



# HARVEST

## 2050

### What age will you be in 2050?

Today the population of the world is 7 billion, but in 2050 it is expected to reach 9 billion. At global level, food production will have to double in order to feed 9 billion people. As there is little room to expand the world's production area, farmers will have to produce more food with fewer resources.

This means that farmers will need to farm more efficiently. The EU is helping its farmers to do this and to produce more by investing in technology and research. Food waste will also need to be reduced.

Let's take a look at the types of crops that are being grown around the EU.

1. Open the EU agriculture map to see some of the crops grown and harvested in your country or region.
  - a) Consider the type of land, farm and climate of your country or region. Can you suggest why these crops are grown and produced?
  - b) Can you name some well-known foodstuffs and products that are produced from the crops and livestock of your country or region? Think of products that use food production techniques that can be traced back over centuries and where methods have been handed down from generation to generation.





2. The average EU farmer has only 12 hectares of land, which is equivalent to about 20 football pitches. This compares with an average farm size of 64 hectares in Brazil, 180 hectares in the United States and more than 3 000 hectares in Australia. The EU's high percentage of relatively small, family-run farms means that our farmers need to farm efficiently in order to provide consumers with a secure supply of high-quality food. Farmers also often sell directly to consumers at farmers' markets. Why do you think this is so?

- a) Which locally grown crops and products would you expect to see at a farmers' market where you live?
- b) Which fruits and vegetables would you expect to be on sale this season?
- c) How do you think fruit and vegetable prices are determined? Why not take a trip to a local farmers' market to see if the farmers' answers match yours?

3. What do you think happens to crops and products that are not sold at a farmers' market?

It's important that we don't waste the food that has taken farmers so much time and energy to grow. What can you do to reduce food waste (at home or at school)? What about launching a '2050 harvest challenge' to reduce how much food is thrown away?



For more information on this topic, see the **worksheet** 'Take action on food waste!'

