

Agriculture

OPTIONAL 2026

JUNE BATCH

Live Classes & test series

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FACULTY - Agriculture



30th June'25



6:00 PM



WHY TO CHOSE AGRICULTURE OPTIONAL

Taking **Agriculture** as an optional subject in the **UPSC Civil Services Examination (CSE)** can offer several strategic advantages—especially for candidates with a background in life sciences, agriculture, or related fields.



Here's a breakdown of the **Advantages**


Scoring Potential

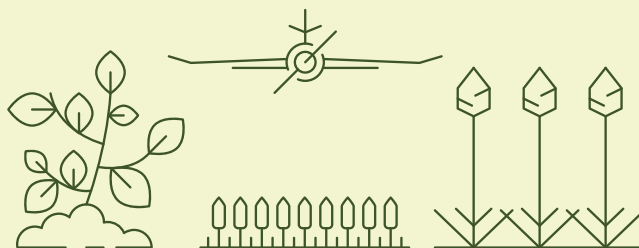
-  Agriculture is known for objective and scientific content, which allows candidates to write precise, fact-based answers.
-  Topics are data-driven and diagram-based, which UPSC tends to reward well if presented clearly.

Easy To Score 300+ Marks

 Highest score **311/500**

Overlap with GS Papers

-  There is decent overlap with General Studies (GS) Paper III (Agriculture, Food security, Agrarian reforms, Environment and ecology, Biotechnology), GS Paper II (Rural development, policies for farmers), GS I (Geography – soil science, rocks and minerals etc.)



Concise And Static Syllabus

- 🌱 The syllabus is concise and static, especially compared to humanities subjects like sociology or political science.
- 🌱 Fewer updates required each year from current affairs.

Less Competition

- 🌱 Fewer aspirants choose Agriculture, which could reduce direct competition as compared to the other optional like PSIR, anthro etc.

Highest selection ration

- 🌱 The selection ratio is around 10% every year

One of the biggest myths about Agriculture optional

- 🌱 That it's only for students with a science or Agri background. In reality, Agriculture is one of the most accessible and beginner-friendly optional in UPSC

A plus point for Science Students

- 🌱 Candidates with backgrounds in Botany, Zoology, Environmental Science, Biology, or Agriculture Engineering find it easier to grasp the syllabus and concepts.

Advantage if preparing for IFoS

- 🌱 Agriculture optional will be a major plus point as a second optional if you're preparing for IFoS as well—thanks to its scoring nature

AGRICULTURE

SYLLABUS BREAKUP

S. NO	PAPER 1	PAPER 2
1.	Ecology	Cell biology/ Plant Genetics
2.	Agronomy	Plant breeding
3.	Weed science	Seed production and technology
4.	Forestry	Plant physiology
5.	Soil science and nutrient Management	Horticulture and landscaping
6.	Soil Water Conservation	Plant protection
7.	Agricultural Economics	Food production and nutrition Management
8.	Agricultural Extension	

Features

Gold

Platinum



400+ hours of live lectures spread over 6 months



Live Doubt Clearing Sessions with Faculty



Recorded Lectures & Hand written Notes and Crux



Comprehensive Coverage of Every Topic with PYQ Discussion



Current affairs to keep the aspirants updated



Regular answer writing sessions with evaluation



One to one Mentorship 24*7



Mains Test Series (Sectional & Full Length Test)



Weekly Doubt Clearing Sessions with Faculty



Validity

18 Months

30 Months

STUDY PLAN

2026

PAPER 1

DATE	TOPICS	SUB- TOPICS
20 June 2025- 30 June 2025	Ecology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Ecology and its relevance to man> Natural resources, their sustainable management and conservation> Physical and social environment as factors of crop distribution and production.> Agro ecology; cropping pattern as indicators of environments.> Environmental pollution and associated hazards to crops, animals and humans.> Climate change - International conventions and global initiatives.> Greenhouse effect and global warming.> Advance tools for ecosystem analysis - Remote sensing (RS) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

DATE	TOPICS	SUB- TOPICS
1st July – 20th July	Agronomy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Cropping patterns in different agro-climatic zones of the country. ➤ Impact of high yielding and short-duration varieties on shifts in cropping patterns. ➤ Concepts of various cropping and farming systems. ➤ Organic and Precision farming. ➤ Package of practices for production of important cereals, pulses, oil seeds, fibres, sugar, commercial and fodder crops.
20 July – 30 July	Weed Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Weeds - their characteristics. ➤ Dissemination and association with various crops; their multiplications; ➤ Cultural, biological, and chemical control of weeds.
1 Aug – 7 Aug	Forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Important features and scope ➤ Various types of forestry plantations such as social forestry, agro-forestry, and natural forests. ➤ Propagation of forest plants. ➤ Forest products. Agro forestry and value addition. ➤ Conservation of forest flora and fauna.

DATE	TOPICS	SUB- TOPICS
7 Aug – 25 Aug	Soil Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊗ Soil- physical, chemical and biological properties. ⊗ Processes and factors of soil formation. ⊗ Soils of India. ⊗ Mineral and organic constituents of soils and their role in maintaining soil productivity. ⊗ Essential plant nutrients and other beneficial elements in soils and plants ⊗ Principles of soil fertility, soil testing and fertilizer recommendations. ⊗ Integrated nutrient management. ⊗ Losses of nitrogen in soil, nitrogen-use efficiency in submerged rice soils, nitrogen fixation in soils. ⊗ Efficient phosphorus and potassium use. ⊗ Problem soils and their reclamation. ⊗ Soil factors affecting greenhouse gas emission
26 Aug – 31 Aug	Soil And Water Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊗ Soil conservation ⊗ Integrated watershed management. ⊗ Technology for stabilizing agriculture production in rain fed areas. ⊗ Water-use efficiency in relation to crop production, ⊗ Criteria for scheduling irrigations,

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⑤ Ways and means of reducing runoff losses of irrigation water. ⑤ Rainwater harvesting. ⑤ Drip and sprinkler irrigation. ⑤ Drainage of waterlogged soils, ⑤ Quality of irrigation water ⑤ Effect of industrial effluents on soil and water pollution. ⑤ Irrigation projects in India.
1 sep – 7 sep	Agriculture Extension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⑤ Agricultural extension, its importance and role ⑤ Methods of evaluation of extension programmes, ⑤ Socio-economic survey and status of big, small and marginal farmers and landless agricultural labourers. ⑤ Training programmes for extension workers ⑤ Role of Krishi Vigyan Kendra's (KVK) in dissemination of Agricultural technologies. ⑤ Non-Government Organization (NGO) and self-help group approach for rural development.