**The Settles Life of Farmers**

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* Farming: supports larger and more sedentary populations but requires long and monotonous work
* Development of permanent settlements for farmers and their families
* Food production led to a kind of social organization
* Hard work of some provided for all, freeing some people to devote their time to inventing and manufacturing equipment
* Results 56of new sedentary living conditions/ altered division of labour: harvesting/digging tools, pottery for storage and cooking, wood, etc.
* Social relations = egalitarian and hardly different from that of food foragers
* ^ **Egalitarian:** no role in a tribe is better than another, all men and women are equal in all aspects
* Multifamily kinship groups: lineages (which people belong to virtue of descent from common ancestor but which don’t play a significant part in social order of food foragers)
* Humans adapted to this settled life in many ways:
* **Horticultural:** small communities of gardeners working with simple hand tools
* Plant different crops in land cleared by hand
* Horticulture = extensive form of agriculture because the gardeners abandon a given garden plot after using it for a few years
* Production is for subsistence, not to produce a surplus for sale
* Politics: involve periodic feasts when substantial amount of food is produce and other gifts are given away to gain prestige
* Prestige: basis for power for leaders 🡪 who are important for production, exchange, and resource allocation
* **Swidden farming:** extensive form of horticulture in which the natural vegetation is cut, the slash is subsequently burned and crops are planted among the ashes
* ^ Also known as “slash-and-burn horticulture”
* Argued that this method is not right but it is actually ecologically sophisticated and sustainable way of raising food
* Low population densities and adequate amounts of land would prevent environmental degradation and destruction
* This type of farming makes certain plants less vulnerable to pests and plant diseases
* Technological advancement
* **Intensive agriculture:** large-scale cultivators employing fertilizers, irrigation, equipment, and draft animals
* Great alterations in landscapes and ecology compared to horticulturists
* Can grow sufficient food < this surplus can be sold for cash/ coerced out of the farmers through taxes or rent paid to landowners
* As food producers, people have developed several major complexes : 2 adapted to seasonal uplands and two to tropical wetlands