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**Sub: Strengthening Food Security and Sustainable Agricultural Development**

**About Greece**

Greece is a [unitary parliamentary republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unitary_parliamentary_republic), and a [developed country](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Developed_country), with an advanced [high-income economy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Bank_high-income_economy), and a high [quality of life](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quality_of_life), ranking simultaneously very high in the [Human Development Index](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_Human_Development_Index).

The prosperity of the majority of [Greek](https://www.worldhistory.org/disambiguation/greek/) [city](https://www.worldhistory.org/city/)-states was based on [agriculture](https://www.worldhistory.org/disambiguation/Agriculture/), while agriculture is not a thriving economic sector of Greece.

**Main food crops of Greece**

Greece's agricultural industry has as main products wheat, corn, barley, sugar beets, olives, tomatoes, wine, tobacco, potatoes, and beef, fishing and dairy products.

**What is Agriculture in Greece based on?**

* Agriculture in Greece is based on small, family-owned dispersed units, while the extent of [cooperative](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cooperative) organization stays at low comparative levels, against all efforts that have been taken in the last 30 years.
* Ancient Greeks farmed a variety of crops and animals for food, including wheat, barley, olives, grapes, fruit trees, and vegetables. They mainly farmed to feed their own families.
* One main farming method they used was crop rotation, which is cycling a few crops on the same field to restore nutrients.

**Factors affecting the Agriculture**

Greece’s agricultural potential is hampered by

* Poor soil
* Inadequate levels of precipitation
* A landholding system that has served to increase the number of unproductive smallholdings
* Population migration from the countryside to cities and towns.
* Less than one-third of the land area is cultivable, with the remainder consisting of pasture, scrub, and forest. Greece's agricultural sector suffers from a lack of many natural resources.
* Approximately 70 percent of the land cannot be cultivated because of poor soil or because it is covered by forests. Agriculture is centered in the plains of Thessaly, Macedonia, and Thrace, where corn, wheat, barley, sugar beets, cotton, and tobacco are harvested.
* Greece's low rainfall, its rural land ownership system, and the emigration of the rural community into urban areas or abroad are factors that hold back the growth of the agricultural sector
* [Overfishing, Effects and Overfishing Solutions.](https://www.worldwildlife.org/threats/overfishing)Given Greece's vast coastline and its numerous islands, it is natural that a fishing industry exists.
* However, it is not as vital to the economy as would be expected from a country with a rich maritime history. Over-fishing has lessened the impact of fishing revenues on the economy.
* Pollution in the Mediterranean has also damaged the industry.

**Greece agricultural industry in 19th century**

* *Fields are plowed up or scratched over, and crops replanted season after season until the exhausted soil will bear no more.*
* *Fertilizers are not used to any appreciable extent, and the farm implements are of the very rudest description.*
* *Irrigation is in use in some districts*
* *Greece has olives and grapes in abundance, and of quality not excelled;*
* *Greek olive oil and Greek wine will not bear transportation.*

**Greece agricultural industry in 20th century**

* Greek agricultural production was vastly expanded in the 20th century.
* In particular grain production (wheat, barley, etc.) has been significantly increased using more modern farming methods.
* Much of the research on soil classification, fertilizer use, and dissemination of improved agricultural practice was carried out
* There were over 8,000 farms all over Greece in 1998, with 9,730 hectares of land used for the growing of organic farming.

**Opportunity for farming in Greece**

* While agriculture is not a thriving economic sector, Greece is still a major EU producer of cotton and tobacco.
* Many of Greece’s olives are turned into olive oil which is the country's most renowned export crop. Grapes, melons, tomatoes, peaches, and oranges are also popular EU exports.
* Wine is an export with promise, and the government has urged vineyard owners to produce higher quality wines to increase its popularity as an international export