

## 62-Importance of Agriculture

The fundamental basis of the community is agriculture, tillage of the soil.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *The Promulgation of Universal Peace*, 77.3

Cultivation by the farmer maketh of the grain the harvest, and the effort of the gardener maketh of the seed a noble tree.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *Bahá’í World Faith*  
(*‘Abdu’l-Bahá section*), 108.4

If the land is deprived of a cultivator, it becomes a thicket of thriving weeds, but if a farmer is found to cultivate it, the resulting harvest provides sustenance for living things. It is therefore evident that the land is in need of the farmer’s cultivation.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *Some Answered Questions*, 3.2

The question of economics must commence with the farmer and then be extended to the other classes inasmuch as the number of farmers is far greater than all other classes. Therefore, it is fitting to begin with the farmer in matters related to economics for the farmer is the first active agent in human society.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *From a Tablet dated 25 July 1919 to an individual believer*

First and foremost is the principle that to all the members of the body politic shall be given the greatest achievements of the world of humanity. Each one shall have the utmost welfare and well-being. To solve this problem we must begin with the farmer; there will we lay a foundation for system and order because the peasant class and the agricultural class exceed other classes in the importance of their service.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *The Promulgation of Universal Peace*, 102.8

Strive as much as possible to become proficient in the science of agriculture, for in accordance with the divine teachings the acquisition of sciences and the perfection of arts are considered acts of worship. If a man engageth with all his power in the acquisition of a science or in the perfection of an art, it is as if he has been worshipping God in churches and temples.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *Selections from the Writings of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá*, 126.1

Would the agricultural methods of the ancients suffice in the twentieth century? Transportation in the former ages was restricted to conveyance by animals. How would it provide for human needs today? If modes of transportation had not been reformed, the teeming millions now upon the earth would die of starvation.

'Abdu'l-Bahá, *The Promulgation of Universal Peace*, 94.12

The crisis that exists in the world is not confined to the farmers. Its effects have reached every means of livelihood. The farmers are in a sense better off because they at least have food to eat. But on the whole the crisis is serving a great purpose. It is broadening the outlook of man, teaching him to think internationally, forcing him to take into consideration the welfare of his neighbours if he wishes to improve his own condition.

Shoghi Effendi, *Uncompiled Published Letters*, 383.1

In addition to the problem of how to ensure peace, and all the implications of such a step, it is clear that the economic and social development of all countries is of vital importance and is a matter on which the Teachings have much to say in principle if not in detail. In this area, agriculture and the preservation of the ecological balance of the world are of fundamental interest....

Universal House of Justice,  
*31 March 1985 to an Association for Bahá'í Studies*