



Lesson 5: Agriculture and Ecosystems

Lesson Plan

Estimated lesson time: 60 minutes

Learning objectives:

- Define agriculture and ecosystem
- Draw the link between agriculture and ecosystem by demonstrating that agricultural systems comprise a common and important ecosystem
- Understand how agricultural ecosystems can affect nearby natural and man-made ecosystems
- Design a plan for achieving stability in an agricultural ecosystem

Key concepts:

- Agriculture
- Ecosystem
- Agricultural Ecosystem
- Inputs and outputs
- Water, Nitrogen, and Carbon Cycles

Lesson components:

- I. Background (for instructors) – 5-10 minutes
- II. Introduction to Agriculture and Ecosystems (lecture and activity) – 30 minutes
- III. Small Group Problem Based Learning Activity: Creating a Plan for Balancing On-Farm Inputs and Outputs (small group discussion) - 30 minutes
- IV. Debriefing – 15 minutes