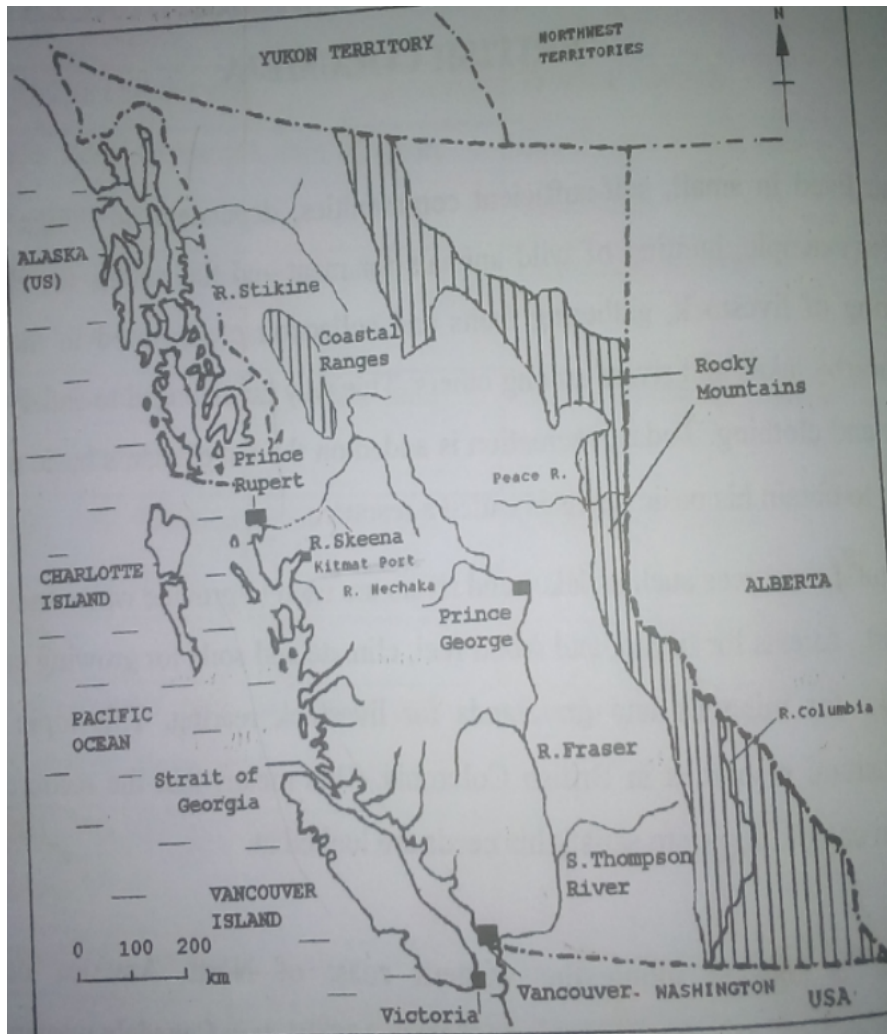


AGRICULTURE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

This is the least developed sector in British Columbia and only 02% of the total land area is used for crop growing and 41% of the agricultural activities is for livestock keeping for beef and dairy. However, the main type of farming is arable which involves the growing of cereal crops such as wheat maize, corn, rice, barley etc which are grains. Other crops grown are grapes lemon, peas, oranges.

SKETCH MAP OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SHOWING MAJOR PHYSICAL FEATURES.



FACTORS OR CONDITIONS WHICH HAVE FAVOURED THE DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH OF AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Physical factors.

* Existence of water bodies around British Columbia e.g Pacific ocean,R.fraser which provide water for irrigation in the agricultural sector.

* Cool temperature in British Columbia which attract settlements that provide labour in agricultural sector.

* Variety of valuable and commerical agriculture products in British Columbia e.g animals and crops which has helped agriculture industry to compete on world market.

* Presence of Forests in British Columbia which help in formation of rainfall for crop growth in the agricultural sector.

* Large extensive land in British Columbia e.g in Vancouver island which is used to set up farms in the agricultural sector.

* Reliable rainfall in British Columbia which favours the growth of crops and pasture for animals to feed on.

* Gentle relief in agricultural areas in British Columbia which favour the setting up of agricultural farm structures.

* Fertile soils in agricultural areas in British Columbia which favour the growth of crops and pasture for animals to feed on.

Human factors.

* Skilled labour in British Columbia e.g farmers ,farm managers who have helped to do work in agricultural farms.

* Sufficient capital in British Columbia e.g from government and investors which has been used to pay workers,taxes and buying machines used in agricultural sector.

* Efficient and reliable transport networks in British Columbia e.g,roads which are used to connect agriculture centres to market areas.

* Favourable and supportive government policy in British Columbia provision of loans to Farmers, provision of farming land which has helped to attract investors and market to fishing industry.

* Presence of wide and ready market in British Columbia e.g domestic and international levels eg Europe, Asia which has helped to buy agricultural products.

* Advanced and modern technology in British Columbia e.g use of tractors which has simplified work and production in agricultural farms.

* Sufficient power supply in British Columbia e.g HEP generated from rivers like r.fraser which is used to run machines on agricultural farms.

* Intensive agricultural research in British Columbia e.g on market control,pest and disease control which has helped to improve on quality of agricultural production.

* Political stability in British Columbia e.g police that keep law and order which has attracted investors and market to set up modern agricultural farms.

* Presence of many agro based industries in British Columbia eg food processing industries which help to process agricultural products into quality products.

* Presence of agricultural cooperative in British Columbia which help farmers to access loans and market

* Modern advertisements in British Columbia e.g through internet which has helped to attract market and investors to the agricultural sector.

CONTRIBUTIONS/IMPORTANCE/BENEFITS OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

* It has provided employment opportunities to the people of British Columbia e.g farmers vet doctors, farm Managers, drivers which has earned them income.

* Agricultural sector has provided raw materials to industries e.g agro based industries which has been used to manufacture other products e.g juice,butter.

* It has generated revenue to the government of British Columbia which has been used to development infrastructures like roads, schools and hospitals.

* Agriculture industry has promoted infrastructural developments in British Columbia e.g school roads which have improved standards of living in British Columbia.

* It promoted diversification of the economy in British Columbia e.g setting up of agriculture centres national wide which has reduced on over depending on few sectors in British Columbia.

*Agricultural sector has promoted urbanisation in British Columbia e.g through infrastructural developments like roads this has led to development in the country.

* It has promoted foreign exchange and currency in British Columbia e.g with Europe, Asia which has helped to settle international debts and infrastructural developments.

* Agricultural industry has promoted international relations through trade between British Columbia with others like Europe Asia which has helped to promote peace and unity in the region.

* It has provided market to others sectors in British Columbia e.g engineering industry which has helped others sectors earn income for development.

* Agricultural industry has promoted the development of others sectors within the economy in British Columbia e.g tourism which has encouraged development in British Columbia.

* It has promoted education and research e.g Universities and colleges in British Columbia which has helped students to acquire knowledge and skills about agriculture Field.

* Agricultural industry has provided food to the people of British Columbia e.g fish which helped them to improve on their balanced diet in form of proteins.

PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES FACED BY THE FISHING SECTOR IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

* Exhaustion of soil due to monoculture.

*Unfavorable climatic conditions e.g winter which interrupts agricultural activities hence limiting production.

* Competition from other countries dealing in agricultural products e.g Europe Asia which leads the sector to losses and limits production.

* High costs of transport in British Columbia due to perishable nature of agricultural products e.g in aeroplane to European market this has discouraged transportation of products.

* Limited skilled labour in agricultural sector this has made work and production difficult in British Columbia's agricultural sector.

* Unsupportive government policy e.g high taxation in British Columbia which has discouraged investors and market to agricultural sector.

* Occurrence of accidents while carrying out agricultural activities in British Columbia which has caused injuries and death hence discouraging production.

* Political instability especially strikes among farmers which has discouraged investors and market to agricultural sector.

* Labour migration to other sectors e.g mining which has slowed and discouraged the agricultural activities.

* Low levels of technology e.g duplicated fertilizers which make work and production difficult in agricultural sector.

* Competition within the economy with other sectors e.g mining which leads to underfunding of agricultural sector by the government and labor migration hence limiting production.

* Soil infertility caused by soil erosion this has also led to low production of agricultural products in British Columbia.

* Pest and diseases which attacks crops and animals leading to low yields and low production.

WAYS OF IMPROVING OR SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS FACED BY FORESTRY SECTOR IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

*Mechanisation such as use of machines should be used to solve the problem of shortage of skilled labour.

*Application of fertilizers to improve soil fertility.

*Use of protective equipments like helmets and gum Boots to minimize the occurrence of accidents on farms.

*Practicing of mixed farming to overcome soil exhaustion.

*Construction of modern transport networks to ease the transportation of agriculture products to market centres.

*Modern advertisements to compete on the world market with other countries.

*Use of advanced technology to solve the problem of low levels of technology.

*Intensive research on agricultural issues to improve on the quality of production and getting of market.

* Improvement on workers conditions in agricultural farms to solve the problem of labor migration to other sectors.

* Intensive modern advertisements through internet to access market for agricultural products.

PROBLEM RESULTING OR CAUSED BY THE MINING SECTOR TO THE HUMAN AND PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Problems on the Human environment.

- ✓ Accidents occurrence during farming leading to injuries and loss of lives.
- ✓ Labour migration in other sectors leading to labor shortage in other sectors eg fishing.
- ✓ rural urban migration which leads to over population in the agricultural towns.
- ✓ Displacement of people leading to creation of unplanned settlements eg slums.
- ✓ Regional imbalance in the country which leaves agricultural towns more developed than other towns without agricultural activities.
- ✓ urban related problems like prostitution which increase high crime rates in agricultural towns.
- ✓ profit repatriation by foreigners since they own majority of the extensive farms which leaves the country underdeveloped.

Problems on the Physical environment.

- ✓ Pollution by agricultural industries in form of air,water, sound and land pollution which cause diseases to the living organisms in the environment.
- ✓ Exhaustion of soil due to over production.eg monoculture.
- ✓ Destruction of natural vegetation to set up farms that leads to increased soil erosion, global warming.
- ✓ Application of pesticides and insecticides kills soil organisms which leads to soil infertility.

