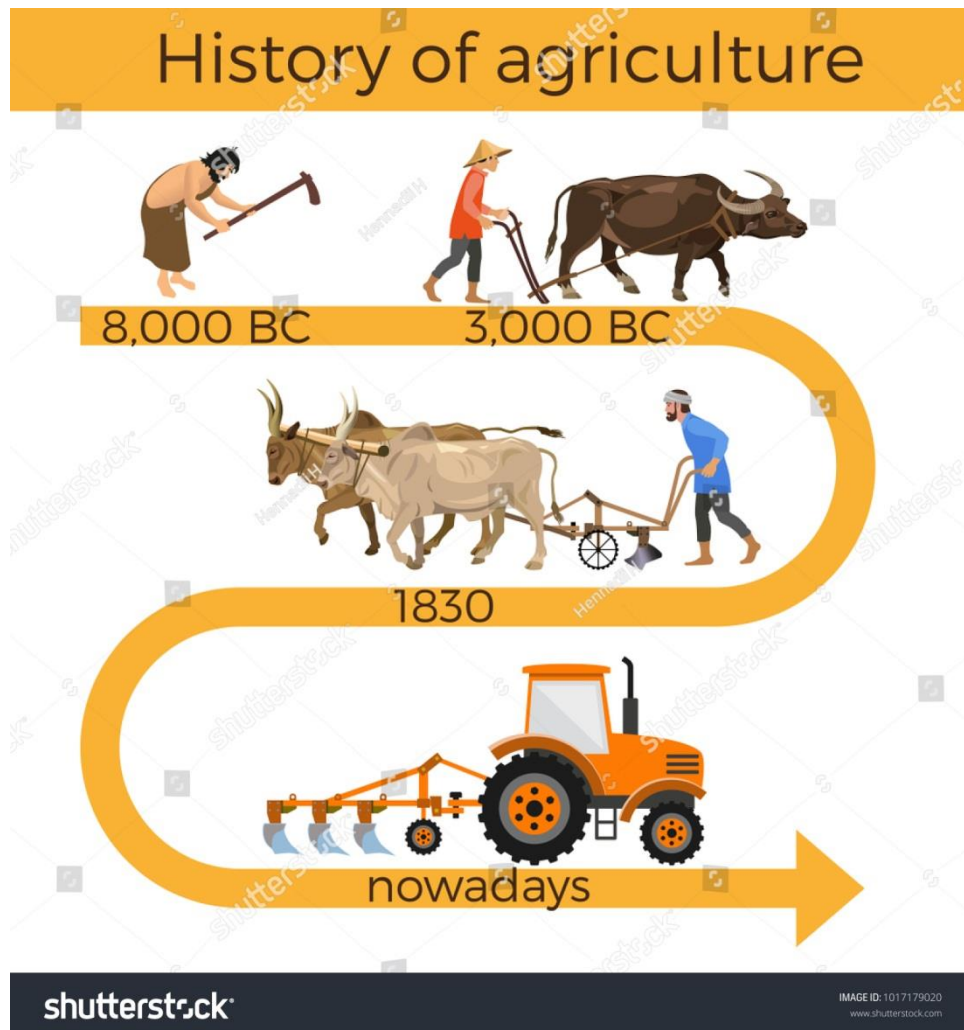


The **history of agriculture** began thousands of years ago. After gathering wild grains beginning at least 105,000 years ago, nascent farmers began to plant them around 11,500 years ago. Pigs, sheep and cattle were domesticated over 10,000 years ago.



Adam, the **first** human in the Bible, is also the **first farmer**. After he is created by God, he is placed in charge of the Garden of Eden.

The history of agriculture is the story of humankind's development and cultivation of processes for producing food, feed, fiber, fuel, and other goods by the systematic raising of plants and animals. Prior to the development of plant cultivation, human beings were hunters and gatherers. The knowledge and skill of learning to care for the soil and growth of plants advanced the development of human society, allowing clans and tribes to

stay in one location generation after generation. Archaeological evidence indicates that such developments occurred 10,000 or more years ago.

Agriculture is a very ancient occupation of mankind. It is so old that nobody can say with certainty when and where it was first begun. It probably began when man through necessity discovered that certain wild plants would supply him food in the form of fruits and seeds. Following this discovery, he went from place to place in search of these food materials. Some of the seeds of these food plants drop around his dwellings, and later bore the fruit and grain, which he could use again as his food. This again led him to discover that by scattering seeds near his dwelling, he could have his food materials near his home without having to search for them at long distance. The primitive man perhaps also realized that the fruits and seeds gathered were not sufficient to meet his needs and those of his family. This led him to the cultivation of crops so as to supplement the natural supply. He then had resources to the clearing of forests for the growing of his crops.

But he probably found out that the continuous growing of crops in the same place gives diminished yields. So he moved about from place to place. Later as population grew, he was forced to restrict himself to a certain locality. This again must have resulted in competition for certain favorable localities, and the giving up of his nomadic life. In course of time this primitive man again must have discovered that certain wild plants which he was growing gave him more and better food than others. This must have led him to the selection of certain wild plants for cultivation. In this way primitive man made a remarkable choice of crops. Civilization began to centre around the growing of certain crops like wheat, cotton in central Asia, rice in China and South-eastern Asia, and maize and potato in tropical America. By this time man had also learnt that the usefulness of animals as a source of food and clothing. At first went out to hunt for them, but later he learned that they could be domesticated. He probably noticed that where the animals dropped their excreta the plants grew more luxuriant. This led him to apply animal excreta to his fields. This was the discovery of the use of animal manure for the growing of crops. And herein lies the beginning of the development of the art of farming. This was the condition of farming in most parts of the country about the time when the Aryans came to India. The old civilization developed along river banks and flourished only because food production was possible from irrigated lands much in excess of the needs of the produces.

The father of modern irrigation in Indo-Pak was Feroz Shah Tughlaq who built a canal from the river of Numna to Hissar.

Because of agriculture, cities as well as trade relations between different regions and groups of people developed, further enabling the advancement of human societies and cultures. Agriculture has been an important aspect of economics throughout the centuries prior to and after the Industrial Revolution.

Pakistan's historical experience in agricultural development in terms of growth, income distribution, and rural poverty.

The long-term growth rates between 1949-50 and 1994-95 were satisfactory; the variations around the average have been rather too large over the various decades. Beginning with a stagnating sector of the 1950s, agriculture witnessed record growth rates during the Sixties. This was followed by the lowest growth rates of the early Seventies, and acceleration in the second half of the Seventies. The experience since 1979-80 has been mixed, but the growth rates have been rather low through the Eighties and the Nineties. The trends in income distribution and poverty varied directly in relation to the agricultural growth rates, especially when they were in excess of the threshold level of 4.5-5.0 percent per annum. In general, a growth rate of 5.0 percent or higher has induced positive changes in income distribution and poverty. In view of this positive association, the pursuit of a high growth policy in agriculture should guide Pakistan's future development strategy. The efficiency of resource use, a greater dependence on modern technologies, and a minimization of government intervention in the market mechanism are the essential pillars of the high growth strategy.