

# UNIT 9: THE NATURAL WORLD

## AGRICULTURE - PART 3: DISCUSSION

*Do you think technology can solve the problems farmers face?*

► Answer:

boosts productivity	climate-monitoring	combined with	double-edged
food security	encounter	heavy investment	high-yield
mitigate	rural workforce	small-scale farmers	weather patterns

*To a large extent, I would say yes.* Modern technology can address many of the **difficulties** farmers (1) \_\_\_\_\_. *For instance, advanced irrigation systems* and (2) \_\_\_\_\_ **tools** can help them cope with **unpredictable** (3) \_\_\_\_\_, while machinery reduces their dependence on an **ageing** (4) \_\_\_\_\_. *In addition,* biotechnology and (5) \_\_\_\_\_ **crop varieties** can significantly improve **crop yields** and ensure greater (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

*However,* I also believe technology is something of a (7) \_\_\_\_\_ **sword**. *On the one hand,* it (8) \_\_\_\_\_ and makes farming more sustainable *in the long run*, but *on the other hand,* it often requires (9) \_\_\_\_\_, which (10) \_\_\_\_\_ cannot always afford. *So,* while technology can certainly (11) \_\_\_\_\_ **many challenges**, it is not **a panacea**. *In my view,* it needs to **be** (12) \_\_\_\_\_ government support and proper training for farmers to be truly effective.

► Answer:

digital platforms	Genetically improved	Modern innovations
powerful tool	rural communities	stabilise yields

**Yes, I strongly believe technology can address many of the challenges farmers face today.** (13) \_\_\_\_\_ such as **drones, smart irrigation systems, and precision farming** allow farmers to use water and fertilizers more efficiently, reducing waste and costs. (14) \_\_\_\_\_ **crops** can also resist pests and extreme weather, helping to (15) \_\_\_\_\_. Moreover, (16) \_\_\_\_\_ give farmers **better access** to market information and fair prices. *However,* to be effective, governments must ensure that (17) \_\_\_\_\_ can afford and access these technologies. *In short,* technology is a (18) \_\_\_\_\_ for making agriculture more productive, sustainable, and resilient.

► Answer:

farming techniques  
reduce labour

more sustainable  
vital role

proper training  
weather forecasting

Yes, I think technology can help solve many problems that farmers face. For example, modern machines and irrigation systems can save time and (19)\_\_\_\_\_, while (20)\_\_\_\_\_ and mobile apps help farmers plan their work more effectively. New (21)\_\_\_\_\_, such as using drones or improved seeds, can increase productivity and protect crops from pests and climate change. However, technology alone is not enough — farmers also need (22)\_\_\_\_\_ and financial support to use it successfully. Overall, technology plays a (23)\_\_\_\_\_ in improving farming and making it (24)\_\_\_\_\_ for the future.

**How can governments support agriculture?**

► Answer

striking a balance  
plough back

farming practices  
reliance on subsidies

long-term independence  
subsidising

Governments should encourage farmers to **adopt sustainable** (25)\_\_\_\_\_, for instance by (26)\_\_\_\_\_ **eco-friendly technology**. They could *also* help farmers (27)\_\_\_\_\_ **into** modern equipment, which would increase efficiency. However, support can be a **double-edged sword**—too much (28)\_\_\_\_\_ might discourage innovation. So, I think the key is (29)\_\_\_\_\_ between financial support and (30)\_\_\_\_\_.

► Answer

contribute to  
practical measures

infrastructure  
tax reductions

insurance schemes  
technical support

Governments can **play a vital role** in supporting agriculture through financial and (31)\_\_\_\_\_. One effective way is to **provide subsidies or** (32)\_\_\_\_\_ to help farmers afford modern machinery and fertilizers. Authorities should also **invest in** (33)\_\_\_\_\_, such as irrigation systems and transportation networks, to make farming more productive and efficient. Moreover, **offering training and** (34)\_\_\_\_\_ can help farmers apply advanced farming techniques and protect the environment. Governments can also **set fair market prices** or offer (35)\_\_\_\_\_ to reduce risks caused by climate change or natural disasters. With these policies, farmers are more likely to remain motivated and (36)\_\_\_\_\_ national food security.



► Answer

agricultural research

post-harvest losses

agricultural sector

rural infrastructure

low-interest loans

trade policies

Governments can support agriculture in several important ways. Firstly, they can provide **financial subsidies** or (37)\_\_\_\_\_ to help farmers invest in modern equipment and high-quality seeds. Secondly, improving (38)\_\_\_\_\_, such as roads and irrigation systems, can make farming more efficient and reduce (39)\_\_\_\_\_. In addition, **funding** (40)\_\_\_\_\_ **and training programmes** enables farmers to adopt new technologies and sustainable practices. Finally, creating **favourable** (41)\_\_\_\_\_ and ensuring **fair prices** for crops protect farmers' income and encourage productivity. Overall, government support is essential for developing a strong and resilient (42)\_\_\_\_\_.