

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	more sustainable	proper training
reduce labour	vital role	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	farming practices	long-term independence
plough back	reliance on subsidies	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	infrastructure	insurance schemes
practical measures	tax reductions	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

agricultural sector

low-interest loans

post-harvest losses

rural infrastructure

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)_____.