

**Irrigation- Definition**

- Irrigation is an artificial application of water to the soil.
- It is usually used to assist the growing of crops in dry areas and during periods of inadequate rainfall.

**Need of the Irrigation**

- India is basically an agricultural country, and all its resources depend on the agricultural.
- Water is evidently the most vital element in the plant life.
- Water is normally supplied to the plants by nature through rains.
- However, the total rainfall in a particular area may be either insufficient, or ill-timed.
- Systematic irrigation system – Collecting water during the period of excess rainfall & releasing it to the crop when it is needed.

**Less rainfall:**

- Artificial supply is necessary
- Irrigation work may be constructed at a place where more water is available & than convey the water where there is less rainfall.

**Non uniform rainfall:**

- Rainfall may not be uniform over the crop period in the particular area.
- Rains may be available during the starting period of crop but no water may be available at end, with the result yield may be less or crop may be die.
- Collection of water during the excess rainfall & supplied to the crop during the period when there may be no rainfall.

**Commercial crops with additional water:**

- Rainfall may be sufficient to raise the usual crop but more water may be necessary for raising commercial & cash crop . ( Sugarcane, Tea, Tobacco, cotton, cardamom, & indigo)

**Controlled water supply:**

- Yield of the crop may be increased by the construction of proper distribution system

**Benefits of Irrigation:**

- Increase in food production
- Protection from famine
- Cultivation of cash crop ( Sugarcane, Tobacco, & cotton)
- Addition to the wealth of the country
- Increase the prosperity of people

- Generation of hydro-electric power
- Domestic & industrial water supply
- Inland navigation
- Improvement of communication
- Canal plantations
- Improvement in the ground water storage
- General development of the country.

