

Cocoa Tree

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About Cocoa Tree:

- It is an important **plantation crop** grown for chocolates around the world. It is known as a crop of humid tropics and is native to the Amazon basin of South America.
- Cocoa trees grow **about 20 degree snorth and south** of the **equator** in regions with warm weather and abundant rain, including West Africa and South America.
- **Required climatic conditions:**
 - It can be grown up to 300 m above mean sea level.
 - **Rainfall:** It requires an annual rainfall of **1500-2000 mm**.
 - **Temperature:** The temperature range of **15°-39°C** with optimum of 25°C is considered ideal.
 - **Soil:** It requires deep and well drained soils. Majority of area under Cocoa cultivation is on **clay loam and sandy loam soil**.
 - It grows well in the pH range of 6.5 to 7.0.
- **Shade requirement:** It was evolved as an under-storey crop in the Amazonian forests. Thus commercial cultivation of cocoa can be taken up in plantations where 50 per cent of light is ideally available.
- **Major producing regions in the world:** About 70 percent of the world's cocoa beans come from four West African countries: **Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria and Cameroon**.
- In India, it is mainly cultivated in **Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu** mainly as intercrop with Arecanut and Coconut.

Q1: What are Plantation crops?

These are defined as a group of commercial crops perennial in nature, cultivated extensively in tropical and subtropical situations in a large and contiguous areas. They include coconut, areca nut, oil palm, cocoa, cashew nut, tea, coffee and rubber.

Source: Will chocolate's future hinge on success of growing cocoa in the lab?

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/cocoa-tree/>

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