific feed supplements, and rotated pastures.
Global Regions	North Africa, Central Asia, Himalayas, Arctic Tundra, SW Africa.	Australia, New Zealand, USA, Argentina, Uruguay.

6. Types of Agriculture: Systems and Global Practices

Agriculture is the most widespread primary activity on earth, varying from primitive subsistence digging to automated industrial horticulture:

A. Primitive Subsistence Agriculture (Shifting Cultivation)

- **Technique:** Known popularly as **Slash-and-Burn agriculture**. A small patch of forest undergrowth is cut down with hand axes, allowed to dry, and burned. The wood ash provides natural potash fertilizer for the cleared soil.
- **Tools & Labor:** Primitive hand tools (machetes, wooden digging sticks, hoes); purely family manual labor; no draft animals or fertilizers.
- **Farming Cycle:** Crops are cultivated for 3 to 5 years until natural soil nutrients are exhausted and weeds take over. The farmer then abandons the plot, moves to a fresh patch of jungle, and repeats the slash-and-burn process, allowing the old patch to regenerate naturally.
- **Regional Vernacular Names (High Exam Importance):**
 - **Jhuming:** North-Eastern States of India (Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Mizoram).
 - **Milpa:** Central America and Mexico.
 - **Ladang:** Malaysia and Indonesia.
- **Severe Ecological Drawbacks:** Causes massive deforestation, loss of wild habitats, soil erosion, and severe smoke pollution, while producing extremely low food yields per hectare.

B. Intensive Subsistence Agriculture

Practiced in densely populated regions of **Monsoon Asia** (India, China, Japan, Bangladesh, SE Asia) where landholdings are small and population pressure is intense. Divided into two distinct sub-types:

1. **Intensive Subsistence Dominated by Wet Paddy:**
 - *Key Crop:* Rice (paddy) is the undisputed dominant crop.
 - *Features:* Extremely small, fragmented land plots due to inheritance laws; intensive manual labor by family members; heavy use of farm animals (oxen, water buffalo); limited machinery.
 - *Fertility:* Farmers apply heavy organic farmyard manures and green compost to maintain soil fertility.
 - *Yield Characteristics:* **Yield per unit of land (per hectare) is exceptionally high**, but **yield per agricultural laborer is low** because too many family members work on a tiny farm plot.
2. **Intensive Subsistence Dominated by Non-Paddy Crops:**
 - *Key Crops:* Wheat, barley, pulses, soybeans, sorghum, and millets.
 - *Locations:* Areas where rainfall is less than 100 cm or terrain is undulating: Northern China, Manchuria, North-West India (Punjab, Haryana), and the interior Deccan Plateau of India.

C. Plantation Agriculture

- **Colonial Origins:** Introduced during the 18th and 19th centuries by European colonial powers in tropical and sub-tropical colonies to supply European markets with tropical commodities.
 - *British:* Established vast tea estates in India and Sri Lanka; rubber plantations in Malaysia; sugarcane and banana plantations in the West Indies.
 - *French:* Developed large cocoa and coffee plantations in West Africa (Ivory Coast).
 - *Americans:* Invested in massive coconut and sugarcane plantations in the Philippines and Central America.
 - *Portuguese:* Introduced colossal coffee plantations in Brazil, famously called **Fazendas**, which are still managed today.
- **Distinguishing Characteristics:**

- Enormous estate sizes (covering hundreds or thousands of contiguous hectares).
- Single-crop specialization (monoculture).
- Vast capital investment for processing factories, managerial staff, and worker housing.
- Scientific agricultural methods, hybrid seeds, chemical fertilizers, and pest management.
- Abundant cheap local labor force supervised by technical managers.
- Integrated transport network connecting plantations directly to processing factories and coastal export ports.

D. Extensive Commercial Grain Cultivation

- **Geographical Zone:** Practiced in the interior, semi-arid continental grasslands of the mid-latitudes.
 - **Steppes** of Eurasia (Ukraine, Russia, Kazakhstan).
 - **Prairies** of North America (USA, Canada).
 - **Pampas** of Argentina.
 - **Velds** of South Africa.
 - **Downs** of Australia.
 - **Canterbury Plains** of New Zealand.
- **Specialization: Wheat** is the principal commercial crop, alongside corn, barley, oats, and rye.
- **Complete Mechanization:** Enormous farm sizes (hundreds to thousands of hectares). All operations—plowing, harrowing, seeding, fertilizing, and harvesting—are performed by heavy tractors and combine harvesters.
- **Yield Paradox (Core Exam Distinction):**
 - **Low yield per hectare:** Extensive cultivation without irrigation yields modest output per unit of land.
 - **Extremely high yield per worker:** Because a single farmer with combine machinery manages hundreds of hectares, output per agricultural worker is among the highest in the world!

E. Mixed Farming

- **Dual Focus:** Combines agricultural crop cultivation with livestock rearing on the same farm. Animals (cattle, sheep, pigs, poultry) provide farm income, meat, and milk, while consuming farm-grown fodder.
- **Crop Rotation & Soil Health:** Farmers cultivate cereal crops (wheat, barley, corn) in strict rotation with nitrogen-fixing leguminous fodder crops (alfalfa, clover) to naturally replenish soil fertility.
- **High Capital & Expertise:** Requires substantial capital for farm machinery, silos, barns, chemical fertilizers, and veterinary supplies.
- **Distribution:** Highly developed parts of North-Western Europe, Eastern North America, parts of Eurasia, and temperate zones of South America and South Africa.

F. Dairy Farming

- **Nature:** The most advanced, scientifically managed, and capital-intensive type of livestock farming, focused on breeding milch cattle for commercial milk and processed dairy products.
- **Capital & Labor Intensity:**
 - *Heavy Capital:* Requires expensive animal sheds, automatic milking machines, refrigerated storage tanks, and refrigerated transport trucks.
 - *Heavy Labor:* Unlike crop farming which has seasonal downtime, dairy farming has **no off-season**. Dairy cows require daily feeding, washing, veterinary monitoring, and milking throughout the year.
- **Urban Market Proximity:** Milk is highly perishable; hence, dairy farms are located in close proximity to major urban-industrial consumption centers.
- **Three Major Global Belts:**

1. **North-Western Europe:** The largest global dairy belt (extending from the UK through Denmark, Netherlands, France, to the Baltic).
2. **Canada:** Southern Ontario and Quebec.
3. **Australasia:** South-Eastern Australia, New Zealand, and Tasmania.

G. Mediterranean Agriculture

- **Climatic Zone:** Exclusively practiced in regions enjoying a Mediterranean climate (warm, dry, sunny summers and mild, moist winters). Found around the Mediterranean Sea basin (Southern Europe, North Africa), Central California, Central Chile, South-Western Cape of South Africa, and Southern/South-Western Australia.
- **Viticulture (Grape Cultivation):** The defining specialty of Mediterranean agriculture:
 - Best quality grapes are fermented into world-renowned vintage **wines** (e.g., in France, Italy, Spain).
 - Inferior quality grapes are sun-dried to produce **raisins and currants**.
- **Citrus Fruits & Olives:** Highly specialized production of citrus fruits (oranges, lemons, grapefruits), olives for virgin olive oil, and sweet figs, commanding premium prices in European and North American markets.

H. Market Gardening and Horticulture

- **Specialization:** Cultivation of high-value perishable commodities—fresh vegetables, seasonal fruits, and decorative flowers—solely for affluent urban markets.
- **Farm Characteristics:** Small farm holdings located on the immediate urban fringe; highly intensive manual labor; heavy use of greenhouses, artificial heating, and drip irrigation.
- **Truck Farming:** A specialized variant of market gardening where farming regions specialize purely in vegetables. The term "**Truck Farming**" originates because the distance between the vegetable farms and the urban wholesale market is governed exactly by the distance an overnight truck can travel!
- **Factory Farming:** Modern intensive livestock rearing (particularly poultry and pigs) kept entirely indoors in climate-controlled stalls, fed on manufactured feedstuffs, and monitored by veterinary specialists.

I. Co-operative Farming versus Collective Farming

Feature	Co-operative Farming	Collective Farming (Kolkhoz)
Initiative & Membership	Voluntary democratic association formed by individual farmers to maximize collective efficiency.	State-enforced socialist reorganization of agriculture introduced in the former Soviet Union (USSR).
Land Ownership	Farmers retain private individual ownership of their agricultural land.	Private ownership abolished; land, livestock, and machinery pooled collectively under state control.
Operational Mechanism	Co-operative societies help members purchase quality seeds, fertilizers, and machinery at wholesale rates, and market produce at optimal prices.	State set annual production targets; farmers surrendered fixed quotas to the state at set prices; surplus distributed among members.
Historical Success	Exceptionally successful in Western Europe: Denmark (where practically every farmer belongs to a co-op), Netherlands, Belgium, Sweden.	Adopted extensively in the USSR (Kolkhoz); faced productivity bottlenecks and was dismantled after the 1991 Soviet collapse.

7. Mining: Exploitation of Mineral Resources

Mining is the primary activity involving the extraction of valuable metallic and non-metallic mineral deposits from the earth's crust:

A. Factors Influencing Mining Activity

- **Physical Factors:** The size, geological depth, quality, and grade of the mineral deposit, along with the mode of geological occurrence.
- **Economic Factors:** Global demand for the mineral, market price, availability of extraction technology, capital for heavy machinery, transport infrastructure, and labor supply.

B. Methods of Mining

1. Surface Mining (Open-Cast or Strip Mining):

- *Technique:* Applied when mineral ores lie close to the earth's surface. The overlying soil and rock layers (overburden) are stripped away using giant excavators.
- *Advantages:* The cheapest, fastest, and most economical method of mining. Requires lower safety equipment expenditure and delivers rapid mineral output.

2. Underground Mining (Shaft Method):

- *Technique:* Utilized when mineral deposits lie deep beneath the earth's crust. Vertical cylindrical shafts are bored, from which horizontal underground tunnels (galleries) radiate out into mineral veins.
- *Equipment:* Requires specially designed elevators, mechanical haulage carts, heavy ventilation fans, drainage pumps, and underground lighting systems.
- *Severe Occupational Hazards:* Underground mining is extraordinarily dangerous. Miners face severe life-threatening hazards: poisonous toxic gas leaks, underground gallery fires, roof collapses, and sudden subterranean flooding.

8. Key Geographical Terms & Definitions (Quick Revision Glossary)

- **Primary Activities:** Economic pursuits directly extracting earth's natural resources (land, water, minerals, wildlife).
- **Red-Collar Workers:** The designated professional term for workers employed in outdoor primary production.
- **Transhumance:** The regular seasonal migration of pastoral herders and livestock between high alpine pastures in summer and valley plains in winter.
- **Jhuming:** The local vernacular term for slash-and-burn shifting cultivation in North-Eastern India.
- **Fazendas:** Large-scale commercial coffee plantations established in Brazil.
- **Truck Farming:** Specialized vegetable cultivation located at a distance from urban markets that can be traversed overnight by a transport truck.
- **Viticulture:** The scientific commercial cultivation and harvesting of grapes for wine production.
- **Kolkhoz:** The collective agricultural farming system introduced in the former Soviet Union.
- **Open-Cast Mining:** Surface extraction method removing surface overburden to access shallow mineral deposits.
- **Shaft Mining:** Underground excavation using vertical shafts and tunnels to extract deep-seated mineral ores.

9. Complete NCERT Textbook Exercise Solutions

Question 1: Multiple Choice Questions (With Detailed Analytical Reasoning)

(i) Which one of the following is not a plantation crop?

- (a) Coffee
- (b) Sugarcane
- (c) Wheat**
- (d) Rubber

Detailed Explanation: Wheat is an extensive commercial grain crop grown on temperate grasslands, not a tropical plantation crop. Coffee, sugarcane, rubber, and tea are classic plantation crops grown on large estates.

(ii) In which one of the following countries is co-operative farming the most successful?

- (a) Russia
- (b) Denmark**
- (c) India
- (d) Netherlands

Detailed Explanation: Co-operative farming has achieved the greatest global success in Denmark, where virtually every agricultural farmer is an active member of a co-operative enterprise.

(iii) Growing of flowers is called:

- (a) Truck farming
- (b) Factory farming
- (c) Mixed farming
- (d) Floriculture**

Detailed Explanation: The specialized cultivation of flowering plants for commercial decorative, cosmetic, or ceremonial markets is termed floriculture.

(iv) Which one of the following types of cultivation was developed by European colonists?

- (a) Kolkhoz**
- (b) Viticulture
- (c) Mixed farming
- (d) Plantation agriculture**

Detailed Explanation: Plantation agriculture was introduced and developed by European colonial powers (British, French, Portuguese, Dutch) in tropical colonies to supply raw materials to European factories.

Question 2: Answer the following questions in about 30 words.

(i) Future of shifting cultivation is bleak. Discuss.

Model Answer: Shifting cultivation faces a bleak future because it causes severe deforestation, soil erosion, and carbon emissions. Governments are actively restricting slash-and-burn practices through forest reservation laws and settling tribal farmers into sedentary, modern agricultural techniques.

(ii) Market gardening is practiced near urban areas. Why?

Model Answer: Market gardening produces fresh, highly perishable commodities (vegetables, fruits, flowers, milk) that must reach consumers quickly. Affluent urban centers provide high-purchasing-power daily consumer demand and rapid refrigerated transport access.

(iii) Differentiate between nomadic herding and commercial livestock rearing.

Model Answer: Nomadic herding is a subsistence activity where herders migrate constantly with mixed livestock herds over common pastures. Commercial livestock rearing is a capital-intensive, market-oriented business operating on permanent, fenced ranches specializing in a single animal species.

Question 3: Answer the following questions in not more than 150 words.

(i) Write a detailed note on Plantation Agriculture.

Model Structured Essay (150 Words):

Plantation agriculture is an export-oriented, commercial farming system introduced by European colonial powers in tropical and subtropical regions:

Salient Features:

- **Large Estates:** Operations span massive contiguous landholdings (estates) devoted to a single commercial crop (monoculture).
- **Principal Commodities:** Tea, coffee, cocoa, rubber, cotton, oil palm, sugarcane, and bananas.
- **Capital and Technical Intensity:** Requires heavy capital for processing factories, managerial personnel, scientific research, and hybrid seeds.
- **Labor & Logistics:** Employs a large, cheap local labor force. Estates maintain dedicated transport links connecting fields to processing mills and seaports.
- **Historical Examples:** British tea gardens in Assam and Sri Lanka, French cocoa plantations in West Africa, and Portuguese coffee *fazendas* in Brazil.

(ii) Describe the main characteristics of Dairy Farming.

Model Structured Essay (150 Words):

Dairy farming is the most advanced, scientifically managed, and capital-intensive form of livestock agriculture:

Salient Features:

- **Milch Animal Focus:** Concentrates on high-milk-yielding dairy cattle, applying artificial breeding, genetic enhancement, and strict veterinary disease control.
- **Heavy Capital Investment:** Demands vast financial outlays for mechanized milking machinery, animal feeding sheds, refrigerated milk silos, and insulated tankers.
- **Continuous Labor:** Highly labor-intensive with zero off-season, as dairy herds require feeding, cleaning, and milking twice daily year-round.
- **Urban Market Proximity:** Because raw milk and cream are perishable, dairy farming develops adjacent to large urban and industrial agglomerations.
- **Global Belts:** Concentrated in three major regions: North-Western Europe (world's largest), Canada, and South-Eastern Australia/New Zealand.

10. High-Yield Practice Question Bank (TYBA Coaching Center Special)

Very Short Answer Questions (1-Mark Target)

Q1. Why are workers engaged in primary activities called 'red-collar workers'?

Ans: Because their physical work is performed outdoors in direct contact with natural elements.

Q2. Name the wild tree whose milky sap yields 'chicle', the base of chewing gum.

Ans: The Zapota tree.

Q3. Give the local name of shifting cultivation in Mexico and Central America.

Ans: *Milpa*.

Q4. What are Brazilian coffee plantations traditionally called?

Ans: *Fazendas*.

Q5. Which agricultural system is characterized by 'low yield per hectare but high yield per worker'?

Ans: Extensive Commercial Grain Cultivation.

Short Answer Conceptual Questions (3-Marks Target)

Q6. Explain the concept of 'Transhumance' with reference to Indian pastoral communities.

Model Answer: Transhumance is the seasonal migration of pastoral herders between mountain pastures and valley plains:

1. *Summer Migration:* During warm summer months, Himalayan tribes like Gujjars, Bakarwals, Gaddis, and Bhotiyas drive their sheep and goats up to lush alpine pastures (*bugyals*) above the snowline.
2. *Winter Migration:* When extreme freezing temperatures and heavy blizzards cover high altitudes in winter, they return down to sheltered valley lowlands.
3. *Ecological Harmony:* This seasonal cycle prevents overgrazing and utilizes natural seasonal vegetation.

Q7. Distinguish between Surface Mining (Open-Cast) and Underground Mining (Shaft Method).

Surface (Open-Cast) Mining	Underground (Shaft) Mining
Extracts mineral deposits lying close to the earth's surface.	Extracts mineral deposits lying deep beneath the surface crust.
Involves stripping away surface soil and rock overburden.	Requires deep vertical shafts and horizontal radiating tunnels.
Cheapest, fastest method; low expenditure on safety gear.	Expensive; requires elevators, ventilation, and lighting.
Relatively safe with minimal operational hazards.	Highly hazardous: risk of gas poisoning, fire, flooding, and roof cave-in.

Long Answer Evaluative Questions (5-Marks Target)

Q8. What is Mediterranean Agriculture? Describe its salient features and explain why it is famous worldwide for viticulture and citrus fruits.

Model Answer (Structured for 5 Marks):

1. Definition & Geographical Zone: Mediterranean agriculture is a highly specialized commercial farming system practiced exclusively in regions with a Mediterranean climate (hot, dry, sunny summers and mild, wet winters). Key areas include the Mediterranean Sea basin (Southern Europe and North Africa), Central California, Central Chile, South-Western South Africa, and South/South-Western Australia.

2. Salient Characteristics:

- *Commercial Market Orientation:* Crops are grown for high-value export to affluent European and North American consumer markets.
- *Irrigation Infrastructure:* Extensive canal and drip irrigation systems compensate for dry summer months.
- *Integration of Orchard Culture:* Deeply integrated with food processing, winemaking, and packing industries.

3. Viticulture (Grape Cultivation):

- Viticulture is the signature specialty of Mediterranean agriculture.
- High-grade, thin-skinned grapes are carefully harvested and fermented into world-renowned vintage wines in France (Bordeaux, Champagne), Italy, and Spain.
- Inferior-grade grapes are naturally sun-dried into raisins and currants for confectionery and domestic consumption.

4. Citrus Fruit & Olive Dominance:

- Produces premium citrus crops: juicy oranges, lemons, and grapefruits.
- Cultivates high-yielding olive groves producing virgin olive oil and table olives, along with sweet figs and almonds.

Conclusion: Mediterranean agriculture represents an ideal harmony between a unique physical climate and high-value agro-industrial commercialization, generating immense export revenue.

