

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.

Visualization: Cédric Scherer

Data: History Database of the Global Environment (HYDE)

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 agri-

cultural 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.

