



# How intensive agriculture damages our environment?

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# Climate change

- The process that food goes through before it's eaten, is long and harmful to the environment.
- More greenhouse gases go into the atmosphere at every step the food is being processed. Significant reasons for greenhouse gases leaking into the atmosphere are our farming practices. For example the livestock sector produces methane because of the ruminants' digestion process.
- Another harmful farming practice is clearing land by burning it. This method of getting space for agricultural production aggravates climate change even more. The reason why, is because when burning the forests, the carbon stored inside of them releases.



# Pollution

- Agriculture is the biggest cause of pollution in many countries.
- Fertilizers and pesticides can contaminate fresh water and harm aquatic plants and animals.
- Nitrogen-based fertilizers produce greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming.
- Pesticides are used to kill weeds and insects, but they can also be toxic to many other plants and animals.
- Animal waste is often disposed of by spreading it on land. It contains a lot of bacteria and nutrients, which can affect water quality.
- Agriculture accounts to about 70 % of all freshwater consumption worldwide.



# Deforestation

- Rainforests are being cut down to make space for plantations
- The crops can only survive on this land for a couple years, so the farmers have to cut down more forests often
- Logging is another significant cause of deforestation
- Timber companies cut down large areas of forest at once, to make charcoal and sell the wood to other countries for making furniture
- 17% of the Amazonian rainforest has been destroyed in 50 years
- Rainforests are very important for absorbing carbon dioxide so cutting them down makes climate change accelerate



# How to prevent deforestation

A group of people, including men, women, and children, are gathered in a field, engaged in a tree-planting activity. They are working in rows, with some kneeling and others standing, planting saplings. The ground is covered with dry leaves and twigs. In the background, there is a line of trees under a clear sky. A white horizontal line is drawn across the middle of the image, with a yellow bar on the left side.

- Make sure the wood products you're buying are made from sustainably sourced wood
- Don't buy products that contain palm oil, because it's usually grown using harmful farming methods
- Plant trees
- Raise awareness and advocate for international policies that criminalize unsustainable farming practices

# Sources

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