

Soils and Crops in India

- Alluvial soil. - (Azonal soils)

Formation - Derived from debris brought down the Himalayas / silt left out.

Areas - Northern plains, deltas of the east coast, river valleys.

Soil Texture - sandy, loamy, clayey.

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↓
Ganga plains
+
Brahmaputra valley.

Soil Colour - light grey, ash grey

Bangar

Old alluvium

Khadar

New alluvium

Have nodules
called Kankars.

Found in
Doab. regions

Suitable Crops — Wheat, rice, maize,
sugarcane, pulses^I, oilseeds, fruits,
vegetables . . . —

Black Soil . — 'Regur' / 'Cotton' Soil.

'Tropical chernozems'

for growing cotton .

Formation — Deccan Trap rocks.

Areas — Deccan Trap region

↓
Madhya Pradesh

Maharashtra

Gujarat

Andhra Pradesh

some parts of Tamil Nadu.

Soil Texture — clayey ; deep ;
impermeable ;
high water retention
capacity.

Soil Colour - Presence of iron,
humus, aluminium
compounds,
magnesia and lime.
potash.

Features - Deep,

- swells up, becomes sticky when wet
- when it dries up, it develops cracks.

Suitable Crops - Cotton, pulses,
millets, linseed, tobacco, sugarcane,

vegetables , citrus fruits.

Red and Yellow Soils

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- Areas - Chattisgarh, Orissa
southern parts of the Ganga plain

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southern parts of the Ganga plain
- Reddish colour due to diffusion of iron in crystalline and metamorphic rocks

Yellow colour when it occurs in a hydrated form.

Soil Texture - Sandy ; Clayey ; Loamy.

- Fine grained ; mostly fertile,
- Coarse grained — are not fertile
- Wheat , cotton , tobacco, pulses, potato, maize, groundnuts

Laterite soils

↳ brick

↳ when wet, very smooth.

↳ dry, becomes very hard.

→ used in dry form as bricks.

Formation - Places having more than 200 cm of seasonal rainfall.

Areas - Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh.

Soil Colour - Reddish brown
↳ iron oxide.

Crops - Cashew nut, Tea plantations

5. Aroid Soil

Formation - Formed from rocks of Indus Valley.

Areas - Rajasthan

Soil Colour - Red to Brown.

Texture - Sandy.

Feature -

- Saline in nature.
- Deficient in nitrogen and humus.
- Iron content is normal.

Crops - Bajra, pulses, fodders.

6. Saline and Alkaline soil

(Usara soils, Reh, Kallar, Chopan, Rakkar, Thur, Karli. . .)

- Dry
- Salty

→ Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

→ western Gujarat,

→ Deltas of the eastern coast.



capillary
—
action

Crops -

barseem, dhaincha, leguminous crops.

Peaty soil [Kari in Kottayam and
Alleppey districts
in Kerala]

↳ Marshy soils.

↳ Result of waterlogging
+
organic matter

Deltas of West Bengal, Orissa, Tamil Nadu,

Bihar, Uttaranchal.

Colour - Black. Its heavy.

rich humus
+

organic content.

+
iron [acidic in
nature]

- Rice is suitable
-

Forest Soils

Found in the forest areas of the Himalayas, Sahyadris, Eastern Ghats and Terai regions

Features - acidic with low humus content.

These soils are subjected to denudation due to landslides or snowfall

The soils found in the lower valleys are fertile and rich in organic content.

Crops - tea, coffee, spices, apples,
peach,

Rice + wheat (Lower Valleys)

Potatoes can also be grown.