

From the field to the educational institution

The transition to the modern agricultural world

The pressure to innovate in agriculture increased in the 19th century due to a shortage of labour and the simultaneous increase in food demand. Agriculture, which had historically been characterised by high personnel and time costs as well as great physical strain, found new ways forward thanks to technical progress and scientific discoveries: Equipment that was originally powered by muscle power, such as grain mills, could be fitted with motors, and new machines such as potato harvesters increased work efficiency. Probably the most significant agricultural innovation was the tractor, which had been used on German fields since the 1930s and became widespread in the 1950s.

After the subject of 'machine technology' had been offered in the curriculum of many agricultural schools since 1928, educational institutions specialising in modern agricultural technology were established after 1945. They initiated technical developments that culminated in highly automated systems such as self-propelled combine harvesters and fully automatic milking parlours. Today, with the development of artificial intelligence, agriculture is once again facing a revolutionary structural change.

Fun fact

Heinrich Lanz AG presented the first German tractor, the 'HL 12', in 1921. As the 12 hp farm tractor resembled a bulldog in appearance, subsequent models were given the name 'Lanz-Bulldog' until 1957. In many regions of Germany, tractors are therefore still referred to as 'Bulldogs' today.