

# Advances in Sustainable Utilization of Natural Resources and Agriculture High Quality Development

Zhongsheng Guo<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Northwestern A&F University, Yangling, China, China

<sup>2</sup>Institute of Soil and Water Conservation, Chinese Academy of Sciences and Ministry of Water Resources. Yangling, China, China 26#, Xinong Road, Yangling, Shaanxi Province 712100

\*Corresponding author: Zhongsheng Guo, Northwestern A&F University, Yangling, China, China.

Submitted: 06 September 2025 Accepted: 11 September 2025 Published: 20 September 2025

doi <https://doi.org/10.63620/MKJESIEB.2025>.

Citation: Guo, Z. (2025). *Advances in Sustainable Utilization of Natural Resources and Agriculture High Quality Development*, 1(1), 01-05.

## Abstract

Recently, economic and social development in China have entered new stage of high-quality development, so, China put forward high-quality development. So, agriculture development had also entered the new stage of high-quality development. In order to solve the over application of nature resources, chemical fertilizer and spoiled use of pesticides and so on, the use of natural resources has entered the new stage of sustainable utilization of natural resources and Agriculture high quality development. Agriculture high quality development 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 agricultural production services. The theoretical foundations of Agriculture high quality development is the resources use limit by plants, vegetation carrying capacity and critical period of plant resources relationship regulation, which includes space resources use limit by plants, space vegetation carrying capacity and the critical period of plant space resources relationship regulation in soil water and soil nutrient rich regions; soil water resources use limit by plants and soil water vegetation carrying capacity and critical period of plant water relationship regulation in water limited regions, and the soil nutrient resources use limit by plants and soil nutrient vegetation carrying capacity and critical period of plant nutrient relationship regulation. The methods of Agriculture high quality development are to select the best species or variety, determine the suitable initial plant density, and regulate the plant resources relationship in the process of plant growth to make plant grow well and get the maximum yield and benefits to realize the sustainable use of natural resources and the high-quality development of agriculture. In the future, we must strengthen the basic research of agriculture and select the best species or variety, determine the resources use limits by plants, the vegetation carrying capacity and the critical period of the adjustment of plant resource relations in different sites, and then take effective measures to get the maximum yield and benefits to realize the sustainable utilization of natural resources and the high-quality development of agriculture.

**Keywords:** High Quality Development; Resources use Limit by Plants, Vegetation Carrying Capacity; Critical Period of Plant Resources Relationship Regulation; Maximum Yield and Benefits; Sustainable Utilization of Natural Resources; New Quality Productivity.

## Introduction

Agriculture is the foundation of high-quality development. And Agricultural development has gone through a long process. According to the efficiency of resources plants use, Agricultural development can be divided into three stages, original agriculture stage, yield and quality increasing stage and Agriculture high quality development. In the first stage of agricultural development, that is, the primitive agricultural stage, the population is

small, living by picking wild fruits, and the utilization rate of resources is low.

The second stage of Agriculture development is the yield and quality increasing stage. The turning point of original Agriculture stage into the yield and quality increasing stage is the domestication of wild plant and breeding for high yield and better quality. In the yield and quality increasing stage, because the

production and service made by native vegetation cannot meet the need of people, so most of old forest become into non-native vegetation, such as forest, grass, fruit and crops.

At this stage, people cultivate and use better plant species or varieties, apply chemical fertilizer and pesticide and irrigate and so on to increase the plants yield and quality. Due to a large number of excellent plant species or varieties in the production and cultivation process of artificial vegetation, there are unscientific phenomena such as over application of chemical fertilizer and spoiled use of pesticides, which are prone to overload leading to soil degradation, vegetation decay and crop failure or under-loading, leading to resource waste and environmental pollution, which influence the quality and the quantity of Agricultural production and service, and cannot obtain maximum yield and benefits and meet people's yearning for a better life and agricultural product. So, the Agriculture development enters the new stage of high-quality production [1]. 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 [1].

However, because crop land change alters the plant resources relationship, easily resulting in soil and vegetation degradation and crop failure because of overload, or resources waste because of low load, both are unfavorable for the sustainable utilization of nature resources and crops high-quality production. Therefore, it is necessary to select excellent species or varieties according to the site condition and the market need, adopt appropriate initial planting density, and take effective measures, such as weeding, fertilizing and watering and so on to regulating the relationships between plant growth and resources supply and consume in the process of crop production to obtain the maximum yield and benefits and realize the sustainable utilization of natural resources and achieve high quality agricultural production.

### **The Theoretical Foundations of Sustainable Utilization of Natural Resources and Agriculture High Quality Development**

The theoretical foundations of Agriculture high quality development include resources use limit by plants, vegetation carrying capacity and the critical period of plant resources relationship regulation, which includes the spaces resources use limit by plants and spaces vegetation carrying capacity and critical period of plant space relationship regulation in soil water and soil nutrient enough regions; soil nutrient resources use limit by plants and soil nutrient vegetation carrying capacity critical period of plant nutrient resources relationship regulation in nutrient limited regions and the soil water resources use limit by plants (SWRULP) and soil water vegetation carrying capacity (SWVCC) and the critical period of plant resources relationship regulation in water limited regions. The critical period of plant resources relationship regulation is the critical period of plant water relationship regulation in water limited regions. Because the main factors affecting plant growth are different in different regions. The theory foundation of Agriculture high quality development is the resources use limit by plants, vegetation carrying capacity and critical period of plant resources relationship regulation,

The details are as following:

### **Resources Use Limit by Plants**

Nature resources are the foundation of Agriculture high-quality development. Because Nature resources are limit, so, Nature resources plant use is limit. The limit is the Resources use limit by plants. The important Nature resources that influence plant grow is different in different regions. For example, in the water-limited region is the most important nature resources influence plant grow in the water limited region is soil water resources, So, resources use limit by plants in water-limited regions is soil water resources use limit by plants [1-3]. Briggs and Shantz (1912) emphasized the importance of the wilting coefficient. Richards and Weaver (1943) observed that soil water potential at wilting ranged from  $-0.1 \times 10^6$  to  $-0.2 \times 10^6$  MPa, with an average of approximately  $-0.15 \times 10^6$  MPa (15 bar). oil water resources proposed by Budagovski in 1985 [4], is a good resource. The resources use limit by plants is the soil water resources in the maximum infiltration depth (MID) when the soil water content in every soil layer equal to wilting coefficient, which changes with vegetation type and site condition. For example, the precipitation changes and the infiltration depth change with time in the Red Plum Apricot Orchard in semi-arid loess hilly region (Guyuan, China).

Therefore, the water content at  $-0.15 \times 10^6$  MPa is the point at which soil moisture usually becomes limited severely [5]. The wilting coefficient is equal to the soil water content when soil water suction is equal to 15 Ba because the wilting coefficient changed with plant species with a range from 10 Ba to 20 Ba, we often use soil water content when soil water suction is equal to 15 Ba to express the wilting coefficient of indicate plant in a plant community, which change with soil depth.

### **Vegetation Carrying Capacity**

Vegetation carrying capacity (VCC) is the ability of land resources to support vegetation, which was expressed by the population or density of indicator plants in a plant community and changes with vegetation type, time (climate change) and site condition [1-10]. Vegetation carrying capacity includes spaces vegetation carrying capacity in soil water and nutrient rich regions, soil nutrient vegetation carrying capacity and soil water vegetation carrying capacity (SWVCC) [1-14]. Because the most important nature resources influence plant growth in the water limited region is soil water resources, so, vegetation carrying capacity in the water limited region is soil water vegetation carrying capacity.

**The Critical Period of Plant Resources Relationship Regulation**  
The plant resources relation change with plant growth. When the plant is small, the plant available resources in crown or root are smaller than the resources use limit by plants, the plant resources relation is good and plant grow well. If the plant available resources in crown or root are equal to the resources use limit by plants, the plant resources relation enters the critical period of plant soil relationship regulation. The ending time of the critical period of plant resources relationship regulation is the ineffective time of regulating plant resources relation. The critical period of plant resources relationship regulation includes critical period of plant space relationship regulation in soil water and soil nutrient enough regions, the critical period of plant nutrient

resources relationship regulation in nutrient limited regions and the critical period of plant resources relationship regulation in water limited regions.

For example, in water limited regions, the soil water resources are the most important resources influencing plant growth. the critical period of plant resources relationship regulation in water limited regions is the critical period of plant water relationship regulation in water limited regions in semiarid loess hilly region. The ending time of red plum apricot is stop expanding on 15 July, So the ending time of the critical period of plant resources relationship regulation for the red plum apricot is the 15 July. The critical period of plant resources relationship regulation for the caragana shrub in semiarid loess hilly region is the end of September because caragana shrub is soil and water conservation forest, which stop serving as conserving soil and water in the raining period. Because the main factors affecting plant growth are different in different regions.

If the soil water resources in the MID in the critical period of plant soil relationship regulation soil water resources is lower than the SWRULP, the plant water relation enters the critical period of plant soil relationship regulation (CPPSRR) [1-14]. The ending time of CPPSRR is the ineffective time of plant soil relationship regulation. The relationship between plant density and soil water supply and soil water consumption in the critical period of plant soil relationship regulation in caragana shrubland of semi-arid loess hilly region (Guyuan, China), see fig.4. If present plant density is more than SWVCC in the critical period of plant soil relationship regulation, plant water relationship has to be regulated based on SWVCC to get the maximum yield and service. For fruit trees or crops, the relationship between vegetative growth and reproductive growth should be reregulated according to the suitable leaf when the present plant density in the critical period of plant resource relationship regulation is equal to the vegetation carrying capacity, and the leaf and fine fruit relationship to obtain the maximum yield and benefits.

### **The Method of Agriculture High Quality Production**

To realize Agriculture high quality development, we must make Agriculture high quality production and get the maximum yield and benefit. The basic methods of Agriculture high quality production as following:

#### **Selection of Better Species or Varieties**

First, we must select better species or varieties according to the site condition and market need because better species or varieties influence the yield, quality and economic effect and market influence the marketing of production. For example, in semiarid loess hilly region, after a couple of years research, the red plum apricot has been selected as the better species and promoted in large scale [15] See Fig.5. According to the market investigation in the 29th China Yangling Agricultural High-tech Achievements Expo, the fine apple cultivated by Luochuan fruit farmers is the fine apple with the diameter equal to or more than 90 cm. It is a good apple but it is a little bigger, one cannot eat an apple one time, so it is little big more and one cannot eat an apple a time, 85 apple is good, see figure.6. According to a survey conducted in Yilong, Sichuan, China in 2024, the standard of prickly ash is different in Taiwan, Macau and Hongkong. We should take effect measure to produce different quality production and meet

the need of different market.

### **Suitable Initial Planting Density**

Initial planting density is most important, which influence the yield and benefits, so we must take the suitable initial planting density. The suitable initial planting density is equal or more than vegetation carrying capacity because it is easier to reduce the plant density in the process of plant growth and use the natural resources in sustainable way. For example, in semiarid loess hilly region, the suitable initial planting density of caragana is 6500 trees per 100 m<sup>2</sup>, and the sowing seed is 1.5 kg per 100 m<sup>2</sup>. As for one year plant, such as pepper, we can estimate the suitable Initial planting density according to the crown area per one standard plant with big fruit. The standard plant is a good plant with a maximum crown, yield and beneficial effect.

### **Take Effective Measure to Get Cultivated Goal**

Since weeds, fertilizer and water affect the growth environment of plants, and then affect plant growth. Only plant grow well, we can get the quality fruit, expected nutrient, yield and service. So, we must take effective measures such as weeding, fertilization according to the appropriate amount of fertilizer, which including fertilizing time, method and appropriate amount of fertilizer is the plant utilization when plant density is equal to vegetation carry capacity, appropriate amount of irrigation according to the water requirement of plants when plant density is equal to vegetation carry capacity and promote plant growth to get maximum yield and benefit to carry out cultivated goal. If available resources in crown layer in water and nutrient rich regions or root zone in water-limited regions or nutrient limited regions decrease to the limit of resource utilization by plant, the plant water relation enters the critical period of plant resources relation regulation.

If the plant density exceeds the vegetation carrying capacity in the critical period of plant resources relation regulation, the plant resources relation should be regulated according to vegetation carrying capacity in the critical period of plant resources relation regulation [10-13]. 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 and get the cultivated goal. The cultivated goal is the need of market for production. if the production does not meet the need, you cannot get the benefit. 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 [1-17].

### **Conclusion**

Agriculture development has entered the new stage of Sustainable utilization of natural resources and Agriculture high-quality development. The agriculture high quality development 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 and services. The theory foundation of Agriculture high quality development is the resources use limit by plants, vegetation carrying capacity and critical period of plant resources relationship regulation, which includes space resources use limit by plants, space veg-

etation carrying capacity and the critical period of plant space resources relationship regulation, soil water resources use limit by plants and soil water vegetation carrying capacity and critical period of plant water relationship regulation, and the soil nutrient resources use limit by plants and soil nutrient vegetation carrying capacity and critical period of plant nutrient relationship regulation.

The methods of Agriculture high quality development are to select better species or varieties, and take suitable initially planting density and effective measures to ensure plant growth well in the process of production and get the cultivated goal. From now, we must strengthen the basic research of agriculture, determine the utilization limits of plant resources, the carrying capacity of vegetation and the critical period of the adjustment of plant resource relations in different sites and different plant species, and then take the method of Agriculture high quality production, select the best plant species or varieties, take suitable initially plant density and effective measures to ensure plant grow well and get the maximize the yield and benefits to realize the sustainable utilization of natural resources and the high-quality development of agriculture. Because of the large agricultural area and the increasing population, which has exceeded 8.2 billion at present, different regions have different crops species or varieties suitable for growth, so it is necessary to research the theories and methods of agricultural high-quality development in different region to meet people's needs for a better life and crop types, yields and quality [18-21].

Now, I am leading the "innovation China", agricultural high-quality production and industrial service group [22]. I will plan to establish 100 agricultural high-quality development demonstration zone to study, widely publicize and promote the new theories of the agriculture high-quality development, the theories of resource utilization limit, vegetation carrying capacity theory and the critical period theory of plant resource relationship regulation and take effective methods or measures of Sustainable utilization of natural resources and agriculture high-quality development to serve food security, people's healthy, rural revitalization and the construction of beautiful and strong agricultural China [23, 24].

### Acknowledgements

This project is supported by the National Science Foundation of China (No: 42077079, 41271539□41071193).

### References

- Guo, Z. (2022). Agriculture high-quality development. Encyclopedic Forum in Chinese, (01), 64–66. <https://sns.wanfangdata.com.cn/sns/perio/bklttdzz/?tabId=article&publishYear=2022&issueNum=10&isSync=0&page=3>
- Guo, Z. S. (2023). Agriculture high-quality development in semiarid Loess hilly regions. *Journal of Advanced Agronomy and Crop Science*, 2(1), 1–16.
- Guo, Z. S. (2025). "Innovation China" agricultural high-quality production industry service group. *Chinese Scientific and Technological Achievements*. <https://doi.org/10.3772/j.issn.1009-5659.2025.04.003>
- Budagovski, A. I. (1985). Soil water resources and water supplies of plant cover. *Vodnye Resursy*, 4, 3–13.
- Parchami-Araghi, F., Parchami-Araghi, S. M., Mirlatifi, S. G., Dashtaki, M. H., & Mahdian, M. (2013). Point estimation of soil water infiltration process using artificial neural networks for some calcareous soils. *Journal of Hydrology*, 481, 35–47.
- Guo, Z., Shao, M., Zhang, Y., & Wu, Q. (2002). A layer-dividing approach to the soil water in forest land. In M. Shao (Ed.), *Proceedings of Soil Physics and Ecological Environmental Construction* (pp. 74–79). Xi'an: Shanxi Science and Technology Press. <http://ir.igsnr.ac.cn/handle/311030/4789>
- Guo, Z. S., & Shao, M. A. (2003). Carrying capacity of soil water for vegetation in the Loess Plateau. In *Water-saving agriculture and sustainable use of water and land resources* (pp. 704–711). Xi'an: Shaanxi Science and Technology Press.
- Guo, Z. S. (2004). Vegetation carrying capacity for soil water in a semi-arid region of Loess Hilly in the Loess Plateau (Doctoral dissertation). Northwest Sci-Tech University of Agriculture and Forestry.
- Guo, Z. S. (2010). Soil water resource use limit in semi-arid Loess hilly area. *Chinese Journal of Applied Ecology*, 21, 3029–3035.
- Guo, Z. S. (2014). Theory and practice of soil water carrying capacity for vegetation. Beijing: Chinese Science Press.
- Guo, Z. S., & Shao, M. A. (2013). Impact of afforestation density on soil and water conservation of the semi-arid Loess Plateau, China. *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*, 58(5), 401–410.
- Guo, Z. (2019). Rice carrying capacity and sustainable produce of rice in resource-limited regions. *International Journal of Agricultural Science & Food Technology*, 5(1), 54–57. <https://doi.org/10.17352/2455-815X.000042>
- Guo, Z. S. (2021). Soil water carrying capacity for vegetation. *Land Degradation & Development*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ldr.3950>
- Guo, Z. S. (2025). Sustainable use of soil resources and agriculture high-quality development. *World Journal of Agriculture & Soil Science*, 9(3), Article WJASS.MS.ID.000713. <https://doi.org/10.33552/WJASS.2025.09.000713>
- Shi, L. M., & Guo, Z. S. (1995). Preliminary report of fruit tree introduction experiment in mountainous area of southern Ningxia. *Ningxia Agriculture and Forestry Technology*, (1), 30–32.
- Guo, Z. S. (2013). Industrial cultivation of orchard and garden economy in semiarid Loess hilly region. *Practical Forest Technology*, (9), 82–85.
- Guo, Z. (2021b). Soil hydrology process and sustainable use of soil water resources in desert regions. *Water*, 13(17), 2377. <https://doi.org/10.3390/w13172377>
- Keiblinger, K., Wichern, F., & Cong, W. F. (2023). Interplay between living or dead plant carbon input and soil organic matter: Key drivers and agricultural management for soil carbon sequestration. *Plant and Soil*, 488(1), 1–8. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11104-023-06149-6>
- Briggs, L. J., & Shantz, H. L. (1912). The wilting coefficient and its indirect determination. *Botanical Gazette*, 53(1), 20–37.
- Guo, Z. S., & Li, Y. L. (2009). Initiation stage to regulate the caragana growth and soil water in the semiarid area of Loess Hilly Region, China. *Chinese Journal of Ecology*, 29, 5721–5729.
- Guo, Z. (2020). New theory of soil and water conservation.



- 
- Journal of Biomedical Research & Environmental Sciences, 1(4), 64–69. <https://doi.org/10.37871/jels1122>
22. Guo, Z. (2020). Estimating method of maximum infiltration depth and soil water supply. *Scientific Reports*, 10, 9726. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-020-66859-0>
23. Palmaer, W. C. (1968). Keeping track of crop moisture conditions nationwide: The new crop moisture index. *Weatherwise*, 21(4), 156–161.
24. Richards, L. A., & Weaver, L. R. (1943). Fifteen atmosphere percentage as related to the permanent wilting percentage. *Soil Science*, 56(5), 331–339.