

FREE E-BOOK

***TOP 40 ARD
QUESTIONS FOR
NABARD GRADE A :
PART 3***



FOR NABARD GRADE A

Top 40 ARD Questions for NABARD Grade A 2023: Part 3

1. Under the Interest Subvention Scheme, the Government provides interest subvention of _____ on short-term crop loans up to _____.

- (1) 3%, Rs. 3.00 lakhs
- (2) 2%, Rs. 2.00 lakhs
- (3) 4%, Rs. 2.5 lakhs
- (4) 2.5%, Rs.3.00 lakhs
- (5) 1.5%, Rs. 5 lakhs

Answer Key: 1

Solution

- The **Government provides interest subvention of 3% on short-term crop loans up to Rs.3.00 lakh.**
- Presently, loan is available to farmers at an interest rate of 7% per annum, which gets reduced to 4% on prompt repayment.

2. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) were launched from Kharif 2016 to provide comprehensive crop insurance coverage. These schemes provide risk mitigation to farmers at extremely low premium rates payable by farmers at _____ for Rabi Crop.

- (1) 1.5%
- (2) 2%
- (3) 3%
- (4) 3.5%
- (5) 1%

Answer Key: 1

Solution

- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) were launched from Kharif 2016 to provide comprehensive crop insurance coverage from pre-sowing to post harvest losses against non-preventable natural risks.
- These schemes provide risk mitigation to farmers at extremely low premium rates payable by farmers at 2% for Kharif crops, **1.5% for Rabi Crop** and 5% for annual commercial/horticultural crops.

3. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) were launched from Kharif 2016 to provide comprehensive crop insurance coverage. These schemes provide risk mitigation to farmers at extremely low premium rates payable by farmers at _____ for Kharif crops.

- (1) 4%
- (2) 2%

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(3) 1.5%

(4) 3.5%

(5) 2.5%

Answer Key: 2

Solution

- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) were launched from Kharif 2016 to provide comprehensive crop insurance coverage from pre-sowing to post harvest losses against non-preventable natural risks.
- These schemes provide risk mitigation to farmers at extremely low premium rates payable by **farmers at 2% for Kharif crops**, 1.5% for Rabi Crop and 5% for annual commercial/horticultural crops.

4. AIF is a financing facility launched in July 2020. AIF provides support of _____ interest subvention, credit guarantee support through Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) scheme for loan of up to _____ and facility of convergence with other Central and State Government schemes.

(1) 3%, Rs. 2 crores

(2) 2%, Rs. 4 crores

(3) 1.5%, Rs. 3 crores

(4) 2.5%, Rs. 5 crores

(5) 4%, Rs. 4 crores

Answer Key: 1

Solution

- AIF is a financing facility launched in **July 2020**.
- It aims to provide **all-around financial support to the farmers**, Agri-entrepreneurs, farmer groups like **Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs), Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) etc.** and many others to create **post-harvest management infrastructure** and build community farming assets throughout the country.
- AIF provides support of **3% interest subvention**, credit guarantee support through **Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) scheme for loan of up to Rs. 2 crore** and facility of convergence with other Central and State Government schemes.

5. PMKSY is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (Core Scheme) launched in_____.

(1) 2018

(2) 2015

(3) 2014

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(4) 2019

(5) 2017

Answer Key: 2

Solution

- **PMKSY is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (Core Scheme) launched in 2015.** Centre- States will be 75:25 per cent. In the case of the north-eastern region and hilly states, it will be 90:10.
- Its objectives are:
 - ✓ Convergence of investments in irrigation at the field level
 - ✓ To expand the cultivable area under assured irrigation (Har Khet ko pani),
 - ✓ To improve on-farm water use efficiency to reduce wastage of water,
 - ✓ To enhance the adoption of precision-irrigation and other water saving technologies (More crop per drop),
 - ✓ To enhance recharge of aquifers and introduce sustainable water conservation practices by exploring the feasibility of reusing treated municipal based water for peri-urban agriculture and attract greater private investment in a precision irrigation system.

6. Recently, the Union Budget 2023-24 has announced Rs 2,516 crore for computerisation of _____ Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) over the next five years.

(1) 33,000

(2) 25,000

(3) 82,000

(4) 63,000

(5) 50,000

Answer Key: 4

Solution

- Recently, the Union Budget 2023-24 has announced **Rs 2,516 crore for computerisation of 63,000 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)** over the next five years, with the aim of bringing greater transparency and accountability in their operations and enabling them to diversify their business and undertaking more activities.

7. Under the scheme, the Centre transfers an amount of _____ per year, in _____ equal instalments, directly into the bank accounts of all landholding farmers irrespective of the size of their land holdings.

(1) Rs 6,000, 3

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(2) Rs 12,000, 4

(3) Rs 4,000, 2

(4) Rs 9,000, 3

(5) Rs 8,000, 4

Answer Key: 1

Solution

PM-KISAN

- Under the scheme, the Centre **transfers an amount of Rs 6,000 per year, in three equal instalments**, directly into the bank accounts of **all landholding farmers irrespective of the size of their land holdings**.
- It was launched in **February 2019**.
- **Funding and Implementation:**
 - It is a **Central Sector Scheme with 100% funding from the Government of India**.
 - It is being implemented by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**.

8. All small and marginal farmers (who own cultivable land up to 2 hectares) as per the land records of the concerned State/UT and are between _____ and _____ years of age are eligible under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan-Dhan Yojana (PM-KMY).

(1) 18, 40

(2) 21, 60

(3) 18, 58

(4) 65, 70

(5) 25, 65

Answer Key: 1

Solution

- The **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan-Dhan Yojana (PM-KMY)** aims to **secure the lives** of 5 crore small and marginal farmers by providing them a minimum pension of ₹3000 per month, who attains the age of 60 years.
 - **Eligibility:** All **small and marginal farmers** (who own cultivable land up to **2 hectares**) as per the land records of the concerned State/UT and are between **18 and 40 years** of age are eligible under this scheme.
 - **Contributions:** Under **PM-KMY**, monthly contributions by a farmer can be made from the instalments of **Pradhan Mantri-Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)** or through **Common Service Centres (CSCs)**.

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9. To offset the economic impact of Covid-19 on Dairy Sector, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has introduced a new scheme "Interest subvention on Working Capital Loans for Dairy sector". The scheme has made provisions for providing interest subvention of _____ per annum, with an additional incentive of _____ per annum interest subvention to be given in case of prompt and timely repayment/interest servicing.

- (1) 4%, 2%
- (2) 5%, 2.5%
- (3) 2%, 2%
- (4) 2.5%, 1.5%
- (5) 3%, 0.5%

Answer Key: 3

Solution

- To offset the economic impact of Covid-19 on Dairy Sector, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has introduced a new scheme "Interest subvention on Working Capital Loans for Dairy sector" for Supporting Dairy Cooperatives and Farmer Producer Organizations engaged in dairy activities (SDC&FPO).
- The scheme will be implemented through National Dairy Development Board (NDDB).
- The scheme has made provisions for **providing interest subvention of 2% per annum, with an additional incentive of 2% per annum interest subvention to be given in case of prompt and timely repayment/interest servicing.**

10. The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan-Dhan Yojana (PM-KMY) aims to secure the lives of 5 crore small and marginal farmers by providing them a minimum pension of _____ per month, who attains the age of _____.

- (1) ₹3000, 60 years
- (2) ₹4000, 40 years
- (3) ₹5000, 70 years
- (4) ₹6000, 58 years
- (5) ₹8000, 59 years

Answer Key: 1

Solution

- The **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan-Dhan Yojana (PM-KMY)** aims to **secure the lives** of 5 crore small and marginal farmers by providing them a minimum pension of **₹3000 per month, who attains the age of 60 years.**

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- **Eligibility:** All **small and marginal farmers** (who own cultivable land up to **2 hectares**) as per the land records of the concerned State/UT and are between **18 and 40 years** of age are eligible under this scheme.
- **Contributions:** Under **PM-KMY**, monthly contributions by a farmer can be made from the instalments of **Pradhan Mantri-Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)** or through **Common Service Centres (CSCs)**.

11. Which of the following is an effective treatment for Fowl cholera?

- A) Antibiotics like penicillin and streptomycin
- B) Sulpha drugs and TMP combination
- C) Vaccination with killed vaccine
- D) Both A and B
- E) None of the above

Answer: B) Sulpha drugs and TMP combination

Explanation: **Fowl cholera, caused by *P. multocida*, can be treated with sulpha drugs and TMP combination, as well as other drugs like enrofloxacin, flumequin, ampicillin, chloramphenicol, chlortetracycline, and novobiocin.** Vaccination with a killed vaccine is also an option for control and prevention.

12. Which disease is characterized by abnormal ovary with misshapen, discolored ova in adult birds?

- A) Fowl cholera
- B) Pullorum disease
- C) Fowl typhoid
- D) Paratyphoid infection
- E) None of the above

Answer: B) Pullorum disease

Explanation: Pullorum disease, caused by *Salmonella pullorum*, is characterized by abnormal ovary with misshapen, discolored ova in adult birds. The disease can also cause mortality in chicks hatched from infected eggs, reduction in egg production, fertility, and hatchability. **Treatment options are limited and no vaccination is practiced, with positive birds being disposed of by slaughter.**

13. Which of the following diseases can be controlled with a killed vaccine or live vaccine (9 R strain)?

- A) Fowl cholera
- B) Pullorum disease
- C) Fowl typhoid
- D) Paratyphoid infection
- E) None of the above

Answer: C) Fowl typhoid

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Explanation: **Fowl typhoid, caused by *S. gallinarum*, can be controlled with sulpha-TMP drugs, quinolone group drugs, and nitrofurans like furazolidone.** Additionally, killed vaccine and live vaccine (9 R strain) can be used for prevention and control. It's important to note that there should be a 10-day withdrawal period before slaughter when using drugs as a prophylactic agent.

14. Which of the following drugs is NOT effective in controlling Paratyphoid infection in birds with Salmonella other than *S. Pullorum* and *S. gallinarum*?

- A) Furazolidone
- B) Injectable gentamicin
- C) Spectinomycin
- D) Sodium nalidixate
- E) All of the above are effective

Answer: E) All of the above are effective

Explanation: **Paratyphoid infection in birds with Salmonella other than *S. Pullorum* and *S. gallinarum* can be controlled with drugs like furazolidone, injectable gentamicin, spectinomycin, and sodium nalidixate.** Additionally, bacterin and attenuated live vaccines can be used for prevention and control.

15. What is Ranikhet disease?

- A) A contagious and highly fatal disease of cattle
- B) A viral disease affecting poultry
- C) A bacterial disease affecting humans
- D) A fungal disease affecting plants
- E) A genetic disease affecting dogs

Answer: B) A viral disease affecting poultry

Explanation: **Ranikhet disease, also known as Newcastle disease, is a contagious and highly fatal disease of poultry caused by a virus.** Ranikhet disease, also known as Newcastle disease, is a contagious and highly fatal disease of poultry caused by a virus. **Ranikhet disease can also affect turkeys, pigeons, crows, ducks, geese, koel pheasants, guinea fowls, partridges and doves. The mortality rate in poultry varies from 50 to 100 percent. Hedgehogs have been suspected as reservoirs of Ranikhet disease.**

16. Which of the following birds can be affected by Colibacillosis?

- A) Poultry, Turkey, and Duck
- B) Cattle, Sheep, and Goat
- C) Horse, Donkey, and Mule
- D) Dog, Cat, and Rabbit
- E) Fish and Amphibians

Answer: A) Poultry, Turkey, and Duck

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Explanation: **Collibacillosis is a bacterial disease that affects poultry, turkeys, and ducks. It is caused by strains of Escherichia coli and can lead to a variety of symptoms such as pericarditis, peritonitis, air sacculitis, perihepatitis, and septicaemia.** In the acute form, symptoms can resemble fowl cholera or fowl typhoid. To diagnose Collibacillosis, specimens from an ailing bird or internal organs in sterile containers through special messenger on ice can be collected. Treatment options include the administration of antibiotics after studying the antibiogram, and the use of inactivated vaccines.

17. What are the important symptoms of Infectious Coryza in chickens?

- A) Diarrhea and vomiting
- B) Weight loss and lethargy
- C) Occular discharge and facial edema
- D) Seizures and paralysis
- E) None of the above

Answer: C) Occular discharge and facial edema

Explanation: **Infectious Coryza is caused by the bacterium Haemophilus paragallinarum and affects the upper respiratory tract of chickens.** Important symptoms include sero-mucoid nasal and ocular discharges, facial oedema, and conjunctivitis with closed eyes. To diagnose Infectious Coryza, specimens from an ailing bird or trachea and lungs in sterile containers on ice can be collected. **Treatment options include the administration of sulpha drugs plus TMP, streptomycin, tetracycline, chloramphenicol, quinolone 2nd generation.**

18. Which birds can be affected by Chronic Respiratory Disease (CRD)?

- A) Poultry and Duck
- B) Chicken and Turkey
- C) Pigeon and Parrot
- D) Ostrich and Emu
- E) None of the above

Answer: B) Chicken and Turkey

Explanation: **Chronic Respiratory Disease (CRD) is caused by the bacterium Mycoplasma gallisepticum and can affect chicken and turkey.** Important symptoms include nasal discharge, shaking of head, coughing, swelling of the orbital sinuses and tracheal rales. To diagnose CRD, specimens from an ailing bird or trachea, air sac, turbinate, and lung in sterile containers from a dead bird can be collected. Treatment options include the administration of chlortetracycline, tylosin, streptomycin, erythromycin, or lincomycin, and the use of MG bacterin with oil emulsion adjuvant or live vaccine F strain of MG.

19. Which bacteria are responsible for causing Gangrenous Dermatitis in poultry?

- A) Streptococcus species

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- B) Staphylococcus aureus
- C) Clostridium septicum and C. perfringes
- D) Escherichia coli
- E) Salmonella species

Answer: C) Clostridium septicum and C. perfringes

Explanation: **Gangrenous Dermatitis is caused by the bacteria Clostridium septicum and C. perfringes in poultry. Symptoms include varying degrees of depression, incoordination, leg weakness, ataxia, and dark moist areas of skin devoid of feathers.**

20. What is the causative agent of foot-and-mouth disease in cattle and other cloven-hoofed animals?

- a) Bacillus anthracis
- b) Brucella abortus
- c) Foot-and-mouth virus
- d) Pasteurella multocida
- e) Salmonella enterica

Answer: c) Foot-and-mouth virus

Explanation: **Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is a highly contagious viral disease that affects cattle and other cloven-hoofed animals. The causative agent of FMD is the foot-and-mouth virus, a member of the Picornaviridae family.** The disease is characterized by fever, vesicles on the feet and mouth, and weight loss. It is not usually fatal, but it can have a significant economic impact on the livestock industry due to restrictions on movement and trade. Vaccination is an effective control measure for FMD.

21. Which breed of cattle is known as 'Bhadawari' and is known for its hardiness and disease resistance?

- a) Sahiwal
- b) Gir
- c) Red Sindhi
- d) Tharparkar
- e) Hariana

Answer: b) Gir

Explanation: Gir cattle is known as '**Bhadawari**' and is known for its **hardiness and disease resistance. It is also known by other names such as Desan, Gujarati, Kathiawari, Sorthi, and Surati.** This breed **originated in the Gir forests of South Kathiawar in Gujarat**, and can also be found in Maharashtra and adjacent Rajasthan. The basic colours of its skin are white with dark red or chocolate-brown patches or sometimes black or purely red. **The horns of Gir cattle are peculiarly curved, giving a 'half moon' appearance. Milk yield ranges from 1200-1800 kgs per lactation.**

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22. Which breed of cattle is best known for its draught capacity and trotting ability?

- a) Hallikar
- b) AmritMahal
- c) Khillari
- d) Kangayam
- e) Bargur

Answer: a) Hallikar

Explanation: **Hallikar is a breed of cattle that originated from the former princely state of Vijayanagarm**, which is presently part of Karnataka. The colour of this breed is grey or dark grey. It is a compact, muscular, and medium-sized animal with a **prominent forehead, long horns, and strong legs. This breed is best known for its draught capacity and especially for its trotting ability.**

23. Which breed of cattle is also known as 'Lola' and is considered the best indigenous dairy breed?

- a) Sahiwal
- b) Gir
- c) Red Sindhi
- d) Tharparkar
- e) Haryana

Answer: a) Sahiwal

Explanation: **Sahiwal is a breed of cattle that originated in Montgomery region of undivided India.** It is also known as Lola (loose skin), Lambi Bar, Montgomery, Multani, and Teli. **It is considered to be the best indigenous dairy breed. The colour of this breed is reddish dun or pale red, sometimes flashed with white patches. It is a heavy breed with a symmetrical body having loose skin. The average milk yield of this breed is between 1400 and 2500 kgs per lactation.**

24. Which breed of cattle is commonly seen in Cumbum Valley of Madurai district in Tamil Nadu and is mainly used for penning in the field?

- a) Hallikar
- b) Kangayam
- c) Pulikulam
- d) AmritMahal
- e) Alambadi

Answer: c) Pulikulam

Explanation: **Pulikulam is a breed of cattle that is commonly seen in Cumbum Valley of Madurai district in Tamil Nadu.** It is also known as Jallikattu madu, kidai madu, and sentharai. It is small in size, usually grey or dark grey in colour, and has a well-developed hump. It is mainly used for penning in the field and is useful for ploughing. **The characteristic feature of this breed is the presence of reddish or brownish spots in the**

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muzzle, eyes, switch, and back. The typical backward curving horns of like Mysore type cattle are also present. This breed is active and useful as a draught animal but not a fast trotter.

25. Which of the following is true about Jersey Cross?

- a) They are produced by upgrading purebred Jersey cows with non-indigenous breeds of cows.
- b) They are suitable for hilly areas with a temperate climate.
- c) They have better heat tolerance than other exotic crosses.
- d) They do not show any increase in milk yield in the first generation.
- e) They are not well adapted to the tropical plains of India.

Answer: c) They have better heat tolerance than other exotic crosses.

Explanation: Jersey crosses are well adapted to the tropical plains of our country and are **produced by upgrading non-descript/ non-indigenous breeds of cows with Jersey breed semen. Depending on the milk production potential of the indigenous cows, the Jersey crosses may show a 2 to 3 fold increase in milk yield in the first generation.**

26. Which of the following is true about Holstein Friesian?

- a) They are more suitable for tropical climatic regions like the plains.
- b) They are more heat tolerant than Jersey crosses.
- c) They have higher resistance to tropical diseases than Jersey crosses.
- d) They have higher fat percentage in milk than Jersey crosses.
- e) They are more suitable for temperate climatic regions like hilly areas.

Answer: e) They are more suitable for temperate climatic regions like hilly areas.

Explanation: **Holstein Friesian crosses are less heat tolerant** than Jersey crosses and are more suitable for temperate climatic regions like hilly areas. Although they have a higher milk yield than Jersey crosses, the fat percentage in their milk is less.

27. Which of the following is not an indigenous breed of buffalo?

- a) Nili Ravi
- b) Murrah
- c) Bhadawari
- d) Jaffrabadi
- e) None of the above

Answer: e) None of the above.

Explanation: **All the given breeds - Nili Ravi, Murrah, Bhadawari, Jaffrabadi, Surti, Mehsana, Nagapuri - are indigenous breeds of buffalo in India.**

28. Which breed of buffalo is known for its high butterfat content in milk?

- a) Bhadawari
- b) Surti

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- c) Murrah
- d) Jaffrabadi
- e) Nili Ravi

Answer: b) Surti

Explanation: The Surti breed of buffalo is known for **its high fat percentage in milk (8-12%)** compared to other breeds, and **the milk yield ranges from 1000 to 1300 kgs per lactation.**

29. Which is the most efficient milk and butterfat producer breed of buffalo in India?

- a) Murrah
- b) Surti
- c) Bhadawari
- d) Nili Ravi
- e) Jaffrabadi

Answer: a) Murrah

Explanation: Murrah breed of buffalo is the most efficient milk and butterfat producer breed in India. It has an average lactation yield varying from **1500 to 2500 kgs per lactation, and the butterfat content is 7.83%.**

30. Which breed of cattle is also known as White Sindhi or Gray Sindhi?

- a) Hariana
- b) Kankrej
- c) Tharparkar
- d) Ongole
- e) Krishna Valley

Answer: c) Tharparkar

Explanation: Tharparkar is also known as White Sindhi, Gray Sindhi and Thari. It is **a dual purpose breed of cattle that originated in Tharparkar district of undivided India** (now in Pakistan) and is also found in Rajasthan.

31. Which region of India has the largest coverage of alluvial soils?

- A) Southern Plateau
- B) North-eastern Hills
- C) Northern Plains
- D) Western Ghats
- E) Coastal Plains

Answer: C)

Explanation:

Alluvial soils are widespread in the northern plains and the river valleys of India. They **cover about 40 per cent of the total area of the country.**

32. What is another name for black soil?

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- A) Loamy soil
- B) Sandy soil
- C) Regur soil
- D) Laterite soil
- E) Red soil

Answer: C)

Explanation:

- Black soil is also known as **Regur soil or Black Cotton Soil**.
- It covers most of the Deccan Plateau, **including parts of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, and some parts of Tamil Nadu.**

33. Which soil is rich in potash but poor in phosphorous?

- A) Alluvial soil
- B) Black soil
- C) Red soil
- D) Yellow soil
- E) Laterite soil

Answer: A)

Explanation:

- Alluvial soils are **generally rich in potash but poor in phosphorous**.
- They vary in nature from sandy loam to clay and are found in the northern plains and the river valleys of India.

34. Which soil retains moisture for a very long time, helping crops to sustain during the dry season?

- A) Alluvial soil¹
- B) Black soil
- C) Red soil
- D) Yellow soil
- E) Laterite soil

Answer: B) Black soil

Explanation:

- Black soil retains moisture **for a very long time, helping crops, especially rain-fed ones, to sustain even during the dry season.**
- It is generally **clayey, deep, and impermeable, and is found in the Deccan Plateau.**

35. In which areas are red and yellow soils normally fertile?

- A) Areas of low rainfall
- B) Coastal plains
- C) Piedmont zones
- D) Dry upland areas
- E) River valleys

Answer: C) Piedmont zones

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Explanation:

- The fine-grained red and yellow soils are normally fertile, whereas coarse-grained soils found in dry upland areas are poor in fertility.
- **Red soil develops on crystalline igneous rocks in areas of low rainfall in the eastern and southern part of the Deccan Plateau, and along the piedmont zone of the Western Ghat.**

36. Which of the following statements is true about laterite soils?

- A) They are suitable for cultivation without the use of manures and fertilizers.
- B) They are rich in organic matter, nitrogen, phosphate and calcium.
- C) They are widely used as bricks for house construction.
- D) They are mainly found in the alluvial plains of North India.
- E) They are not affected by tropical rains.

Answer: C

Explanation:

- Laterite soils are **poor in organic matter, nitrogen, phosphate and calcium, while iron oxide and potash are in excess.** Therefore, they are not suitable for cultivation without the use of manures and fertilizers.
- They are mainly found in the higher areas of the Peninsular plateau and the hilly areas of Odisha and Assam. **The humus content of the soil is removed fast by bacteria that thrive well in high temperature.**
- However, red laterite soils in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Kerala are more suitable for tree crops like cashew nut. Laterite soils are widely cut as bricks for use in house construction.

37. Which of the following statements is true about arid soils?

- A) They are generally clayey in structure and alkaline in nature.
- B) They are rich in organic matter and humus.
- C) They contain sufficient nitrogen and phosphate for plant growth.
- D) They lack moisture and humus due to dry climate and high temperature.
- E) They are mainly found in the deltaic regions of India.

Answer: D

Explanation:

- Arid soils are generally sandy in structure and saline in nature. In some areas, the salt content is so high that common salt is obtained by evaporating the saline water. **Due to the dry climate, high temperature, and accelerated evaporation, they lack moisture and humus.**
- Nitrogen is insufficient, and the phosphate content is normal. **Lower horizons of the soil are occupied by 'kankar' layers because of the increasing calcium content downwards.**
- **The 'Kankar' layer formation in the bottom horizons restricts the infiltration of water, and as such when irrigation is made available, the soil moisture is readily**

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available for sustainable plant growth. Arid soils are characteristically developed in western Rajasthan.

38. Which of the following statements is true about saline soils?

- A) They are suitable for vegetative growth.
- B) They have more salts, largely because of high rainfall and good drainage.
- C) They occur in humid and wet areas.
- D) They are mainly found in the Gangetic plains of India.
- E) They contain a larger proportion of sodium, potassium and magnesium.

Answer: E

Explanation:

- Saline soils are also known as Usara soils. Saline soils contain a larger proportion of sodium, potassium and magnesium, and thus, **they are infertile and do not support any vegetative growth.**
- They have more salts, largely because of dry climate and poor drainage. They occur in arid and semi-arid regions and in waterlogged and swampy areas. Their structure ranges from sandy to loamy. They lack in nitrogen and calcium. **Saline soils are more widespread in western Gujarat, deltas of the eastern coast, and in Sunderban areas of West Bengal.**
- In the areas of intensive cultivation with excessive use of irrigation, especially in areas of green revolution, the fertile alluvial soils are becoming saline. Excessive irrigation with dry climatic conditions promotes capillary action, which results in the deposition of salt on the top layer of the soil.

39. Which of the following statements is true about soil fertility?

- A) It refers to the ability of soil to produce plants under specific management.
- B) It refers to the ability of soil to provide all essential plant nutrients in available form.
- C) It refers to the ability of soil to produce maximum yield under favorable conditions.
- D) It refers to the ability of soil to support a diverse range of plant species.
- E) It refers to the ability of soil to retain water and air.

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Soil fertility is defined as the capability of the soil to provide all the essential plant nutrients in an available form to the plants.**
- It ensures that the plants have access to the nutrients they need to grow and produce yields.

40. Which of the following statements is true about soil productivity?

- A) It refers to the inherent capacity of the soil to supply nutrients to plants.
- B) It refers to the ability of soil to retain water and air.
- C) It refers to the capacity of the soil to produce plants under a specified program of management.
- D) It refers to the ability of soil to support a diverse range of plant species.

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E) It refers to the ability of soil to produce maximum yield under favorable conditions.

Answer: C)

Explanation:


- Soil productivity is defined as the capacity of the soil **to produce plants under a specified program of management and is expressed in terms of yields.**
- Productive soils are fertile, but not all fertile soils are productive due to some problems like waterlogging, alkali, saline, adverse land situation.

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