

TEST – 3 (Textbook) (SOLUTION)

(INSTA Prelims Test Series 2023)

22. Correct Answer : B

Answer Justification :

S1: Globally agricultural land area is approximately five billion hectares, or 38 percent of the global land surface. **About one-third of this is used as cropland, while the remaining two-thirds consist of meadows and pastures) for grazing livestock.**

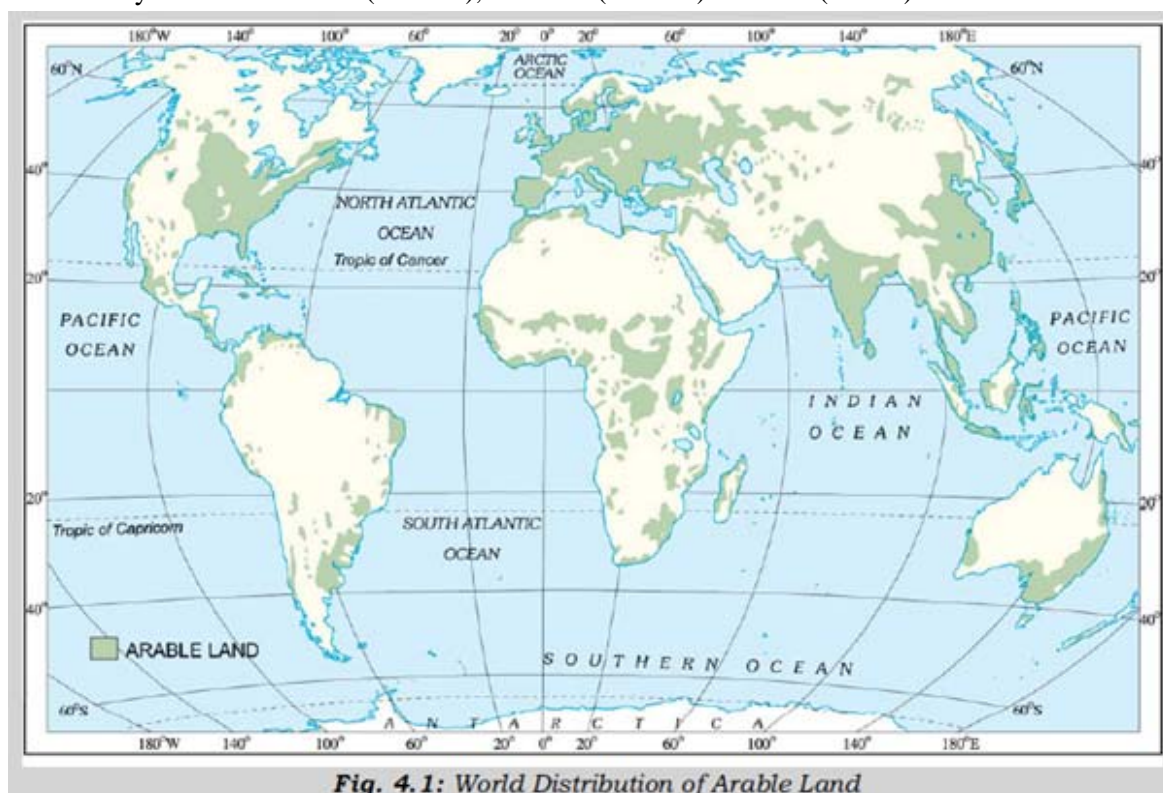
Within cropland, about 10 percent of the area is used for permanent crops, such as fruit trees, oil palm plantations and cocoa plantations. A further 21 percent is equipped for irrigation, which is an important land management practice in agriculture.

S2: Regional distribution of agricultural land use is a combination of local agri-climatic edaphic – soil – conditions, and socio-economic drivers. Averaged over the decade between 2007 and 2016, **the largest share of agricultural land area was in Asia**, accounting for 1.6 global hectares (gha) or 34 percent, followed by the Americas (1.2 gha, or 25 percent) and Africa (1.1 gha, 24 percent), with Europe and Oceania representing each about 9-10 percent of the total.

In terms of irrigation capacity, the region with the largest land area equipped for irrigation over the past decade was by far Asia, with 237 mega hectares (mha), or 70 percent of the world's total, followed by the Americas (52 mha, or 16 percent), Europe (26 mha, 8 percent), Africa (15 mha, 5 percent) and Oceania (3 mha, 1 percent).

S3: On average over the last decade, **China was the country with the largest agricultural land extent** (about 500 million hectares or Mha), followed by the United States, Australia (about 400 Mha each) and Brazil (278 Mha). India had the largest cropland area (nearly 170 Mha), followed by the United States (158 Mha), China and the Russian Federation (about 120 Mha each).

The two countries with the largest irrigated cropland area were India and China, with about 68 Mha each, followed by the United States (27 Mha), Pakistan (20 Mha) and Iran (9 Mha).



Read the Q source link for more details.

Q Source: AR: Page 41: 8th NCERT Geography

<https://www.fao.org/sustainability/news/detail/en/c/1274219/>