

62- Importance of Agriculture

We cultivated our land, but in a way different from the white man. We endeavored to live with the land; they seemed to live off it. I was taught to preserve, never to destroy.

Australian Indigenous

Tom Dystra, Aboriginal Elder

Take care of the fences and boundaries of your fields, lest the rains overflow them; Prepare the soil of deliverance, and let the creepers of love and renunciation be soaked in this shower. It is the prudent farmer who will bring his harvest home; he shall fill both his vessels, and feed both the wise men and the saints.

Hinduism, *Songs of Kabîr*, 109

Farmers who wait for perfect weather never plant. If they watch every cloud, they never harvest.

Judaism, *Ecclesiastes*, 11:4

Whosoever there be in the king's realm who devote themselves to keeping cattle and the farm, to them let his majesty the king give food and seed-corn.

Buddhism, *Sutra Collection* (HIJK), 65.14

The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work.

Christianity, *1 Corinthians* 3: 8

...land cultivation means fixing the land, planting trees, growing cereals and grains and taking care of the same, in addition to a good knowledge of the fertile, semi fertile and useless land. Further, the knowledge of each kind of trees and plants to be planted in a given earth, and the choice of the best kind and proper time, water, insecticides and fertilizer for each kind of plants and trees are essential. How to store the production is also included.

Islam, Ibn al-Awwam, *Kitab al-Filaha al-Andalusiyah*, p. 3

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.

Bahá'í, '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.

Bahá'í, '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.

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