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LANGUAGE TEACHING TO AGRICULTURAL STUDENTS BASED ON THE TERM OF SPECIALIZATION

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Annotation:

Agriculture, science and practice 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, economic entomology, animal husbandry, dairying, agricultural engineering, soil chemistry, and agricultural economics.

Keywords: crop, term, glossary, agriculture, agronomy, language, history.

INTRODUCTION

Early people depended for their survival on hunting, fishing, and food gathering. To this day, some groups still pursue this simple way of life, and others have continued as roving herders. However, as various groups of people undertook deliberate cultivation of wild plants and domestication of wild animals, agriculture came into being. Cultivation of crops—notably grains such as wheat, rice, corn, rye, barley, and millet—encouraged settlement of stable farm communities, some of which grew to be towns and city-states in various parts of the world. Early agricultural implements—the digging stick, the hoe, the scythe, and the plow—developed slowly over the centuries, each innovation (e.g., the introduction of iron) causing profound changes in human life. From early times, too, people created ingenious systems of irrigation to control water supply, especially in semiarid areas and regions of periodic rainfall, e.g., the Middle East, the American Southwest and Mexico, the Nile Valley, and S Asia¹.

Farming was often intimately associated with landholding (see tenure) and therefore with political organization. Growth of large estates involved the use of slaves (see slavery) and bound or semifree labor. In the Western Middle Ages the manorial system was the typical organization of more or less isolated units and determined the



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¹ See R. Jager, *The Fate of Family Farming* (2014).

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nature of the agricultural village. In Asia large holdings by the nobles, partly arising from feudalism (especially in China and Japan), produced a similar pattern.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

As the Middle Ages waned, increasing communications, the commercial revolution, and the rise of cities in Western Europe tended to turn agriculture away from subsistence farming toward the growing of crops for sale outside the community (commercial agriculture). In Britain the practice of inclosure allowed landlords to set aside plots of land, formerly subject to common rights, for intensive cropping or fenced pasturage, leading to efficient production of single crops².

In the 16th and 17th cent. horticulture was greatly developed and contributed to the so-called agricultural revolution. 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, such as the potato, which was introduced from America along with beans and corn (maize) and became almost as common in N Europe as rice is in SE Asia.

The appearance of mechanical devices such as the sugar mill and Eli Whitney's cotton gin helped to support the system of large plantations based on a single crop. The Industrial Revolution after the late 18th cent. swelled the population of towns and cities and increasingly forced agriculture into greater integration with general economic and financial patterns. In the American colonies the independent, more or less self-sufficient family farm became the norm in the North, while the plantation, using slave labor, was dominant (although not universal) in the South. The free farm pushed westward with the frontier.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the N and W United States the era of mechanized agriculture began with the invention of such farm machines as the reaper, the cultivator, the thresher, and the combine. Other revolutionary innovations, e.g., thetractor, continued to appear over the years, leading to a new type of large-scale agriculture. Modern science has also revolutionized food processing; refrigeration, for example, has made possible the large meatpacking plants and shipment and packaging of perishable foods. Urbanization has fostered the specialties of market gardening and truck farming.



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² Wells, Spencer: The Journey of Man: A Genetic Odyssey. Princeton University Press, 2013. ISBN:069111532X

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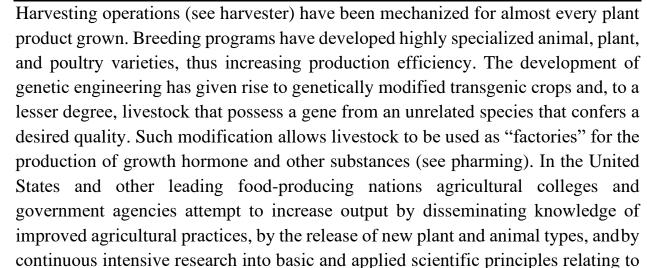
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These changes have, of course, given new aspects to agricultural policies. In the United States and other developed nations, the family farm is disappearing, as industrialized farms, which are organized according to industrial management techniques, can more efficiently and economically adapt to new and ever-improving technology, specialization of crops, and the volatility of farm prices in a global economy. Niche farming, in which specialized crops are raised for a specialized market, e.g., heirloom tomatoes or exotic herbs sold to gourmet food shops and restaurants, revived or encouraged some smaller farms in the latter 20th and early 21st cents., but did little to stop the overall decrease in family farms. In Third World countries, where small farms, using rudimentary techniques, still predominate, the international market has had less effect on the internal economy and the supply of food.

Abiotic. Environmental factors such as drought, wind, hail, or excess moisture that impact the growth of living organisms. Usually used as "abiotic stresses".

Adsorb, adsorption. In soil terms, the adhesion of ions (i.e., K^+ , Ca^{++}) or molecules to the surface of soil particles. This process differs from absorption where a material—the absorbate—is dissolved in the soil solution.

Broadcast. Fertilizer spread on the soil surface, or herbicides applied across the entire width of a cropped or planted area.

Cover crop. Crop grown to provide soil coverduring seasons when an annual grain crop is absent.

Disease. Plant injury from biotic stress resulting from infection by fungi, oomycetes, nematodes, bacteria, or viruses.



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Erosion. Undesirable displacement of soil from a site by wind and/or water.

Germplasm. Collection of diverse genetic resources (e.g, soybean seed) that are available to be used in the development of improved breeding lines and varieties.

Nodules. Small bodies or organelles (on the soybean root surface) that contain Rhizobiumbacteria.



- 1. See R. Jager, The Fate of Family Farming (2014).
- 2. Wells, Spencer: The Journey of Man: A Genetic Odyssey. Princeton University Press, 2013. ISBN:069111532X
- 3. Crosby, Alfred W.: The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492. Praeger Publishers, 2013 (30th Anniversary Edition). ISBN: 0275980731
- 4. Collinson, M. (editor): A History of Farming Systems Research. CABI Publishing, 2010. ISBN: 0851994059.

