参考译文：

十七世纪的荷兰农业

Agriculture and fishing formed the primary sector of the economy in the Netherlands in the seventeenth century. Dutch agriculture was modernized and commercialized new crops and agricultural techniques raised levels of production so that they were in line with market demands, and cheap grain was imported annually from the Baltic region in large quantities. According to estimates, about 120,000 tons of imported grain fed about 600,000 people: that is about a third of the Dutch population. Importing the grain, which would have been expensive and time consuming for the Dutch to have produced themselves, kept the price of grain low and thus stimulated individual demand for other foodstuffs and consumer goods.

农业和渔业是十七世纪荷兰经济的主要部分。荷兰农业的到了现代化改造，并且新型的商业化农作物和农业技术随着市场需求的提高而提高，每年都会从波罗的海进口大量的便宜的粮食。据估计，进口的 12 万吨的粮食养活着大约 60 万人，大概相当与荷兰人口的三分之一。进口这些过去昂贵并且自己生产需要大量时间的农作物使得现在粮食的价格保持在低位并且刺激了其他食用物品和商品的个人需求。

Apart from this, being able to give up labor-intensive grain production freed both the land and the workforce for more productive agricultural divisions. The peasants specialized in livestock husbandry and dairy farming as well as in cultivating industrial crops and fodder crops: flax, madder, and rape were grown, as were tobacco, hops, and turnips. These products were bought mostly by urban businesses. There was also a demand among urban consumers for dairy products such as butter and cheese, which, in the sixteenth century, had become more expensive than grain. The high prices encouraged the peasants to improve their animal husbandry techniques; for example, they began feeding their animals indoors in order to raise the milk yield of their cows.

除了这些，放弃这种劳动密集型的粮食生产解放了土地和劳动力使之能够参与到更多的农业生产中。农民对畜牧业，乳品业与对培养工业作物和饲料作物同样重视：亚麻，茜草，油菜和烟草，啤酒花，芜菁一样都有种植。这些东西可以通过城镇贸易获得。城镇消费者对乳制品比如黄油和奶酪同样有需求，这些东西在十七世纪就比食物要贵了。高价格促使农民提高他们的畜牧技术，比如他们开始圈养这些动物以提高奶牛的奶产量。

In addition to dairy farming and cultivating industrial crops, a third sector of the Dutch economy reflected the way in which agriculture was being modernized-horticulture. In the sixteenth century, fruit and vegetables were to be found only in gardens belonging to wealthy people. This changed in the early part of the seventeenth century when horticulture became accepted as an agricultural sector. Whole villages began to cultivate fruit and vegetables. The produce was then transported by water to markets in the cities, where the consumption of fruit and vegetables was no longer restricted to the wealthy.

除了乳品业和工业作物的种植，荷兰经济的三分之一反映在现代化的园艺上。在十六世纪，水果和蔬菜只是有钱人花园中的玩物。直到十七世纪早期园艺成为农业的一部分，所有的村庄都开始培养蔬菜和水果，产品通过水路运送到城市的市场中，这种商品的消费也不再只是有钱人的专利。

As the demand for agricultural produce from both consumers and industry increased, agricultural land became more valuable and people tried to work the available land more intensively and to reclaim more land from wetlands and lakes. In order to increase production on existing land, the peasants made more use of crop rotation and, in particular, began to apply animal waste to the soil regularly, rather than leaving the fertilization process up to the grazing livestock. For the first time industrial waste, such as ash from the soap-boilers, was collected in the cities and sold in the country as artificial fertilizer. The increased yield and price of land justified reclaiming and draining even more land.

随着消费者和工业对这种农业产品的需求增加，耕地变得越来越珍贵，人们对可耕地的利用强度越来越大，并且从湿地和湖泊中开垦了更多的耕地。为了增加已有土地的产量，农民们运用轮作特别是用动物排泄物来给土地进行周期性施肥而不是随意让牧区的牲畜来进行施肥。工业废料比如煮皂工的灰料和城市废料第一次被卖到城市作为人工肥料增加的产量和土地价格的上涨。产量和土地价格的上涨使得开垦和灌溉更多的土地变得合理化。

The Dutch battle against the sea is legendary. Noorderkwartier in Holland, with its numerous lakes and stretches of water, was particularly suitable for land reclamation and one of the biggest projects undertaken there was the draining of the Beemster lake which began in 1608. The richest merchants in Amsterdam contributed money to reclaim a good 7,100 hectares of land. Forty-three windmills powered the drainage pumps so that they were able to lease the reclamation to farmers as early as 1612, with the investors receiving annual leasing payments at an interest rate of 17 percent. Land reclamation continued, and between 1590 and 1665, almost 100,000 hectares were reclaimed from the wetland areas of Holland, Zeeland, and Friesland. However, land reclamation decreased significantly after the middle of the seventeenth century because the price of agricultural products began to fall, making land reclamation far less profitable in the second part of the century.

荷兰与海有着传奇般的斗争，由于它有为数众多的湖泊和临海区，特别适合开垦土地，其中完成的的最大的一个工程是 1608 年贝母斯特湖的疏浚。阿姆斯特丹最富有的商人们花钱来开垦这片 7100 倾的土地。早在 1612 年，四十三个风车推动着水泵灌溉土地以便把开垦地租给农民，而投资者每年接受租金的 17%作为利息。土地开垦一直在继续，在1590到1665年之间大约有十万公顷的土地从荷兰，泽兰和弗里斯兰的湿地中开垦出来。无论如何，土地开垦在十七世纪中叶大幅减少，因为农产品的价格开始回落，在十七世纪下半叶土地开垦的利润就不是那么丰厚了。

Dutch agriculture was finally affected by the general agricultural crisis in Europe during the last two decades of the seventeenth century. However, what is astonishing about this is not that Dutch agriculture was affected by critical phenomena such as a decrease in sales and production, but the fact that the crisis appeared only relatively late in Dutch agriculture. In Europe as a whole, the exceptional reduction in the population and the related fall in demand for grain since the beginning of the seventeenth century had caused the price of agricultural products to fall. Dutch peasants were able to remain unaffected by this crisis for a long time because they had specialized in dairy farming industrial crops, and horticulture. However, toward the end of the seventeenth century, they too were overtaken by the general agricultural crisis.

荷兰农业最后还是受到十七世纪最后两个十年欧洲主要农业危机的影响。不过令人惊讶的不是荷兰农业受到这些危机现象的影响而导致产量和销售量的降低，而是这些危机在荷兰农业中发生的相当晚。欧洲总体来讲，异常的人口减少和相应的对粮食需求的减少从十七世纪早期就开始了，并且会导致农产品价格的回落。荷兰农民能够在这种危机中保持长期不受影响是因为他们专注于乳制品和工业作物以及园艺的研究。无论如何，在十七世纪晚期，他们还是赶上了普遍的农业危机。