

## **Agriculture as a Science**

Agriculture is the science of producing crops and livestock from the natural resources of the Earth. The primary aim of agriculture is to cause the land to produce more abundantly and at the same time to protect it from deterioration and misuse. The diverse branches of modern agriculture include agronomy, horticulture, entomology, animal husbandry, dairying, agricultural engineering, soil chemistry, and agricultural economics.

From early times men created ingenious systems of irrigation to control water supply especially in semiarid areas and regions of periodic rainfall. As the Middle Ages waned, increasing communications, the commercial revolution, and the steady rise of cities in Western Europe tended to turn agriculture away from subsistence farming toward the growing of crops for sale outside the community. Exploration and intercontinental trade, as well as scientific investigation, led to the development of horticultural knowledge of various crops and the exchange of farming methods and products. The Industrial Revolution after the late 18th century swelled the population of towns and cities and increasingly forced agriculture into greater integration with general economic and financial patterns.

Modern science has also revolutionized food processing and refrigeration. Harvesting operations have been mechanized for almost every plant product grown. Breeding programs have developed highly specialized animal, plant, and poultry varieties, thus increasing production efficiency greatly. These changes, of course, have given new aspects to agricultural policies. In many countries, extensive government programs control the planning, financing, and regulation of agriculture.

### ***Retrieved from:***

Geography and Agriculture (Географія і сільське господарство). Тексти до підручника з англійської мови для студентів і аспірантів немовних факультетів та студентів мовних факультетів, які вивчають англійську як другу іноземну мову у вищих навчальних закладах. – К.: Арій, 2008. – 88 с.