

HIS4B05 HISTORY OF MEDIEVAL WORLD
MODULE-4 TRANSFORMATION OF MEDIEVAL
WORLD
TOPIC : CHANGES IN AGRICULTURE

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- ▣ Agriculture- main livelihood of medieval period
- ▣ Feudalism- basic socio- economic & political system
- ▣ Feudalism- exist in all over world with variations
- ▣ In feudalism- subsistence economy- production was mainly for subsistence
- ▣ So there is no interest for increasing production

- ▣ Not interested in introducing new methods and techniques in production
- ▣ So agricultural production remained stagnant
- ▣ But in 11th C certain changes began in techniques, seeds, tools & equipments, production techniques, use of manure etc
- ▣ Use of new heavy weight plough- helped in ploughing land deeper- helps to bring more land for cultivation

- ▣ Began to use animals like ox and horse for ploughing
- ▣ Introduced horse collar, horse shoe – helped to tap power of horse more effectively
- ▣ introduced ‘rotation system’ in cultivation- cultivating different crops in same field at different period – to increase the fertility of soil
- ▣ Introduced ‘three field system’- ie classifying field in to three portions & $1/3^{\text{rd}}$ of land remain vacant with out cultivation – led to increase in production- use more land for cultivation

- ▣ Introduction of wind mill helps in separating grains
- ▣ By 14th C European feudal economy faced serious problems
- ▣ Plague adversely affected European agrarian economy
- ▣ Reduced number of agricultural labourers
- ▣ Feudal lords tried to reduce wages- but failed
- ▣ Feudal aristocracy failed to maintain feudal status-quo

- ▣ When feudal lords tried to extract tax from peasants led to agrarian revolts
- ▣ 14th c witnessed several agrarian revolts
- ▣ 1358- Jacquerie revolt of France- against feudal exploitation – but failed due to lack of efficient leadership- against feudal lords & attacked feudal castles
- ▣ 1381-England- due to increased tax imposed upon peasants by government- attacked tax collecting officials & tax offices- also attacked govt officials

- ▣ All agrarian revolts were suppressed
- ▣ But these revolts subsequently led to the decline of feudalism & serfdom