

IN 2016, THE GLOBAL AREAL LAND USE FOR AGRICULTURE COVERED 1.6 BILLION HECTARES — AN AREA ALMOST SIX TIMES AS LARGE AS IN 1600 AND TWO TIMES THE AREA OF 1900.

Agriculture, namely arable farming and grazing, is a major use of land: Half of the world’s habitable land is used for agriculture. The extensive land use has a major impact on the earth’s environment as it reduces wilderness and threatens biodiversity. According to the History Database of the Global Environment, for centuries the total amount of agricultural land was below 0.25 Billion hectares and mainly located in India and Europe, and China. Over the last few centuries, this has changed dramatically: wild habitats have been squeezed out by turning it into agricultural land, now covering more than six times of the area of agricultural land before 1600.

Data: History Database of the Global Environment (HYDE) via OurWorldInData.org | Visualization: Cédric Scherer | #30DayChartChallenge 2021 • Day 19: Global Change

