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Advances in fishery, aquaculture and hydrobiology

Vol. 10 (4), pp.04, December , 2022

Commentory

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The Green Revolution: Transforming Agriculture and Feeding the World

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Received: 01-Nov-2022, Editor assigned: 04-Nov-2022, Reviewed: 18-Nov-2022, **Revised:** 25-Nov-2022, **Published:** 02-Dec-2022, DOI: 10.51268/ 2736-1829.22.10.18.

DESCRIPTION

The Green Revolution is a term that refers to the period of technological advances in agriculture that took place during the 1960s and 1970s. This period was marked by the development of new agricultural technologies, such as high-yielding varieties of crops, improved irrigation systems, and the use of pesticides and fertilizers. The Green Revolution was a response to the growing concern about the world's ability to feed a rapidly expanding population. At the time, it was widely believed that the world's population would soon outstrip the available food supply, leading to widespread hunger and starvation. The Green Revolution was seen as a way to increase food production and alleviate these concerns. The Green Revolution was largely focused on the developing world, particularly in Asia and Latin America. In these regions, agricultural productivity was low, and many people were living in poverty and suffering from malnutrition. The Green Revolution was seen as a way to increase agricultural productivity and improve the standard of living for millions of people. One of the key technologies developed during the Green Revolution was high-yielding varieties of crops. These crops were developed through a process of crossbreeding and selection, which resulted in crops that produced much higher yields than traditional varieties. These new crops were particularly effective in areas where traditional crops were not well adapted to local conditions, such as drought or poor soil fertility.Improved irrigation systems were also developed during the Green Revolution. These systems allowed farmers to irrigate their crops more efficiently, which in turn led to higher yields. The Green Revolution also saw the widespread use of pesticides and fertilizers. These chemicals helped farmers to control pests and diseases, and to improve soil fertility, which also led to higher yields.The Green Revolution had a significant impact on agriculture in the developing world. In India, for example, the introduction of high-yielding varieties of wheat and rice led to a dramatic increase in agricultural productivity. Between 1960 and 2000, wheat yields in India increased from 817 kg per hectare to 2,655 kg per hectare, while rice yields increased from 1,367 kg per hectare to 3,118 kg per hectare. The Green Revolution also had a significant impact on the lives of millions of people in the developing world. Higher agricultural productivity meant that farmers could produce more food, which in turn led to lower food prices. This made it easier for people to access food, particularly in rural areas where food was often scarce. The Green Revolution did, however, have some negative consequences. The widespread use of pesticides and fertilizers led to environmental degradation, including soil erosion and water pollution. The increased use of water for irrigation also led to the depletion of water resources in some areas. There were also concerns about the long-term sustainability of the Green Revolution. The high-yielding varieties of crops were often dependent on large amounts of water, fertilizers, and pesticides. This made them expensive for farmers to grow, particularly small-scale farmers who could not afford the inputs.