

AGRICOOLTURE

by:

Queenie T. Tamayo

Teacher I, Luakan National High School

Have you ever been curious, where does the food you eat come from? Isn't it amazing to know where your food comes from?

Farmers feed us. Agriculture does. It provides us with rice on our plates, meats, fruits, and vegetables.

That is the reason why agriculture is believed to be the economy's backbone. It wasn't termed like this for nothing. Do you want to know about the different activities that you can enjoy when you are engaged in agriculture?

For many, agriculture is all about planting, however, there is a much deeper meaning than that. It's not just merely planting because it is an art as well as science. And why do others think that it is only for those who have low educational attainment?

Agriculture deals with cultivating the soil, making plots with replications and employ different treatments to it. It also involves experimental research like some professions do. What if we don't have soil to cultivate? Where will we plant our crop? Have you ever heard the word hydroponics? It is a system of planting that is soil-less. It is now the new trend in farming where many are involved and enjoying it.

Agriculture also involves academics and not just planting. Have you ever experienced writing a term paper or project proposal? How about memorizing scientific names of crops and animals? Wait there's more; do you think agriculture doesn't have math? Well, they do have, fertilizer computation, compounding of feed rations, and field lay-outing are examples of these.

It also includes science like chemistry, the cation exchange capacity, bulk density, particle density, pH level, crystalline and amorphous silicate clays, and saturations.

I still remember when I was in college and experienced the joy of being an agriculture student. I have gone through collecting 50 different kinds of insects, digging termite mounds to get the queen termite, collecting goat's manure for composting, counting African nightcrawlers, looking for plants infected by nematodes, making organic concoctions and mixing them using bare hands, castrating pigs, grafting tomato and eggplant, and of course, harvesting crops I tended lovingly.

It seems to be difficult, but the happiness it will bring knowing where your food came from is worthwhile. Agriculture tackles different fields and areas. Although it's one of the most exhausting jobs, it is also the noblest one.

Nowadays, the younger generation seems to lose interest in farming. Maybe their parents discouraged them from being farmers, they learned it from society or it's just their decision. So, as educators, we must motivate the youth and their families to incorporate farming and gardening into their everyday lives. We must impress to them that it is an important source of livelihood especially to us, Filipinos. Many advanced countries still rely on their agriculture to provide food security to their entire nation, that is why, we must never abandon it, instead we must find ways on how to strengthen our agriculture sector.

Agriculture can live without you. Farmers can live without you. But can you live without them?

References:

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