



Full Length Research Paper

Editorial note for Agriculture and Human Society

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Human use and management of soil and water resources have formed the event, persistence, decline, and regeneration of human civilizations that square measure sustained by agriculture (Harlan 1992, Hillel 1992). Soil and water square measure essential natural resources for our domesticated animal- and plant-based food production systems. though of elementary importance these days, agriculture could be a comparatively recent human innovation that unfold quickly across the world solely ten,000 to 12,000 years past (Diamond 1999, Montgomery 2007, worth & Gebauer 1995, Smith 1995), throughout the Agricultural Revolution. This short, however extremely important amount of your time, represents but zero.3 you look after the quite four million years of human evolution as two-footed hominids and ultimately man. In agriculturally-based societies throughout the last 10 millennia, humans have developed complicated, urban civilizations that have cycled through periods of accelerating complexity, amazing intellectual accomplishment, persistence for millennia, and, in some instances, puzzling decline (Trigger 2003).

In several cases, stressed, declining civilizations tailored, or reemerged, into new or similar complicated cultures (Schwartz & Nichols 2006). Through such fluctuations, we've remained enthusiastic about a comparatively little range of crop and animal species for food, and on integrated soil-water systems that square measure essential for his or her production. there's little doubt that our trendy human society has developed to the purpose that we have a tendency to cannot exist while not agriculture.

It is clear that agriculture sustains and defines our fashionable lives, however it's usually troubled of natural ecosystems. this can be very true for plant communities, animal populations, soil systems, and water resources. Understanding, evaluating, and leveling harmful and helpful agricultural disturbances of soil and water resources area unit essential tasks in human efforts to sustain and improve human well-being. Such information influences our rising ethics of property and responsibility to human populations and ecosystems of the longer term.

Although agriculture is crucial for human food and therefore the stability of complicated societies, most of our evolution has taken place in little, mobile, kin-based social teams, like bands and tribes (Diamond 1999, Johanson & King of Great Britain 2006). Before we have a tendency to became inactive folks enthusiastic about agriculture, we have a tendency to were for the most part enthusiastic about wild plant and animal foods, while not managing soil and water resources for food production. Our social evolution has accelerated since the Agricultural Revolution and brought place synergistically with human biological evolution, as we've become enthusiastic about domesticated plants and animals adult purposefully in extremely managed, soil-water systems.

It is evident that, so as to take care of and increase food production, efforts to stop soil degradation should become a prime priority of our world society. Current population models predict a worldwide population of between eight and ten billion within the next fifty years (Bongaarts 2009, Lutz et al. 2001) and a two-fold increase in food demand (Alexandratos 1999, Tilman et al. 2002). If direction of soil resources continues to diminish the fertility of the soil and therefore the quantity of productive cultivable land (Pimentel et al. 1995), then we'll have lost a precious and essential pillar of property agriculture (Tilman 1999). property agriculture is AN approach to farming that focuses on production of food during a manner that may be maintained with marginal degradation of ecosystems and natural resources. This property approach to agriculture strives to safeguard environmental resources, together with soil, and supply economic profitableness whereas maintaining social equity (Brodt et al. 2011). The conception of property agriculture is usually misinterpreted to mean that chemical fertilizers and pesticides ought to ne'er be used. This notion is wrong, as property agriculture ought to embrace those practices that give the foremost helpful services for agroecosystems and encourage semipermanent production of food provides during a cultural context of the region. It can't be overstressed that property practices shouldn't solely contemplate crop production and profit, however should embody land management ways that scale back eroding and shield water resources. By grip sure contemporary technologies, well-tried BMPs, and learning from the past, our society are going to be ready to still conserve soil resources and turn out food provides sufficient to satisfy current and future population demands.