

Field studies

Why is agricultural science suddenly so popular?

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AGRICULTURAL science is now in demand in Asia and, in India, agricultural studies is gaining popularity. Some of the popular agricultural institutes are in West Bengal — preeminent among the leading Indian states for its agricultural productivity. Agriculture is an multidisciplinary field encompassing natural, economic and the social sciences.

Agriculture comprises horticulture, seed science, technology, genetics and plant breeding. The Bidhan Chandra Agricultural College has courses on agriculture and horticulture engineering, and students who have cracked JEE are selected. Besides, students can opt for agriculture and horticulture at graduation, and can then move on to research. Students with a good record in Higher Secondary and at the graduation level have a distinct edge.

Sriniketan, a famous agricultural institute at Visva-



Agricultural scientists at work.

Bharati, conducts entrance tests for BSc freshers who have scored more than 60 per cent in Higher Secondary. At Sriniketan, a new subject called "Group Growth Analysis" is taught. Agricultural management has emerged as a separate field of study and the Institute of Rural Management in Rajasthan and Gujrat conducts courses. Those seeking admission to agriculture science must have physics, chemistry and biology at Higher Secondary. Calcutta University has a Master's in agriculture studies and Honours students of biology and chemistry can aim apply for the programme.