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Q57

**Among the following, which one is the least water- efficient crop?
(a) Sugarcane (b) Sunflower (c) Pearl millet (d) Red gram Official key: A.**

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2021 · General Studies · 2 marks · Geography

Physical, Indian and world geography - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a) Official key**

Sugarcane. Highest water use among the four; flood/furrow cane is thirsty.

(b)

Sunflower. Oilseed; far less water than cane.

(c)

Pearl millet. A dryland millet.

(d)

Red gram. Pulse; relatively water-efficient.

Summary

Official key is (a) sugarcane. Among these four it is the least water-efficient. Bajra, arhar and sunflower are the dryland/oilseed contrast.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Cane water

Often 1,500-2,500 mm equivalent in Indian estimates.

Millets

The water-smart neighbour of (c).

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