

Unit 2 Agriculture Vocabulary

Agribusiness- Commercial agriculture characterized by the integration of different steps in the food-processing industry, usually through ownership by large corporations.

Agriculture- The deliberate effort to modify a portion of Earth's surface through the cultivation of crops and the raising of livestock for sustenance or economic gain

Agricultural revolution- The time when human beings first domesticated plants and animals and no longer relied entirely on hunting and gathering

Aquaculture (or aquafarming)- The cultivation of seafood under controlled condition

Commercial agriculture- Agriculture undertaken primarily to generate products for sale off the farm

Intensive subsistence agriculture- A form of subsistence agriculture in which farmers must expend a relatively large amount of effort to produce the maximum possible yield from a parcel of land

Plantation- A large farm in tropical and subtropical climates that specializes in the production of one or two crops for sale

Pasture- Grass or other plants grown for feeding grazing animals, as well as land used for grazing

Pastoral nomadism- A form of subsistence agriculture based on herding domesticated animals

Ranching- A form of commercial agriculture in which livestock graze over an extensive area

Shifting cultivation- A form of subsistence agriculture in which people shift activity from one field to another; each field is used for crops for a relatively few years and left fallow for a relatively long period.

Slash-and-burn agriculture- Another name for shifting cultivation, so named because fields are cleared by slashing the vegetation and burning the debris

Subsistence agriculture- Agriculture designed primarily to provide food for direct consumption by the farmer and the farmer's family

Sustainable agriculture- Farming methods that preserve long-term productivity of land and minimize pollution, typically by rotating soil-restoring crops with cash crops and reducing inputs of fertilizer and pesticides