



## POLLUTION IN AGRICULTURE

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### Introduction

Humans are in the world they are in today because of the advancement of farming and agricultural techniques. There would be famines everywhere if it weren't a vital survival mechanism. Agriculture was a natural process that did not damage the land it was carried out on for thousands of years. In actuality, farmers might continue to cultivate their land for many generations and it would remain fertile. However, the process of agricultural pollution has been initiated by contemporary agricultural methods. Due to the contemporary agricultural byproducts, this process degrades the environment, land, and ecosystem.

The pervasive agricultural pollution we currently deal with has no single cause. Crop and animal growth must be precisely balanced in agriculture, which is a difficult task. The several stages that they go through throughout growing are the cause of agricultural pollution.

### Agricultural Pollution Causes

- ❖ **Soil Erosion:** These two processes lead to further issues. Only the topmost layer of the soil, out of its many layers, is suitable for grazing or farming. This soil is exposed to erosion as a result of ineffective farming methods, which causes its fertility to decrease annually.
- ❖ **Livestock:** Farmers used to maintain as many animals as their land could sustain in the past. The pigs, chickens, lambs, cattle, and other animals were fed natural diets



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that were augmented with crop waste. Consequently, the animals also helped to maintain the health of the farm. Livestock is being raised in small spaces, fed artificial diets, and frequently transported to slaughterhouses. As a result, their emissions contribute to the process of agricultural contamination.

- ❖ **Weeds and Pests:** It is now common practice in agriculture to grow exotic crops while decreasing native species in a given area. But it's only contributing to the agricultural contamination process. The local population is forced to contend with new diseases, pests, and weeds that it cannot combat when new crops are introduced. The invading species therefore permanently change the ecosystem by destroying the native flora and fauna. This is particularly true of genetically modified foods, which can produce plant and animal species that can quickly exterminate the current species.

### **Agricultural pollution's effects:**

**Health Concerns:** The primary cause of pollution in lakes and water is agriculture. Pesticides and fertilizers release chemicals into groundwater, which then finds its way into drinking water. Because it contributes to blue baby syndrome, which kills infants, health issues could arise. Toxins, metals, degreasing chemicals, and oil from farm machinery can all harm human health when they end up in drinking water.