Unit 1

Agriculture

Agriculture is essentially a manipulation of ecosystems to produce or raise organic matter (crop plants or livestock) from the use of land. By employing various technologies and techniques, production can be maximized (use of fertilizers, genetic developments, irrigation, mechanization), while other methods are used to minimize loss of crops through pests and weeds (including use of pesticides, fungicides, herbicides, mechanical weeding, biological control).

The purpose of agriculture has traditionally and primarily been to meet the demand for agricultural products, mainly food, but also raw materials for fiber manufacture. Although the underlying purpose for agriculture has not changed, the nature, structure and ways in which these demands have been met have changed greatly over the last few decades, and will continue to do so.

Changes have resulted from a variety of factors. These include: patterns of consumption of agricultural products; food distribution and processing; genetic development of agricultural production and other technological developments; the progressive globalization of agricultural markets; and the influence of national and international agricultural policies.

The failure of European agriculture to meet demand during World War II and shortly after, made security of food production the main objective of agricultural policy from the late 1940s. Every country in Europe has encouraged its farmers to produce more food through a variety of mechanisms, including price support, other subsidies and support for research and development.

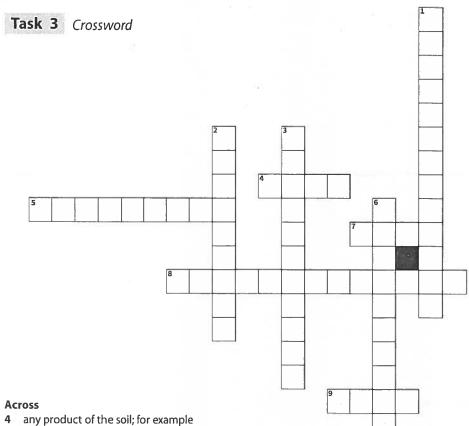
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	Special Terms	
Organic matter	matter found in or produced by, living animals and plants, which contains carbon, hydrogen, oxygen and often nitrogen and sulfur.	
Crops	any product of the soil. In a narrow sense, the product of a harvest obtained by labor, as distinguished from natural production or wild growth.	
Crop plants	any plant cultivated by man for its fruit, fiber, root, flower, etc.	
Livestock	any domestic animal produced or kept for farm or market purposes.	
Mechanization	to change a process so that it is run by machines rather than people.	
Pest	anything such as insect, animal, plant or other organism that causes injury or loss to a growing crop, or injury or irritation to domestic animals or man.	
Weed	a plant out of place. For example, a rose growing in a field of wheat is a weed.	
Fertilizer	any organic or inorganic material added to soil or water to provide plant nutrients and to increase the growth, yield, quantity or nutritive value of the plants grown therein.	
Herbicide	any chemical used for killing plants.	
Fungicide	any chemical used for killing fungi.	

Practice Tasks

Ta	isk 1 True or False?	
1.	Loss of crops may be maximized with the use of pesticides.	[_]
2.	Agriculture aims only to meet food demand in the world.	[_]
3.	Mechanical weeding aims to protect loss of crops due to pests.	[_]
4.	Fiber production raw materials are produced by agricultural products.	[_]
5.	Land is not essential in agriculture.	[_]
6.	Adequate food production is one of the aims of agricultural policies.	[]

	7. Irrigation is another term for	mechanization.	[_]
	8. Agriculture has not changed	at all over the centuries.	[]
The P Description of the Control of	Task 2 Choose one of the opti	ons to complete the sentences	
-	1. Living animals are capable of	producing	
of hotels and a	a) crops	b) weeds	
	c) organic matter	d) subsidies	
	2. Another word for domestic an	imals is	
	a) fungi	b) farm	
	c) food	d) livestock	
	3. Government financial support	is often termed as	
	a) subsidy	b) sum	
	c) security	d) objective	
	4 is when people	e resort to artificial application of wate	er to soil
	a) manipulation	b) irrigation	.1 10 3011.
	c) production	d) globalization	
	5. Anything causing injury to a cr	op is considered to be a	
	a) pest	b) test	·
	c) herbicide	d) fiber	
	6. A chemical used for killing plan	nts is	
	a) fertilizer	b) pesticide	
	c) fungicide	d) herbicide	
	7. Through agriculture we can get	to produce fibe	rc
	a) raw materials	b) food processing	13.
	c) research	d) techniques	
	8. produc	tion can be affected by weeds.	
	a) crop	b) genetic	
	c) biological	d) international	
		.,	



- any product of the soil; for example the product of a harvest.
- 5 a chemical used for killing fungi.
- 7 anyhing such as insect, animal, plant or other organism that causes injury or loss to a growing crop.
- 8 the process by which businesses or other organizations develop international influence or start operating on an international scale.
- 9 a plant out of place.

Down

- 1 to change a process so that it is run by machines.
- 2 any domestic animal raised or kept for farm or market purposes.
- 3 the art and science of cultivating the soil, growing crops and raising livestock.
- **6** any organic material added to the soil to provide plant nutrients.