

Agriculture as a Career

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When thinking about careers in agriculture, many may picture the traditional farming of our grandparents and their parents' time. Although some of those traditional practices still hold true, agriculture has evolved drastically since then. Even though only 10 percent of Americans are involved in traditional farming, over 22 million people work in agricultural related fields (Agriculture Council of America). Agriculture is the key to the development of human civilization and domestication of plants and animals. As such, agriculture is considered to be the very basis of political and social stability of a nation. A career in agriculture is not only rewarding and challenging, but a self-less act for the greater good of the world.

According to a 2012 *USA Today* article, "Demand for skilled workers in the industry shows no signs of letting up, in part because some predict agriculture productivity will have to increase 70% by 2050 to feed the world's growing population." There is an abundance of job openings, challenging assignments, opportunities for growth, and a combination of local work with global impact with a career in agriculture. With an increasing population worldwide, the demand for specialists in agriculture related areas will increase. There is no other industry that can provide the needs of our population in order to survive. Agriculture provides not only food, but shelter, and fiber for clothing. With such importance, the future of agriculture is hanging by a string due to the lack of interest in current and up and coming generations. While a declining number of farms and ranches is a negative, there is also an opportunity for a stable, high-demanding, and gratifying career for the next generation of workers.

Not only are careers in agriculture rewarding, but also they have a lot to offer. Agriculture is a broad field, with careers varying from economists and research scientists, to marketing representatives and engineers. Working in agriculture allows one to contribute in areas such as food safety, law, energy development, public health, and more. Furthermore, agriculture plays a vital role in providing large scale employment to people. Large farms and corporations employ workers to take on the countless jobs relating to cultivation of crops and care of farm animals. In most of the countries of the world, agriculture still remains the biggest division responsible for the employing of a large percentage of the population and feeding of the whole population.

Current students like myself who are earning agricultural related degrees will be the innovators of our future and develop solutions to address current and future challenges. In the future, more people will need to be supported with fewer resources and stricter regulations, while utilizing efficient means of producing and allocating food. Therefore it is important that we understand the importance of this industry, and prioritize careers in agriculture toward the young minds of the world today.