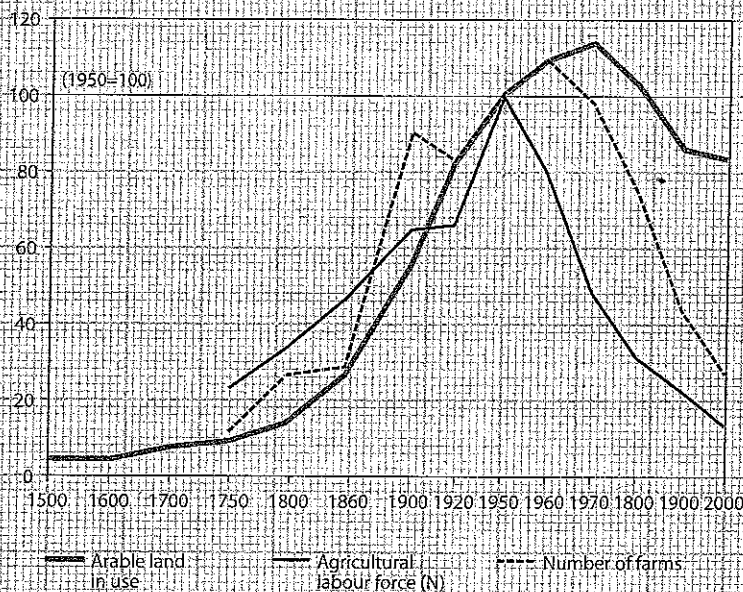


**Figure 3.1** Farms by size of arable land area (hectares) 1901–2000, in percentages

Sources: Peltonen 2004, 516; Niemelä 1996, 351–420; Kuhmonen 1996, 16–18; Finnish Official Statistics; Information Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Note: owing to the slight differences in statistics, the middlemost category includes farms of 10 to 25 hectares in the years 1901–1969 and 10 to 30 hectares in the years 1975–2002

A number of structural changes, most of them related to legislative reforms, affected the size of farms during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century the proportion of small farms increased notably after the Leaseholders' Act. The share of the largest farms diminished respectively. Again, after the Second World War the share of the largest farms diminished notably as a result of the Land Acquisition Act. It was not until the 1990s that the proportion of farms in the largest size category (over 30 hectares) reached the same level as in 1901. During the 1990s and the early 21<sup>st</sup> century, there has been a rapid change as the share of the largest size category has increased.

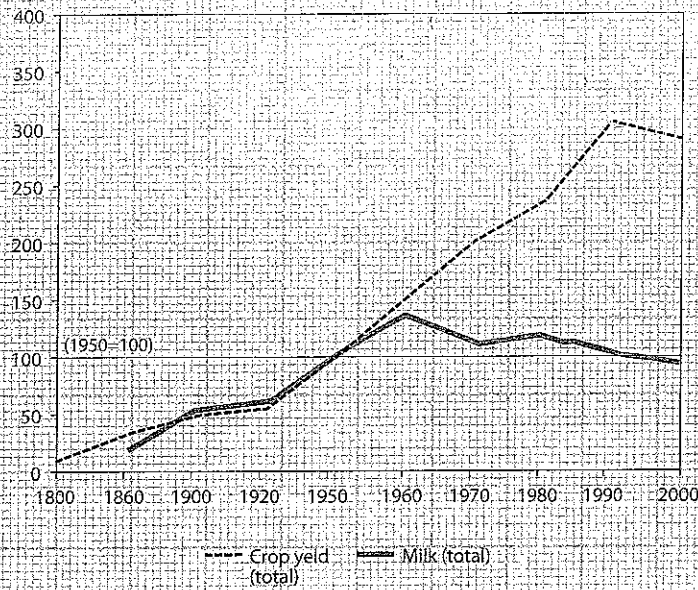


**Figure 3.2** Input indices in Finnish agriculture, 1500–2000 (1950=100)\*

Sources: Niemelä 1996; Viita 1965; STV, Suomen tilastollinen vuosikirja (Statistical yearbook of Finland); SVT, Suomen Virallinen Tilasto-ili, Maatalous, Maatalouslaskenta 1992; Maataloustilastollinen 2002; Siitonen and Ala-Mantila 1989, 6–7; Hjerpe 1988; Klipi 1913; Koskinen, Martelin, Norkola, Norkola and Pitkanen 1994.

\* The figure is based on the area of arable land in hectares and the number of farms (including crofts). Since there are differences in the sources used, Figures 2 and 3 should be understood as only estimates. The arable land in use in 1500 is based on extrapolation; the other years are partly interpolated. Further details available from the authors by request.

Scarcity of land was a significant constraint on the expansion of agriculture in many European countries. That was not, however, the case in Finland. On the contrary, forests and marshland were still being cleared for cultivation even in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. The area of arable land in use increased especially from the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century up to the 1970s, although the growth diminished between the World Wars. The size of the agricultural labour force has decreased from the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century on owing to the reduction in the use of outside labour after the Second World War. The number of farms, however, decreased only from the 1960s on, when there was migration from rural to urban areas.

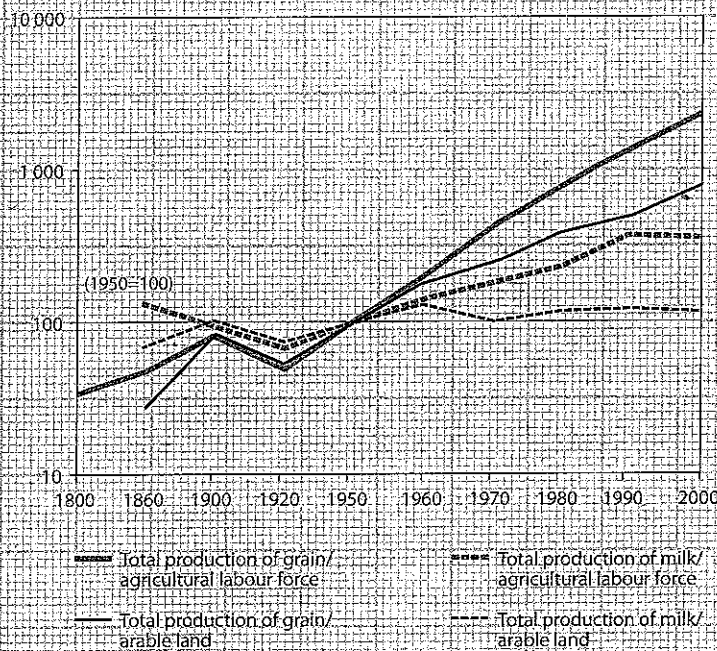


The production of milk and crop yield have increased significantly from the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. While total milk production peaked in the 1960s, crop yields continued to grow up to the early 1990s.

**Figure 3.3** Production indices of total crop yield and milk production in Finland, 1800–2000 (1950=100)

Sources: See figure 3.2

\* The figure is based on the combined crop yield of wheat, rye, barley, and oats in kilograms, and the production of milk in litres. The milk production for the years 1860–1960 has been taken from Viita (1965), and from official statistics thereafter. The crop yield of slash-and-burn cultivation is not included as it does not show up in the statistics. Further details available from the authors by request.



Up to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, the growth in production in agriculture mainly resulted from increases in inputs (especially the area of arable land and the labour force), while the impressive productivity increase after the Second World War was a result of the more intensive use of resources, in terms of both labour and land productivity. On the whole, as a result of the decreasing size of the labour force and increased yields, the growth in productivity, especially during the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, has been enormous.

**Figure 3.4** Estimated productivity indices in Finnish agriculture 1800–2000 (1950 = 100)

Sources: See figure 3.2