



**AGRICULTURE**

**OPTIONAL**

**SMART  
COURSE**

**▶ REC Recorded Classes**



# Why Optional Matter in UPSC CSE

Choosing the right optional subject in UPSC CSE Mains can significantly influence your chances of success. It's a highly strategic decision and should be based on multiple factors such as your background, interest, aptitude, availability of resources, and overlap with GS papers. Below is a detailed evaluation of each of the subjects you mentioned — both English and Hindi medium options — to help you make an informed choice:

## Optional Subject

### The Hidden Power in UPSC Mains



#### 500 Marks at Stake

Optional contributes **500 out of 1750** marks in the Mains exam. A high score here can **transform your final rank**.

#### The Real Differentiator

While GS papers level the field, the **optional creates the gap**. Many toppers owe their ranks to an outstanding optional score.



#### Scoring with Strategy

Optional subjects, with a **well-defined syllabus** and **less competition**, offer a chance to score **much higher than GS papers** — if approached smartly.

#### Subject Familiarity Pays Off

Choosing an optional aligned with your **interest or academic background** makes preparation smoother and answers stronger.



#### Overlap = Smart Preparation

Subjects like PSIR, Sociology, and Anthropology offer content that overlaps with **GS, Essay, and Interview**, giving you **multiple benefits from single preparation**.

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# Exploring the Merits of Agriculture

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.

## 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.

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## LESS COMPETITION

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



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## 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



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## 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.

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## ADVANTAGE IF PREPARING FOR IFOS

- 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



# Recorded Lectures

Topic no	Topic
1.	Soil Science
2.	Soil And Water Conservation
3.	Agriculture Extension
4.	Weed Science
5.	Forestry
6.	Agricultural Economics
7.	Cell Biology
8.	Plant Breeding
9.	Seed Production And Technology
10.	Plant Physiology
11.	Horticulture And Landscape Gardening
12.	Plant Protection
13.	Food Production And Nutrition Management
14.	ECOLOGY
15.	Agronomy

# Our Faculty



**Monika Yadav**

**Agriculture Faculty | UPSC Mentor**

- ▶ **UPSC Mains Experience:** Appeared in 2022 & 2023 with Agriculture as the Optional Subject
- ▶ **Teaching Background:** Taught at HAU, CGB, and other reputed institutions, mentoring agriculture optional aspirants
- ▶ **Academic Qualifications:**
  - B.Sc. in Plant Biotechnology
  - M.Sc. in Food Science and Technology from Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar
- ▶ **Certifications:** Qualified ICAR ASRB NET in 2017
- ▶ **Research Excellence:** Master's thesis selected by ICAR as Best Thesis, reflecting academic rigor and innovation
- ▶ Known for combining academic depth with exam-relevant insights, making agriculture optional both understandable and high scoring.

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# Our Prices

Price: ~~₹25,999~~

**₹11,999**

**GOLD**



# Director's Desk

**Dear UPSC Aspirants,**

At StudyIQ IAS, we know that the journey to becoming a civil servant is not just about studying—it's about dreams, struggles, and relentless perseverance. We have walked this path with thousands of aspirants, learning from your challenges, evolving with your needs, and celebrating your victories. Today, we take that commitment one step further with our most comprehensive and inclusive program yet—The FOUNDATION Batch.

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Director's Desk

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