

Text: Crop destruction by pests

Atmospheric conditions, weeds, and insects have always interfered with man's attempts to produce food. Sometimes he has been able to control pests. When he has not been able to do so, his society has suffered or perished.

An example is the blight in Ireland in 1845 and 1846 that destroyed the potato crops on which the Irish were also wholly dependent as a major source of food. As a consequence, a million people died from starvation or disease.

Before 1870 Ceylon was an important coffee producer. The coffee rust fungus, a serious parasite on wild coffee trees spread through the plantations and productions become so slow that coffee was abandoned as a crop and replaced by tea. South America, particularly Brazil, becomes the Coffee Empire in the world.

In the tropics and other regions of high rainfall crop planting are lost year after year because of heavy weed competition despite hand labor. Some crops can no longer be grown in such places. Aquatic weeds threaten the production of rice in Ceylon and transportation in the Nile River is severely limited by the rapid growth of aquatic flowers.

The Inca Indians of Peru had a custom that forbade the planting of potato year after year in the same fields. We know that the golden nematode of potatoes accounted for the long rotation between crops. History is full of other examples of the ravages of pests. Necessity has forced farmers to adopt chemicals which are more effective and cheaper than other methods.

Questions (20pts)**I. Reading comprehension questions (5pts)****A. Multiple choice questions: Copy the complete sentence containing the correct answer (1pt)****1. When man has not been able to control the pests**

- a. the pests have suffered or perished
- b. he has produced more food
- c. he has lost his crops
- d. he has replaced coffee by tea

2. The Inca Indians avoided the planting of potatoes year after year in the same field because

- a. the Inca Indians were lazy
- b. they wanted to avoid pests on crops
- c. potatoes were not good food
- d. the productions of potatoes are slow

B. True/False statements: Copy the true sentences and correct the false ones (2pts)

- 1. Before 1870, Brazil produced more coffee than Ceylon.
- 2. In regions of high rainfall crop planting are lost year after year.
- 3. The results of man not being able to control pests are starvation and diseases.
- 4. Pests have ravaged crops throughout history.

C. Answer the following questions based on the text (2pts)

2. What has obliged farmers to adopt chemicals?

II. Language (10pts)

A. Copy each word or expression in "A" with the appropriate synonym in "B" (2pts)

A	B
Weeds	organism that destroy crops
Aquatic	wild grasses
Interfere	living in water
Pest	disturb

B. Joseph Traoré, a farmer in Kita refuses to adopt chemicals in his field. Advise him to use them (find two different ways). (2pts)

C. Fill in the blanks with: getting over, got off, get up, get through appropriately (2pts)

1. I won't be able to resume my studies before malaria.
2. When the teacher enters the class, we to greet him.
3. At the end of the flight, the plane landed at the airport and the passengers
4. Yesterday I called you in vain, but I couldn't

D. Translate into French (2pts)

From "Atmospheric conditions ..." to "... control pests."

E. Translate into English (2pts)

Les agriculteurs ont besoin de produits chimiques pour protéger leurs récoltes. Le gouvernement doit leur faciliter l'accès à ces produits.

III. Composition: Choose only one topic (5pts)

1. If you were a decision maker, what would you do to encourage farmers to produce more?

Write an eight-line essay.

2. Yaya Dagnoko, a farmer in Tiongui, Cercle de Kolondieba writes to the Sales Manager, SMEGMA, BPE 18100, Bamako; to ask for details on their range of tractors, the price, and the term of payment and availability of spare parts.

Write Yaya's letter with the appropriate layout.