

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Sustainable agriculture is the reduced usage, but not complete elimination, of chemical products. It relies on integrated farming systems, causing many researchers to consider it as a compromise between conventional and organic farming. Sustainable agriculture utilizes farming techniques that protect the environment, public health, human communities and animal welfare. The Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) integrates six main goals:

- To improve agricultural production and systems;
- To fulfill farmers' needs and lifestyle choices;
- To meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs;
- To produce crops and raise animal without using toxic chemical pesticides, synthetic fertilizers, genetically modified seeds, or practices that degrades soil, water, or other natural resources;
- To protect biodiversity by growing a variety of plants;
- To use techniques such as crop rotation, which help develop and maintain healthy ecosystems.
- Sustainable farming aims at shifting the emphasis from greater production to cost reduction, while ensuring quality improvement of both production and production methods. This is done by replacing expensive and potentially damaging inputs, especially fertilizers and pesticides with non-chemical techniques. It encourages the conservation of flora and fauna.
- **Sustainable crop** farms grow fruits and vegetables that are safer for consumers, workers and surrounding communities by avoiding hazardous pesticides.
- **Sustainable livestock** farmers raise animals with respect to welfare standards, avoiding harmful practices like the use of non-therapeutic antibiotics and growth promoters.

