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## **CLASSIFICATION OF ECONOMICALLY IMPORTANT PLANT AND THEIR USES**

**Classification of economically important plants According to Hill (1952) as follows:**

**1. Food Plants- plants yielding various food**

- a) **Cereals-** Rice, wheat, maize etc yielding plants
- b) **Milletts-** jowar, bajra, ragi etc
- c) **Pulses-** gram, pea, lentil etc
- d) **Vegetables-** potato, brinjal, fruit vegetable, cabbage etc
- e) **Fruits-** banana, apple, mango, orange etc

**2. Food adjuncts- plants yielding spices and flavouring material etc**

- a) **Spices and other flavouring materials** – pepper, clove, turmeric etc
- b) **Beverages-** tea, coffee, cocoa etc

**3. Drug plants- plants yielding drugs**

- a) **Medicinal plants-** cinchona, rauwolfia, ipecac etc
- b) **Fumitories and Masticatories-** yielding narcotics like tobacco, ganja etc



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**4. Industrial plants and Plant products**

- a) **Fibre plants**- cotton, jute, hemp, flax etc
- b) **Rubber plants**- Hevea, Ficus elastica etc
- c) **Gums and Resin**- Pine, Acacia etc
- d) **Oil yielding plants**- Mustard, castor, linseed, coconut, groundnut etc
- e) **Sugar and Starch yielding plants**- Sugarcane, sugarbeet etc
- f) **Tanning and Dye**- Hemlock, indigo, Bixa orellana
- g) **Timber plants**- Teak, sal, mahogany etc

**Brouk (1975) has divided plants of economic importance into seven classes**

1. Plants consumed by man- cereals, vegetables, fruits, nut, flavourings, beverage, fumitories, fermentative micro-organisms
2. Shelter plants
3. Ornamental plants
4. Industrial plants
5. Animal fodder plants
6. Medicinal plants
7. Semantic plants- “are those that acquire economic importance as a result of some special significance” like national flowers of a country or a flower to express good feelings.



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**RICE**

**Name of the plant:** Rice

**Scientific name:** *Oryza sativa*

**Local name:** Dhan, chawal

**Family:** Poaceae- Grass family

**Used parts:** Rice grain (the endosperm and embryo), straw.

**Uses:** Rice grain used as food. Rice straw is used as cattle feed, making straw boards, paper and mats. Rice-bran oil is used for making soaps and cosmetics.

**WHEAT**

**Name of the plant:** Wheat

**Scientific name:** *Triticum aestivum*

**Local name:** Gam, gehoon

**Family:** Poaceae- Grass family

**Used parts:** wheat grain and straw

**Uses:** Making various kinds of flour viz. ata, maida, suji from grain. Beer and alcoholic beverages also manufacture from wheat. Straw is a good feed for livestock.

**CHICK PEA**

**Name of the plant:** Chick pea or Bengal gram

**Scientific name:** *Cicer arietinum*



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**Local name:** Chhola, chana, garbanzo bean, Egyptian pea

**Family:** Fabaceae

**Used parts:** Grain and green leaves

**Uses:** Green leaves and grain consume as vegetable. Gram is consumed several ways like boiled, roasted, flour etc. Germinated seeds are very nutritious. Grain good for feeding horses.

**PIGEON PEA**

**Scientific name:** *Cajanus cajan*

**Local name:** red gram, tur, pwa kongo, arhar

**Family:** Fabaceae

**Used parts:** Immature pods, ripe seed, Shoots.

**Uses:** The immature pods and ripe seeds of pigeon pea are used for human food. The green leaves, husk of pod and seeds are regarded as a valuable cattle feed.

**SUGAR CANE**

**Scientific Name:** *Saccharum Officinarum*

**Local name:** Akh, ganna,

**Family:** Poaceae

**Used parts:** stem



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**Uses:** The cane sugar has huge use as sweetening agent in cooking and food industry (jam, jelly, sweet drinks). The by-products of sugar industry are used commercially for molasses, rum, industrial alcohol ect. Bagasse used for manufacture of sugar

**GROUND NUT**

**Scientific name:** *Arachis hypogea L*

**Local name:** Cheena badam, mungphali, monkey nut (UK), gober (US)

**Family:** Fabaceae

**Used part:** seeds

**Uses:** Seeds are very nutritious. The oil extracted from nut used in cooking, manufacture of hydrogenated vanaspati, margarine, soap, lubricants, cosmetics.

**Probable questions:**

- 1. Describe the classification of the economically important plants?**
- 2. Mention scientific name, family and parts use of the followings: Rice, wheat, chick pea, pigeon pea, sugarcane, groundnut.**

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