

ECONOMICS AGRICULTURE

DOCUMENTARY
30 MIN.

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Arabic, English, Spanish:
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Farming for the Planet

Agriculture is under pressure to feed a burgeoning global population. And it has undergone dramatic developments in this regard over the last 100 years. But increasing industrialization of the sector has negative consequences: it burdens the environment and replaces manpower with technology, providing fewer people with a livelihood. If these developments continue unchecked, then before long the food we eat will be controlled by large corporations, and food markets will be geared towards short-term profit – at the expense of non-renewable resources such as land and water, at the expense of the rural population and biodiversity. But this is not the only way forward. Sustainable agricultural approaches and an efficient smallholding economy can in the long term create equilibrium between food security and the utilization of natural resources. There are examples of this all over the world, pursued by people who are **Farming for the Planet**.

01 Preserving the Land VoD HD

Ethiopia is not able to grow enough food to feed its population, and much of its fertile land is lost to erosion every year. New projects are working to counter this through rainfall retention.

02 Species-Appropriate Cattle Breeding VoD HD

Industrially produced cattle yield plenty of milk and meat. But these high-performance animals are vulnerable and have poor genetic potential. Cattle reared in a manner appropriate to their species are more robust, live longer and healthier lives and yield better-quality products.

03 Fish Without the Side Effects VoD HD

Many fish stocks are endangered through over-fishing and marine pollution. Fish farms are also rarely sustainable and actually exacerbate the problem. But there are alternative approaches – and valuable traditional practices.

04 Time for Changes in Tea Production VoD HD

The Indian district of Darjeeling is famous for its tea plantations. But the effects of soil exhaustion and erosion on the steep slopes where the plants grow are taking their toll. One tea producer has found a solution: his biodynamic, fair-trade approach is proving to be a success.

05 For the Survival of Bees HD

There's been a sharp spike in honey-bee deaths in many parts of the world. But the insects are essential for the fertilization of many crops. What is the connection between the collapse of bee colonies and farming? What can farmers do to stop the dying?

06 The Fight for Seed Freedom VoD HD

The availability of diverse seeds is essential for independent farming businesses and for food security. But large agricultural concerns are attempting to control this billion-dollar market, locking horns with regulatory authorities, farmers and conservationists along the way.



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- 07 The Quest for Food Security** [VoD](#) [HD](#)
The future of food production is more uncertain than it has been in recent decades, and in light of the growing global population it has become an urgent issue. Due to rising meat consumption, the use of energy crops, pest infestations as well as crop and transport losses, less than half of the world's crop yield is available for human consumption. Projects in Tanzania, Brazil, the US, Germany and Switzerland show how food production can be made more sustainable, more environmentally friendly and less damaging to the health of the rural population.
- 08 Defending Agriculture Against Drought** [VoD](#) [HD](#)
Some 40 percent of the world's land surface is now classified as dry land. Scientists expect climate change to continue to exacerbate extreme heat in many parts of the world. How should agriculture respond to this? Technology provides many possibilities, but these are only within the reach of large-scale concerns in developed nations. But there are also simple, affordable solutions that are proving to be effective in poorer countries such as Burkina Faso. Here, education is the key.
- 09 The Fight for Future Food Systems** [VoD](#) [HD](#)
There are many different answers to the question of how to feed the world's growing human population. Dutch agronomist Peter Smeets favors high-tech, intensive crop cultivation and livestock farming in industrial zones around cities. German farmer and agronomist Felix zu Löwenstein wants to see decentralized, ecologically sustainable food production, which offers rural populations a long-term livelihood so they no longer move to urban centers.
- 10 Wine – The Future is Organic** [VoD](#) [HD](#)
More pesticides and other chemicals are used to treat grapevines than any other food crop. But an increasing number of winegrowers are switching to more sustainable cultivation methods. Examples from Austria, Switzerland and Italy show that ecology and business can go hand in hand.
- 11 Life on a Biodynamic Farm** [VoD](#) [HD](#)
The Pageot family runs a farm with dairy cattle and pigs, arable crops and a dairy in Brittany in northern France. They adhere to the principles of biodynamics, something initially regarded with great skepticism by their neighbors. But the method isn't mumbo jumbo, and the Pageots aren't dogmatic about it. They are simply doing what they believe works best in agriculture.