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# Agriculture Development New Stage, High-Quality Development

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## Abstract

With the increase of population and economic development of a country or a region, people consume more and more plant products and service. To meet increasing demand for the quantity and variety of plant products and service, 80% of the original forest has become man-made vegetation such as farmland, man-made forest, fruit, crop and grass. A lot of exotic food plant was introduced to produce more plant products and service. However, as crop plant grows, the plant resources relationship may change from equilibrium state to non-equilibrium state, leading to land degradation, decline of vegetation and the decline of plant yield and quality or resources waste. To solve this problem, saskatoon berries, red plum apricot and corn planted in semi-arid region of the Loess Plateau of China were taken as examples to study the plant resources relationship and the method of Agriculture High-quality production. The results shows that some plant such as Saskatoon berries will grow well and fruit, but another plant such as red plum apricot and corn cannot grow well and fruit. To realize the sustainable utilization of resources and the crop high-quality production, we should take effective measures to ensure plant growth well and get the goal of cultivation in the process of production. If the plant density is more than the vegetation carrying capacity in the critical period of plant resources relation regulation, the vegetation carrying capacity in the key period of plant resources relationship regulation has to be applied to adjust the plant resources relationship to obtain the maximum yield and benefit and realize crop high quality production. In water-limited regions, the theory of resource utilization limit by plant is the soil water resources utilization limit by plants and the carrying capacity of vegetation is soil water carrying capacity for vegetation.

- As population increases and economy develops, people consume more and more plant-based food.
- To meet increasing demand for the quantity and variety of crop production, it is better to use exotic or breeding plant and get maximum yield and benefit of Agriculture;
- As crop plant grows, the plant resources relationship may change and easily lead to land degradation, decline of vegetation and the decline of plant yield and quality by overloading or resources waste by underloading.
- we should take effective measures to ensure plant growth well in the process of production. If the plant density is more than the vegetation carrying capacity in the critical period of plant resources relation regulation, the vegetation carrying capacity in the key period of plant resources relationship regulation must be used to regulate the plant resources relation to get the maximum yield and service and realize sustainable utilization of resources and Agriculture High-quality production.

**Keywords:** Plant Production And Service; High Quality Production; Sustainable Supply; Resources Utilization Limit By Food Plant; Vegetation Carrying Capacity; Food Security



## Introduction

Plant-based human food products are considered to be more sustainable than animal-derived products (Wehrmaker et al. [1]). Green plants produce the production by Photosynthesis by which turns carbon dioxide and water into energy-rich organic matter while releasing oxygen. The photosynthesis mainly includes two stages of light reaction and dark reaction, involving light absorption, electron transfer, photophosphorylation, carbon assimilation and other important reaction steps, which is of great significance for realizing energy conversion in nature and maintaining carbon-oxygen balance in the atmosphere. Food plants produce food and so on and provide a guarantee for people's health, life and development because sometime food, fruits and vegetables were negatively associated with the incidence of colon cancer (Leenders et al., [2]) and positively related with health. For example, Citrus fruits are important health promoting fruits rich in bioactive components like limonoids, hesperetin, naringenin and citrus pectin. The anticancer properties were correlate with antioxidant enzyme rejuvenation, signaling pathway inhibition, inflammatory mediator suppression and cell cycle arrest (Kaur, [3]). Citrus fruits (CFs) containing flavanones exerted their antioxidant activity mainly by directly scavenging free radicals and enhancing the defense ability of cells (Singh, Singh, & Kaur, [4]). Grains and cereals are primary energy resources for human beings. Certain grains and cereals showed protective effects against colon cancer cells. Millet is an important cereal food and exhibits multiple biological activities, including immunomodulatory and antioxidant activities. A novel protein extracted from fox-

tail millet bran displayed anti-carcinogenic characteristics (Shan, et al, [5]). In addition, millet bran-derived bound polyphenols showed anti-inflammatory effects in LPS-induced HT-29 colon cancer cells via ROS/miR-149/Akt/NF- $\kappa$ B signaling pathway, indicating that the polyphenols might inhibit the initiation and progression of colorectal cancer (Shi, et al, [6]).

With the increase of population and economic development of a country or a region, people consume more and more plant-based food, there is an increasing demand for the quantity and variety of plant-based food production, but original forest ecosystem products and services cannot meet the need of demand for the quantity and variety of plant-based food production, most of the original forest has become food plants, farmland, man-made forest and grass (Guo 2121, Guo and Shao,[7]). A lot of exotic food plant was introduced to produce food and meet the need of the people. Because exotic food plant changes the plant resources relationship and the climate change with year and month in a year, which will cause vegetation decline or resources waste, and is not good for sustainable use of nature resources and high-quality produce of food plant. The high-quality development of agriculture is to take some measures and methods to make the land produce the maximum output and services to meet people's yearning for a better life and the needs of agricultural production services (Guo [8]). In order to solve these problems, the plant resources relationship has to be regulated to carrying out sustainable use of nature resources and agriculture high quality development.



**Figure 1:** The Location of Shanghuang eco-experiment station in China.

## Method and material

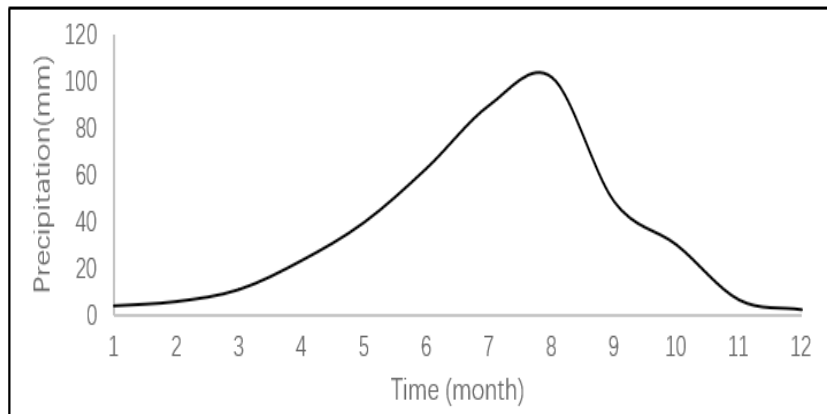
### Study site

The study site located in the Shanghuang Eco-experimental Station, which belong to the semi-arid region of the Loess Plateau, in the Eastern 20 Km from Guyuan County, China, see Figure 1. The area belong to the water-limited regions with an elevation range of 1,534 to 1,824 m and slope gradients of about 8° and the slope gradients below the valley shoulder line is more than 25°. The main soil type is Huangmian soil (Calcaric Cambisol, FAO 1988) that is

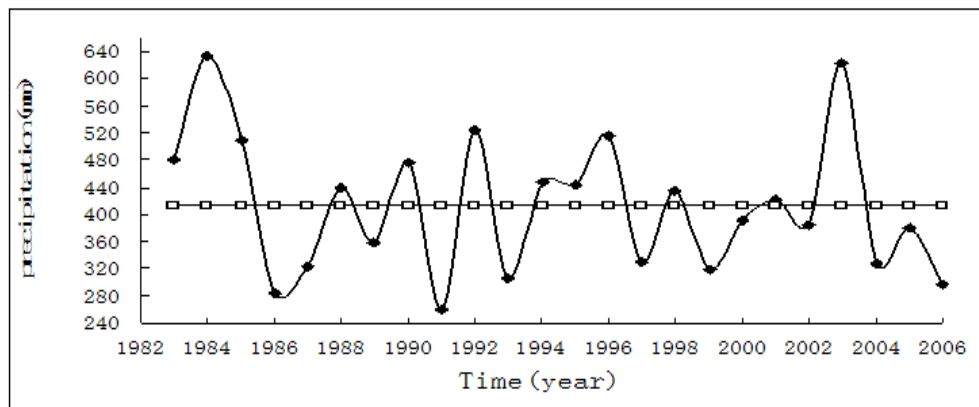
developed from loess and is susceptible to soil and water losses, which are serious in this region. The rainfall is unevenly distributed in the year with a mean annual precipitation of 416 mm, and rainfall from June to September accounts for 64.7 % of the total annual precipitation. The coefficient of variation of precipitation among the years from 1983 to 2001 was 23.8% and rainfall amounts ranged from 259.9 mm in 1991 to 634.7 mm in 1984, with a median rainfall amount of 434 mm, see Figure 2 and Figure 3. Mean solar radiation is 5,342 MJ m<sup>2</sup>; annual average temperature is 7.0°C. Plant growing period is 152 days. Groundwater level is more than 60 meters (Guo

and Shao [7]). Low temperature, frost and drought are the main disaster weather which influence sustainable produce of red plum apricot. Since red plum apricot introduced in 1988 from Shaanxi

province to the Shanghuang Eco-experimental Station, see Figure 1 and Figure 4.



**Figure 2:** The change of average monthly precipitation with month in a year in the Shanghuang Eco-experimental Station.



**Figure 3:** Change of Precipitation With Year in the Shanghuang Eco-Experimental Station.



**Figure 4:** Saskatoon Berries Grow Well in the Shanghuang Eco-experimental Station.

Because the precipitation is less, and the seasonal and interannual variations of precipitation are larger, soil dry often happens in the dry years, which will cause soil degradation, vegetation decline and corn failure, or waste of soil water resources because planting density is smaller than soil water carrying capacity for vegetation in wet years.

*Amelanchier alnifolia* Nutt (common names: Saskatoon berry) is a pome fruit-bearing shrub native to the North American prairies (Moyo [9]). First it is transferred to plant in Liaoning, China in 1997 and then be introduced to plant in Guyuan, China in 2008 because Saskatoon berries fruit are good sources of many bioactive phenolic components, such as flavonols, anthocyanins, procyanidins, and phenolic acids. As much as 382 mg/100 g based on fresh weight of anthocyanins, Anthocyanin- and flavonoid-rich foods have been demonstrated to have a beneficial protective function in combating certain cancers, inflammation and cardiovascular diseases, type II diabetes, obesity, and age-related macular degeneration, see Figure 4.

Red plum apricot tree is a fruit tree and grows well. The shape of red plum apricot fruit is about round and looks beautiful, see Figure 2. The fruit weight of red plum apricot per single fruit weight is about 40 -56 g. The apricot is rich in juice, soluble solids content (14.3%), potassium (410.8 mg per 100 g), selenium and Vc (8.3 mg per 100 g) (Gang et al, [10]). The potassium content of red plum apricot is higher than that of apple (*Malus pumila* Mill), pear (*Pyrus bretschneideri* Rehd), peach (*Amygdalus persica* L) and grape (*Vitis vinifera* L), see Figure 5.

## Station

Corn is a native to Central and South America and now It is now grown all over the world. Corn contains rich vitamin, which are five times more vitamin for rice, wheat, which has the highest percentage of the content of vitamin A, every one hundred grams 63 micrograms of content, and the researchers point out that vitamin A is very beneficial to people's eyes. A nutritional factor, corn, with its powerful antioxidant to protect vision effect, and absorb harmful to the eyes of the useless components. Corn prevent obesity and constipation corn contains rich plant cellulose is not easy to be absorbed by the body, it can stimulate gastrointestinal peristalsis, promote fecal excretion. Corn can restrict the absorption of excessive sugar in the body, inhibit the increase of blood sugar in the body after dinner; Fiber can also inhibit fat absorption. Corn can help people prevent obesity, but also can help people lose weight, to achieve the effect of beauty and thin body. One of the nutrients in corn is niacin, which plays an important role in the metabolism of fat and sugar and helps us maintain a healthy digestive system and healthy skin. Corn can prevent heart disease and cancer in the corn in addition to contain carbohydrates, carotene these common elements, it also contains vitamins and riboflavin, and nutritional factors contained in the corn, absorbed by the body and then transformed into has anti-cancer effects of vitamin, corn and rich plant fiber, it can make effective discharge carcinogens and other poisons, it also has the effect of stimulating the brain to enhance one's brain power and memory. In addition, selenium and magnesium contained in corn also have good anti-cancer effects. They can accelerate the decom-

position of peroxides in the body, which can inhibit the growth and division of cancer cells, so that cancer cells are inhibited, and can also promote the discharge of waste in the body, which is also good for cancer prevention, see fig.6. The soil water and plant growth was investigate in the period from 2002 to 2020.

## Result and Discussion

### Resources use limit by plants

Because Nature Resources is limit, the amount plant use resources also are limit, the limit calls the resources use limit by plants (Guo [11]). It includes the space Resources use limit by plants in soil water and nutrient enough regions, soil water Resources use limit by plants in water limited regions and soil nutrient Resources use limit by plants in soil nutrient limited regions (Guo [11-15]). One of the indicators to express the harmony degree of plant resources relationship is the resources use limit by plants. The plant resources relationship is the dynamics relationship. Plant growth changes greatly with the supply of resources as plant grow. There is an equilibrium point. At the equilibrium point, the supply of resources is equal to the demand of resources plant grow. The supply of resources is more than the demand of plant growth resources in resources rich period or year. According to the amplitude of the plant resources relationship, edible plants can be divided into two types: native plants and exotic plants. Because goods and services that native plant production cannot meet the peoples need, so most of old-growth vegetation was changed into man-made vegetation, edible plant belongs to exotic plants.

Exotic plants are those plants they are introduced from other places whether intentionally or introduced nointentionally. The intentional is often called introduction but introduced nointentionally called invasive species. Because some exotic plants have good ability to adapt themselves to the local environment, these plants do not need to regulate edible plant and resources relationship, such as *Amelanchier alnifolia* Nutt planted in the semiarid loess hilly region of China. Red plum apricot and corn all is not native to the semiarid loess hilly region of China. After being introducing to the semiarid loess hilly region of China, the *Amelanchier alnifolia* plant grow fast and well and fast bear fruit. But, Corn in the semiarid loess hilly region of China (Guyuan, China) cannot adapt themselves to the dry environment. In the study site, corn should be sowed in April and mature in September. The plant resources relationship should be regulated according to resources use limit by plant and vegetation carry capacity. For example, the resources use limit by plants in the Shanghuang Eco-experimental Station is soil water resources use limit by plant because the station belong to water-limited regions. The soil water resources use limit by plant is soil water storage in the maximum infiltration depth when the soil moisture content of all layers within the maximum infiltration depth range is equal to the withering coefficient (Guo [14-17]). The Use Limit of Soil Water Resources by red plum apricot see Table 1. When soil water resources in the maximum infiltration depth is equal to soil water resources use limit by plant, the plant water relationship enters the key period of plant water relationship regulation and should consider be regulated (Guo 2021).

**Table 1:** The Use Limit of Soil Water Resources by red plum apricot.

Soil Depth(cm)	Representative Soil layer (cm)	Wilting Coefficient (%)	Unavailable Soil Water storage (mm)
0	0-10	7.98	7.98
20	30-Oct	7.48	14.96
40	30-60	7.59	22.77
80	60-100	7.72	30.88
120	100-140	6.68	26.72
160	140-180	7.51	30.04
200	180-220	7.41	29.64
240	220-290	7.1	49.7
Use Limit of Soil Water Resources by plants	0-290		212.7

### Vegetation Carrying Capacity

Carrying capacity of land resources for Vegetation is a measure of whether a plant community is using land resources sustainably and healthy growth. Nature Resources is limit to plant and the resources plant use also is limit. Another indicator to express the harmony degree of plant resources relationship is vegetation carrying capacity, which decided the quantity of plant resources relationship regulation. Vegetation carrying capacity is the ability of land resources to support vegetation, which can be defined as the maximum density (relative index) or population number (absolute index) of an indicator plant that land resources can support normal plant growth in a plant community.

According to the influence of land resources on plant growth, vegetation carrying capacity includes spatial vegetation carrying capacity, soil water vegetation carrying capacity, and soil nutrient vegetation carrying capacity. Spatial vegetation carrying capacity is the ability of spatial resources to support vegetation in the soil water and soil nutrient rich regions. Soil water vegetation carrying capacity is the ability of soil water resources to support vegetation in the water limited region. Soil water resources are the water stored in the soil, especially in root zone and the critical period of plant water relationship regulation. Soil water vegetation carrying capacity is the plant density when soil water supply is equal to soil water consumption in a given period, especially the key period of plant resources relationship regulation. Soil nutrient carrying capacity is limited by soil nutrient resources, and soil water carrying capacity is limited by soil water resources. Soil nutrient carrying capacity can be divided further into soil N carrying capacity, which is driven by soil N storage or resources, soil phosphorus (P) carrying capacity, which is driven by soil P storage or resources, and soil potassium (K) carrying capacity, which is driven by soil K storage or resources (Guo [11]). Temperature vegetation carrying capacity is the ability of temperature resources to support vegetation.

Vegetation Carrying Capacity is the maximum density (relative index) or population size (absolute index) of an indicator plant in a plant community when the soil water consumption equal soil water supply in the root zone soil over a given time scale, especially critical period of plant-water relationship regulation and minimum

death days because they decide the maximum yield and beneficial effect. minimum death days in which the relationship between soil water and plant growth decided plant growth condition during whole season and the maximal produce and service of a plant ecosystem in water-limited regions. The plant resources relation has to be regulated on Vegetation Carrying Capacity. The plant water relation has to be regulated on the Soil Water Vegetation Carrying Capacity in the site because the station belongs to water limited regions, otherwise, soil water drought would cause soil degradation, vegetation decline, or crop failure in water resources rich year or waste in water resources rich years (Guo et al, [18]; Guo and Shao [19, 20]; Guo [17, 21]).

Soil water vegetation carrying capacity is limited in water shortage area, which is called soil water carrying capacity for vegetation (Guo et al,2002,). It is the ability of soil water resources to support the vegetation (Guo et al, [18] Guo & Shao, [19, 20, 16, 7] Guo [10, 22, 10, 17, 14, 15]) or irrigation was used to add water to meet the need of plant water in water limited regions if there are water resources to make corn grow well in dry year to obtain maximum yield and beneficial result.

Soil water vegetation carrying capacity is the maximum quantity or plant density soil water resources per unit area can maintain healthy growth of indicator plants at a given period and site condition (Guo & Shao [5]) and can be estimated by soil water-lant density model (Guo [17, 14]), expressed by the number (absolute index) or density (relative index) of indicator plant in the plant community. Soil water vegetation carrying capacity, changing with plant species (vegetation type), time and location, is the theoretical basis for determining indicators and criteria for high quality and sustainable management of forest vegetation (Guo, [17, 14]).

### The Critical Period Of Plant Resources Relationship Regulation

Edible plant and resources relationship can be divided into two kinds, one is the dynamic balance or harmony relationship such as native plants in original vegetation. Because the plant resources relationship is developed on the basis of long-term evolution and plant have certain self-regulation ability and can self-regulate the

relationship with nature. Even if the ecological environment changes to some extent within the limit of plant use resources during the season growth of plants, especially in the critical period of plant resources relationship regulation as long as the available resources do not exceed the limit of the use of resources by plants, or the plants can adjust themselves to adapt to the changes, the plants will

blossom and bear fruit, see Figure 4. This kind of plant resource relationship cannot be regulated. Another is not balance or harmony plant resource relationship such as most of exotic plants, see Figure 5 and Figure 6. These kinds of plant resources relationship has to be regulated.



**Figure 5** The shape of red plum Apricot in the Shanghuang Eco-experimental Station.



**Figure 6:** Mulch and ridge tillage corn plants wilt in critical period of plant water relationship regulation in the Shanghuang Eco-experimental Station in 2021.

The critical period of plant water relationship regulation is the most important period in plant growing season because it decides the maximum yield and benefit food plant, which range from the starting time soil water resources in the maximum infiltration depth equal soil water resources use limit by plant (Guo and Li 2009) to the failure time to regulate plant water relationship on soil water vegetation carrying capacity. The soil water resources in the critical period of plant water relation regulation are the soil water resources in the root zone at the starting time of the critical period of plant water relation regulation plus soil water supply from

precipitation through canopy in the critical period of plant water relation regulation (Guo [14, 15]).

### High Quality Production of Vegetation

In order to obtain maximum yield of food plant and realize high quality production of food plant and high quality and sustainable development of social economy, it is time to adjust plant resources relationship regulation on the limit of resources utilization by plant and the vegetation carrying capacity to obtain the maximum yield and benefit of food plant and meet sustainable supply of plant-based

foods in market, when the resources lack duration is more than the critical period of plant resources relationship regulation and the preserve plant density in the critical period of plant resources relationship regulation is more than vegetation carrying capacity, the plant resources relationship regulation must be adjusted.

The critical period of plant resources relationship regulation includes the critical period of plant space resources relationship regulation in soil water and soil nutrient rich regions; the critical period of plant water relationship regulation in soil water-limited regions and the critical period of plant soil nutrient relationship regulation in soil nutrient limited regions. The soil water vegetation carrying capacity in the critical period of plant water relation regulation, which is the ability of soil water resources in the critical period of plant water relation regulation to support vegetation. The reducing amount of plant is equal to preserve density minus soil water vegetation carry capacity denoted by the number or density of a population of indicative plants. For example, the station belongs to the semi-arid Loess Hilly region, which belong to the water-limited regions, the limit theory of resource utilization by plant is the soil water resources utilization limit by plants and the carrying capacity of vegetation is soil water vegetation carrying capacity because soil water mainly come from precipitation and underwater is deep and there is not irrigation condition.

According to three years study of red plum apricot from 2017 to 2021 in the station, the factors influencing the high quality production of red plum apricot is the low temperature and frost happened in the early spring from the last ten days of March to the middle ten days of April, which influences the development of flowers, pollination and young fruit of red plum apricot, heart-eating insects influences the young fruit development of red plum apricot when the young fruit of red plum apricot grows to 0.8 ~ 1.0 cm in diameter on the around May 20, and soil dry. When the soil water resources in the maximum infiltration depth reduced to Soil Water Resources use limit by red plum apricot, the plant water relationship should be considered regulate. When the leaf amount is more than the suitable leaf amount when present density is equal to soil water vegetation carrying capacity in the critical period of plant water relationship regulation, showing that soil water severely influences plant growth. At this time, plant resources relation has to be regulated on the suitable amount of leaves, which is the amount of leaves when the present density is equal to the soil water vegetation carrying capacity. for example in the red plum apricot because plant water relation generally should be regulated by pruning some branch and leave quantity instead of cutting some plant and then regulate the fruit and leave relation because the power of leave to produce carbohydrate is limit.

## Discussion

Agricultural development has gone through a long process. Now there are different concepts of agriculture, such as ecological agriculture, organic agriculture, smart agriculture and data agriculture. According to the efficiency of resource utilization by plants, the agricultural development process can be divided into three stages: Low level development stage or primitive agriculture, Level improvement stage and high-quality development new stage.

At Low level development stage or primitive agriculture, people pick up wild fruits and rely on nature for a living; at the Level improvement stage, people select or cultivate better plant species, weeding, application of fertilizer and irrigation to increase food kinds, improving quality and amount of food. The turning point from the low level of development to the level of improvement is plant domestication and animal introduction domestication, the development of gathering economy to planting economy, and high-quality development new stage. At the high-quality development new stage, people take effective measures to get the maximum yield and benefit. The turning point from the level of improvement to high-quality development new stage is the overapplication of chemical fertilizer and the overuse of pesticides in the production process, which is not ensure agriculture high yield and benefit but easily cause environment and healthy problem.

Because the indicate plant in original vegetation is dominate species, especially constructive species, the uppermost dominant species, which is native to the local region because for a long time they have developed a good relationship with the local condition, plant resources relationship is very harmony and plant grow well and bear fruit but the goods and service cannot meet people's need, so a lot of original vegetation has been changed into non-native plantation such as Saskatoon berries in the semiarid region, China, they grow and develop well, suitable for local climate, easy to develop. But another plant, such as corn and red plum apricot, they are not suited to the local climate and need to regulate plant resource relationships. So, in order to carry out sustainable use of natural resources and Agriculture high quality production, we have to select better species or varieties because better species or varieties influence the yield and quality, take the suitable Initial planting density because it is easier to reduce the plant density in the process of plant growth and use the natural resources in sustainable way. If there are plants that are overusing natural resources because the plant density exceeds the vegetation capacity or underuse natural resources, the plant resources relation should be regulated by the natural resources use limit by plants increases and vegetation carrying capacity, especially the vegetation carrying capacity in the critical period of plant resources relation regulation if the available resources decrease to the limit of resource utilization by plant, which is the function of plant species and location (Guo [17],2021). If available natural resources are smaller than the natural resources use limit by plants, the plant resources relationship enters the critical period of plant resources relation regulation, and the ending time of the critical period of plant resources relation regulation is the ineffective time of plant resources relation regulation. The vegetation carrying capacity is the ability of nature resources to carry vegetation, which changes with plant species, time and location (Guo [17, 13]). We should take effective measures, such as weeding, fertilizing and irrigation (if having water resources) to ensure plant growth well in the process of production. If the plant density is more than the vegetation carrying capacity in the critical period of plant resources relation regulation, showing that the plant resources relationship should be regulated, otherwise the further increase of natural resources used by plant will lead to the decline of vegetation and the decline of grain yield and quality (Guo et al, [18]; Guo & Shao [19, 20, 16, 7] Guo [17]; [13-15]). Because of the

large agricultural area and the increasing population, which has exceeded 8 billion at present, different regions have different crops suitable for growth, so it is necessary to strengthen the research on high-quality agricultural production to meet people's needs for a better life and crop types, yields and quality [23-27].

## Conclusion

The agricultural development process can be divided into three stages: Low level development stage, primitive agriculture, At this development: people pick up wild fruits and rely on nature for a living [28-30]. Level improvement stage, the turning point: plant domestication and animal introduction domestication, the development of gathering economy to planting economy, and high-quality development new stage. The high-quality development of agriculture is to take some measures and methods to make the land produce the maximum output and services to meet people's yearning for a better life and the needs of agricultural production services (Guo 2022). For the health of the people and food security, based on the theories of the limit of resource utilization by plants, vegetation carrying capacity and the critical period of plant resource relationship regulation, we should select better species or varieties, select the suitable Initial planting density and take effective measures, such as weeding, fertilizing and irrigation to improve the plant growth condition and ensure plant growth well in the process of production and then get the cultivation goal [31-33]. If the plant density is more than the vegetation carrying capacity in the critical period of plant resources relation regulation, the vegetation carrying capacity in the critical period of plant water relationship regulation should be made to obtain maximum yield and service and carry out sustainable use of soil water resources and Agriculture high quality development in water-limited regions. For economic species or crops, we should regulate the relationship between vegetative growth and reproductive growth according to Suitable leaf amount, the leaf amount when the plant density is equal to vegetation carrying capacity, and the relationship between the leaves and the number of fruits that meet the market demand. Because of the large population, large agricultural area and large quantity of crops, research on high-quality agricultural production needs to be strengthened to meet people's needs for crop types, yields and quality for a better life

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## Additional Information

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There are no competing financial interests

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